

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Police Beat Shopfront Program, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

- (1) What is the current position in relation to the introduction of the successful Police Beat Program into Townsville suburbs?
- (2) Will he confirm that North Ward, Belgian Gardens, Garbutt and Aitkenvale were the agreed suburbs for the first foot patrols in Townsville?
- (3) Were positions advertised for officers to fill the initial program requirements?
- (4) What has been the outcome?
- (5) What financial and other resources have been made available to commence the program and when will it start?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): The further development of the Police Beat Shopfront and Community Beat Program including the Townsville proposal is on hold pending reassessment following the Bingham Review. I expect to be in a position to announce details of a new direction for Community Policing in the near future once this assessment is completed.

2. Oil and Tyre Levy

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (28/1/97)—

With reference to his "Information for Retailers (and Wholesalers)" document regarding oil and tyre taxes—

- (1) Under the heading "background" (a) which sections of the Queensland tyre industry requested the State Government to regulate a tyre disposal levy, (b) how and when did they make this request and (c) will he table the request?
- (2) Under the same heading (a) what were the inefficiencies identified in previous attempts to introduce a voluntary industry levy, (b) who identified these inefficiencies for him and (c) if the opposition to a voluntary industry levy were mere inefficiencies, why didn't he simply address these, and regulate for such a system in much the same way he is now trying to regulate for a consumer-based levy?
- (3) Does he have the same adherence to the "cradle to grave" principle of recycling as he does to the "polluter pays" principle, which he seems to be invoking in this matter to the exclusion of all others?
- (4) Does he intend to include representatives of the environmental movement on his Resource Recovery Council, particularly as he maintains this is an Environmental Waste Management Scheme; if not, why not?
- (5) What "products" other than tyres and oil could be included in the scheme?

- (6) What financial penalties will apply to retailers or wholesalers failing to hold a franchise and for failing to collect and remit the disposal fees?
- (7) What portion of monies collected by the Resource Recovery Fund will go to the department's Environmental Franchise Trust Fund, and which specific environmental management purposes will this money be spent on?
- (8) How much money is expected to go to the department trust fund in the first year and each subsequent year in this way?
- (9) Does he still intend to disallow any exemption for rural producers hit by the new taxes?
- (10) Will a retailer or wholesaler operating from multiple outlets still be required to obtain a franchise for each location and pay full fees for each?
- (11) When does he now expect to resolve this entire mess?

Mr Littleproud (20/2/97): I am advised the document referred to was a draft which has not been finalised, authorised or distributed. The details of the Government's scheme to deal with the problem of waste oil and tyres has not been finalised. When it is, I am sure you will become aware of the details.

3. Carpentaria/Mount Isa Mineral Province

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (28/1/97)—

In view of the massive development in the Carpentaria Mt Isa minerals province, will he establish an office of his department in the City of Mt Isa?

Mr Slack (20/2/97): The Department of Economic Development and Trade has recently appointed Trade and Investment officers to Cairns, Townsville, Mackay and Gladstone. These officers will be responsible for identifying and encouraging investment and trade opportunities and activities in those areas. They will not, however, be involved in the facilitation of major projects.

Most of the pressure to establish an office in Mt Isa has been related to facilitation of the major projects of the minerals province and staff of the Department visit the area on a regular basis. There are no immediate plans to establish an office but this position will be reviewed later in 1997.

4. Asbestos in Schools, Sandgate Electorate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/1/97)—

With reference to recent public statements attributed to him regarding the removal of asbestos material from Government Schools and, in particular, noting that he visited my electorate during the recent school holidays and inspected the removal of asbestos from the roof of the Bracken Ridge State School—

- (1) What was the cost to remove the asbestos from Bracken Ridge State School?
- (2) Which other schools in the Sandgate Electorate are listed under the program?
- (3) When is the work expected to be undertaken?
- (4) How much money has been allocated for this program?
- (5) What length of time has been allocated for the implementation of the program?

Mr Connor (27/2/97):

- (1) The estimated total cost for this work is \$38,400.00.
- (2) (3) & (4) Actual timing of removal activities and decisions as to which schools are chosen is at the discretion of the client Department of Education.

5. Removal of Noxious Weeds, State Forest Parks

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (28/1/97)—

	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	Jul-Dec 1996
Kuraby	197,289	164,204	125,353	112,586	124,959	132,155	80,920
Fruitgrove	130,254	125,349	126,959	107,533	122,599	148,821	101,420
Runcorn	117,293	125,442	119,254	125,196	128,313	137,424	85,226
Altandi	218,262	200,006	175,565	171,597	179,075	185,471	124,184
Sunnybank	213,872	200,359	182,414	170,712	171,473	173,608	104,463
Banoon	131,306	121,942	108,417	95,680	96,680	103,251	66,196

7. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (28/1/97)—

With reference to her responsibility for overall budget management—

For each department and agency (a) what proportion of their current (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 December 1996, (b) what proportion of their capital (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 December 1996 and (c) what proportion of their total (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 December 1996?

Mrs Sheldon (24/2/97): Data on Consolidated Fund current and capital budgets expended as at 31 December is provided in the following table:

Department	Capital Exp. % Original Budget	Current Exp. % Original Budget	Total Exp % Original Budget
Education	22.8	52.1	49.4
Electoral Commission	n.a.	49.2	49.2
Environment	28.8	44.4	40.9
Emergency Services	11.9	45.8	45.0
Economic Development & Trade	57.3	44.8	44.8
Families, Youth & Community Care	21.5	53.1	52.0
Office of the Governor	45.4	61.0	59.3
Health	24.5	49.2	47.1
Justice	4.1	45.4	38.0
Legislative Assembly	75.6	45.4	46.0
Local Government & Planning	n.a.	39.3	39.3
Main Roads	44.5	56.1	45.9
Mines & Energy	44.9	50.4	50.3
Natural Resources	33.1	44.3	41.1
Ombudsman	n.a.	45.0	45.0
Police	37.7	46.4	45.9
Premier & Cabinet	38.1	52.4	49.5

Will he take action to provide sufficient funds and resources to clear tracks in State forest parks of noxious weeds and stinging nettles which are impeding public enjoyment of parks, such as Goomburra Valley and many others?

Mr Hobbs (21/2/97): All formal walking tracks are brushed and trimmed back on an annual basis to meet visitor needs. Care is taken to minimise the impact of these operations on both the aesthetics of the forest and the forest ecology. Tracks which are showing signs of becoming overgrown with weeds etc. are also treated annually. In accordance with this procedure the area you refer to I am informed, is due for clearing in the near future.

6. Rail Patronage, Sunnybank Electorate

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/1/97)—

How many Queensland Rail passengers used each of the stations at Kuraby, Fruitgrove, Runcorn, Altandi, Sunnybank and Banoon during 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996?

Mr Johnson (17/2/97):

Department	Capital Exp. % Original Budget	Current Exp. % Original Budget	Total Exp % Original Budget
Primary Industries, Fisheries & Forestry	25.8	44.8	43.5
Public Works & Housing	33.1	48.5	40.7
Queensland Audit Office	n.a.	46.5	46.5
Queensland Corrective Services Commission	36.5	49.4	45.1
Tourism, Small Business & Industry	n.a.	60.9	60.9
Training & Industrial Relations	39.7	50.8	49.8
Transport	9.3	58.8	56.8
Treasury	87.3	66.9	67.4
TOTAL	35.3	52.3	49.4

8. Underground Coalmines

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (28/1/97)—

With reference to safety in Queensland's underground coal mines—

- (1) Did the Chief Inspector of Coal Mines travel overseas in 1996 to inspect a gas turbine which was to be used to inertise the goaf atmosphere in underground coal mines?
- (2) Did the Government purchase such a machine and how much did it cost?
- (3) Does the current Queensland Coal Mining Act allow the use of such a machine underground?
- (4) What was the purpose of such a project when ACARP has already supported a scheme for inertisation of goaf atmosphere which is to be held early in 1997, and does not require modification or changes to the Coal Mining Act?
- (5) Is it a fact that all personnel involved in mining (i.e. Miners Union, Colliery Staff and rescue brigade members) had notified the chief inspector that they would not operate the equipment purchased before it was purchased?

Mr Gilmore (17/2/97):

- (1) The Chief Inspector of Coal Mines led a three person technical delegation overseas to inspect inert gas generators suitable for coal mines in July 1996. The delegation from Task Group 5, set up by the Moura Implementation Committee, visited operators of this technology (modified jet engine systems) in South Africa and Poland.
- (2) The Government has not purchased such a machine at this time. An Australian Coal Association Research Programme (ACARP) study into the use of this equipment is planned to take place in April 1997.
- (3) The Queensland Coal Mining Act allows the use of this machine underground subject to a number of exemptions and approvals being in place. These have been identified and will be in place.
- (4) The ACARP study that you refer to involves inertisation equipment which is not suitable to meet the needs of Moura type gas conditions to which the Moura Inquiry Recommendations referred. It has a capacity of less than three percent of the Polish equipment. It is possibly suitable for non-emergency needs although this has yet to be confirmed (latest information is that the test has been deferred for at least another three months).

(5) No personnel have advised the Chief Inspector that they would not operate this equipment. Task Group 5 has representatives of the Miners Union, Colliery Staff and Mines Rescue, the NSW Inspectorate, NSW Coal Industry, Qld Coal Industry, SIMTARS and, the Qld Inspectorate. After an extensive review process, the Task Group collectively decided that the Polish GAG-3A equipment is the most appropriate mine inertisation for Queensland and, before purchasing, it should be demonstrated to the coal industry operators to ensure it was suitable for Australia (Queensland) conditions. This is why ACARP supported the test in addition to the other ACARP test. Task Group 5, which is chaired by the Chief Inspector in recognition of its importance, has developed a scientific model of mine inertisation which, if proven by the April tests at the Collinsville mine, will be a world first and be an important part of the training of mining safety engineers into the next century. Task Group 5 was set up under the previous Government and I would invite the member (Mr Hayward) be given a presentation on the real facts.

9. Police Resources

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

With reference to his claims that the Coalition Government will increase police numbers in Queensland by 139 officers in 1996-97—

- (1) What is the current model, actual and authorised police strength of every Police District in Queensland?
- (2) What was the model, actual and authorised police strength for every Police District in Queensland in July 1995, February 1996 and July 1996?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): In relation to your question regarding model, actual and authorised police strength, might I refer you to Standing Order No 68 which requires that questions not be unduly lengthy.

As you would be aware, collating the information—past and present—specified by you would be a considerable strain on hard-working police and in my view their time would be better spent, as I am sure the people of Queensland would agree, providing policing services—a task which the neglect and maladministration of your regime while in Government made extremely difficult.

As well, the information you seek relating to past years is relevant to that administration and should be readily accessible to you through your own files.

In so far as projected figures for the coming year, that information will be announced by the Government as allocations are made from the two Academy campuses in line with the Government's stated intent of providing a further 139 police across the State by June 30.

10. Police Resources

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

With reference to his claims that the Coalition Government will increase police numbers in Queensland by 139 officers in 1996-97—

- (1) What is the current model, actual and authorised police strength of every Police Region in Queensland?
- (2) What was the model, actual and authorised police strength for every Police Region in Queensland in July 1995, February 1996 and July 1996?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): In relation to your question regarding model, actual and authorised police strength, might I refer you to Standing Order No 68 which requires that questions not be unduly lengthy.

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11. Queensland Ambulance Service

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (28/1/97)—

With reference to the 100 vacancies in the Queensland Ambulance Service identified in the Staib Report of December 1996 and to the comment in the report that 80 per cent of remote area vacancies are expected to be eliminated by June 1997—

- (1) How many of those vacancies have now been filled?
- (2) How many vacancies are there now, including positions that have fallen vacant since the Staib Report?

- (3) When does he now expect that these vacancies will be filled?

Mr Veivers (27/2/97):

(1) The Staib Report identified 100 vacancies in the Queensland Ambulance Service as of November 1996. Of these 100 vacancies 82 were in metropolitan and major provincial locations of which 33 have subsequently been filled but a further 28 vacancies have occurred. Of the 18 vacancies in remote and rural locations 5 have been filled and another one has occurred.

(2) Of the 100 vacancies identified in the Staib Report, there are currently 90 similar vacancies in the Queensland Ambulance Service.

(3) There will always be some vacancies in the Queensland Ambulance Service as officers retire, move from one appointment to another or leave the service.

Every effort is being made to keep the vacancy rates as low as possible. This includes designated positions in remote and rural locations attracting specific incentives. This initiative has resulted in the vacancy rates in remote and rural locations being reduced by 27% since November 1996.

The Queensland Ambulance Service is proposing to have 4 student intakes during 1997 and early 1998. At this stage it is envisaged the 4 intakes will total 96 officers. The first intake is programmed for May 1997.

12. Public Housing, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/1/97)—

With reference to public housing in the Lytton Electorate—

- (1) How many new houses, detached houses, attached houses, duplexes, town houses, units and senior units, 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 purchased, 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 of each property?
- (8) What land stocks in the Lytton Electorate does his department have, where are they located and what area is in each location?

- (9) Did his department sell any land in the Lytton Electorate in 1996, and since in 1997, and is he marketing or planning to sell land in the Lytton Electorate?
- (10) What land stocks in the Lytton Electorate has his department purchased in 1996 and in 1997?

Mr Connor (27/2/97):

(1) 19 dwellings are scheduled to be constructed as part of the 1996/97 Capital Works Program for the Lytton Electorate, comprising of 5 detached houses and 14 senior units. 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) 9 dwellings will be purchased in the Lytton Electorate as part of the 1996/97 Capital Works Program, comprising 5 detached houses and 4 attached houses. A \$34M (300 homes) spot purchase program has been approved. The Lytton 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) In the 1996/97 Capital Works Program, 14 senior units and 3 detached houses are to be constructed in Wynnum; 2 detached houses are to be constructed in Wynnum West, 1 detached house is to be purchased in Manly; 2 detached houses are to be purchased in Manly West; 2 detached houses are to be purchased in Wynnum and 4 attached houses are to be purchased in Wynnum West.

(4) The estimated value for new construction in 1996/97 is \$1,497,715 and the estimated contract price for purchases in 1996/97 is \$1,041,500.

(5) Funds have been allocated to upgrade public housing managed by the Capalaba Area Office. The specific breakdown of properties in the Lytton Electorate by upgrade category is to be finalised according to Area Office priorities. It is not possible to provide projections for the years beyond 1996/97 until the Commonwealth Government clarifies future funding arrangements.

(6) Refer to (5).

(7) There are no existing public rental properties earmarked for demolition or removal in the Lytton Electorate.

(8) The Department owns 30 blocks of land in the Lytton Electorate.

(9) The Department did not sell any land in the Lytton Electorate in 1996.

(10) The Department purchased 1 block of land in the Lytton Electorate in 1996.

13. Queensland Health Promotion Council

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Queensland Health Promotion Council (28/1/97)—

What is the 1996-97 Budget for the council and what new initiatives in health promotion can the people of Queensland expect during 1996-97?

Mr Horan (26/2/97): Labor's health promotion structure proved to be an expensive operation, with administration and support consuming resources at the expense of direct health promotion.

A new Queensland Health Promotion Council 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.

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. Greater transparency than was provided under Labor will be sought for this expenditure in the 1997 budget papers.

14. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Bundaberg, Gympie, Maryborough, Redcliffe and Sunshine Coast Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Budgets, I refer you to Standing Order No 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our state.

Furthermore, the information you seek in relation to past Budgets related to the period of Labor administration and should thus be readily available to you through your own resources and files.

In so far as projected figures for the coming year, your questions would be appropriately dealt with through the Budget Estimates process.

15. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Mt Isa and Townsville Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and

1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

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In so far as projected figures for the coming year, your questions would be appropriately dealt with through the Budget Estimates process.

16. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Alderley, Boondall, Brisbane City, Brisbane Watchhouse, Clayfield, Fortitude Valley, Petrie, Sandgate and Toowong Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

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17. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Brisbane Central and North Brisbane Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

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In so far as projected figures for the coming year, your questions would be appropriately dealt with through the Budget Estimates process.

18. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Gladstone, Longreach, Mackay and Rockhampton Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

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19. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Cairns, Innisfail and Mareeba Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

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In so far as projected figures for the coming year, your questions would be appropriately dealt with through the Budget Estimates process.

20. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Oxley, South Brisbane and Wynnum Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

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In so far as projected figures for the coming year, your questions would be appropriately dealt with through the Budget Estimates process.

21. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mr W. K. GOSS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Logan and Gold Coast Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

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22. Railway Station Facilities, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/1/97)—

With reference to railway stations in the Nudgee Electorate and the need at some stations to improve access for disabled people, parents with children in prams and strollers and people with walking difficulties—

- (1) What funding has been allocated to improve access by the installation of facilities such as ramps or lifts?
- (2) What facilities are planned for stations within the electorate?
- (3) When will the facilities be installed?

Mr Johnson (17/2/97):

Toombul Tenders are being called for the supply and installation of 2 lifts. One lift will access platform 3 and 4 in addition to the stairs and the other to the car park/street on the western side of the station. Tenders closed 10 January 1997. It is anticipated the contract will be awarded this month with completion by the end of December 1997.

Total project cost is \$1.5m which includes 3 lifts at Eagle Junction station.

Nundah No work

Northgate Trial for Duress security system. An additional shelter was erected on Platform 3 on 23 January 1997.

Virginia No work

Sunshine No work

Geebung 2 additional bike lockers housing 4 bikes will be installed by June 1997.

Zillmere Erection of pool fence to the back of the outbound platform by March 1997.

Bindha No work

Banyo 3 bike lockers housing 6 bicycles will be installed by end of June 1997.

A new ticket window with roller shutter security, new cupboards to ticket counter, new wall lining to public toilets including new vinyl floor covering and painting of station building internally and externally to be completed by mid March 1997.

Nudgee Nil

Boondall Negotiations have commenced with Brisbane City Council on the redesign of the bus interchange, on the Entertainment Centre side, over to car park, which will be close to the station and offer better security.

North Boondall Nil

23. Charleville Abattoir

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (28/1/97)—

With reference to the recent fire which destroyed the Charleville abattoir—

- (1) How many employees were directly employed by the abattoir at the time of the fire?
- (2) What was the throughput of both sheep and goats on a monthly basis in the twelve months prior to the fire?
- (3) Was the abattoir experiencing financial difficulties as a result of difficulties encountered in gaining access to suitable numbers of feral goats?
- (4) Was this difficulty compounded by a NSW competitor outbidding the Charleville operation for Queensland feral goats?

- (5) Is he giving the Charleville operations financial soundness due consideration in his current push to resurrect the abattoir using taxpayers funds?

Mr Hobbs (21/2/97):

(1) I am aware that the fire put over 60 employees out of work for six to eight months.

(2), (3) and (4) These matters are not the responsibility of my portfolio. They are the private business of the company.

(5) As the local member, I am legitimately concerned about the economic and social effects upon Charleville arising from this disastrous fire. While I am unashamedly acting as a catalyst to have the feasibility of a Government rescue package examined, any recommendation as to direct financial Government assistance will predominantly involve other portfolios. Such recommendations derived from other Departments will include terms and conditions of such assistance, which will reflect a responsible and accountable use of public funds when and if Cabinet recommends this option.

As you may be already aware, as Minister for Natural Resources, I expedited the implementation of the Strategic Weed Education and Eradication Program previously intended for the region, so as to help facilitate work for a dozen former abattoir workers displaced from the enterprise by the fire.

24. Gun Buy-back Scheme

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

With reference to the gun buy-back scheme currently in progress—

- (1) Are police the only people staffing these centres; if not, who else would be in attendance and why?
- (2) Would gun shop operators ever be in attendance at these centres; if so, why?
- (3) Is it possible that a person could be paid substantially more for a firearm than they paid for it even if the firearm in question had been purchased new only some weeks prior to submitting it for buy-back?
- (4) Why would a person submitting a firearm for buy-back be given a business card for a local gun dealer along with the cash settlement?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): The operation of Compensation Centres has been outsourced to contractors, DAS Distribution. The contractors are responsible for:

- provision of accommodation and facilities
- management and staffing of centres
- valuation of surrendered firearms
- rendering firearms inoperable and disposing of resultant scrap
- safety, and
- security.

(2) A dealer may attend a Compensation Centre to surrender firearms, or may be present as a member of a panel of firearm dealers engaged to provide the necessary arbitration or specialist valuation processes. There is nothing to prevent a dealer attending a Compensation Centre either as a valuer or customer.

(3) Compensation values and conditions are set by the Commonwealth Government.

(4) There is nothing to prevent a dealer attending a Compensation Centre either as a valuer or customer. Private exchanges between citizens be they business cards or conversations is not a matter for Government. Cash transactions are not a part of the compensation process and dealers do not hand out compensation cheques. No particular instance where dealers' business cards have been handed out is known.

25. Gladstone Power Station; Swanbank Power Station

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (28/1/97)—

- (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 particulates?
- (4) What monitoring has been carried out on the effectiveness of airbag filters with respect to ultrafine particulates?
- (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 sulfur 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 Littleproud (19/2/97):

- (1) The Gladstone Power Station uses bag filters on the boiler stacks.
- (2) The original electrostatic precipitators have been progressively replaced with bag filters between early 1995 and November 1996.
- (3) The manufacturers state that the bag filters at the Gladstone Power Station can remove particles down to 0.5 microns depending on operating procedures.
- (4) None. Particle emissions are so low that there is difficulty measuring the total dust levels.
- (5) to (10) Answers to these same questions were provided by my colleague the Honourable Tom Gilmore, Minister for Mines and Energy in response to Question No. 1462 from the Member for Redcliffe, Mr Hollis. I concur with the answers provided by Mr Gilmore to those questions.

26. Hazardous Waste Supermarket, Swanbank

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (28/1/97)—

With reference to recent hazardous waste forums partially facilitated by his department which have examined Swanbank as the possible site for a 'Hazardous Waste Supermarket'—

- (1) Which particular waste streams does he see being treated at this supermarket and does he see the residues of these treatments being also disposed of at the Swanbank site?
- (2) What negotiations has he, his staff or his department had with the Local Government Department or any other department regarding a ministerial rezoning of the Swanbank site and will he rule out a ministerial rezoning of this site?
- (3) What were the results of the latest forum held on 21 January in the conference room on the 15th floor of 111 George Street?
- (4) Was the Swanbank matter discussed; if so, in what regard and will he make the minutes from this forum publicly available?
- (5) Why was neither the Environment Department or the Ipswich City Council not present at the first forum held on 4 December 1996 at the Queensland Manufacturing Institute at Eight Mile Plains?
- (6) What particular features qualify Swanbank to be considered as the site for a hazardous waste supermarket?

Mr Davidson (27/2/97):

- (1) No particular waste streams have been identified at this time. Companies involved in the waste management industry are examining the present capacity of the industry as a whole and the future requirements for the processing of all types of waste.
- (2) No discussions have been held regarding ministerial rezonings. Any business and industry land use proposals for the area will involve consultation with all relevant parties, including community groups, Local Government, State Government and Industry bodies, in accordance with proper planning procedures.
- (3) The meeting was held in the conference room at level 24 of 111 George Street on 21 January to allow the AusIndustry representative to address the meeting on the AusIndustry Business Network Program.
- (4) The Swanbank matter was not discussed and as this was a private industry forum, it is not within the power of the Minister to release any minutes which may have been taken at the meeting without specific approval of the forum.
- (5) The meeting was the first for this industry action group and was held so that the industry could identify its concerns over its future. Attendance was, therefore, determined by, and generally restricted to industry members. It is common practice for my Department to facilitate such industry networks, eg—food export groups and information technology

groups. These networks provide a forum for the mutual benefit of organisations considering exporting or sharing common facilities or industry information. However, the detailed input into such activities remains the responsibility of industry members.

(6) There are currently five large land fill operators and two recycling companies operating in the Swanbank area. Some of these companies are looking to expand their services. The potential for co-location of other waste management companies offering complementary services is seen as a positive opportunity to expand the capacity and technology of the industry, and to increase investment and employment opportunities for the region.

27. Police Resources

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

With reference to his claims that the Coalition Government will increase police numbers in Queensland by 139 officers in 1996-97—

What is the current model, actual and authorised strength of each police station in Queensland?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): In relation to your question regarding model, actual and authorised police strength, might I refer you to Standing Order No 68 which requires that questions not be unduly lengthy.

As you would be aware, collating the information—past and present—specified by you would be a considerable strain on hard-working police and in my view their time would be better spent, as I am sure the people of Queensland would agree, providing policing services—a task which the neglect and maladministration of your regime while in Government made extremely difficult.

As well, the information you seek relating to past years is relevant to that administration and should be readily accessible to you through your own files.

In so far as projected figures for the coming year, that information will be announced by the Government as allocations are made from the two Academy campuses in line with the Government's stated intent of providing a further 139 police across the State by June 30.

28. Commercial Fishermen; Sand Crabs

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (28/1/97)—

With reference to the recent announcement by him that he intends to legalise trawling for sand crabs—

- (1) How many commercial sand crabbers will be affected by this decision?
- (2) Were commercial sand crabbers consulted before he made this decision?
- (3) Given that sand crabbers obtained licenses, will compensation be paid to those who are displaced by his decision?

- (4) Will he table the advice that he received to change the QFMA's recommendations of 60 and 600 to 100 and 1,000 sand crabs?

Mr Perrett (25/2/97):

1. There are 1064 licensed crab pot fishermen in Queensland. Some target different species such as mud crabs and spanner crabs, but all have the necessary licence endorsements to take sand crabs. I do not, however, accept that these fishermen will be affected in any real way by my decision, which simply recognises that trawlers have been taking sand crabs for many years and places practical limits on them for the first time. My decision was taken in order to resolve the long standing uncertainty as to what is actually permitted and to break the impasse relating to the sharing of resource access between the different user groups.

2. Yes. There has been extensive consultation with the fishing industry on this issue through the Management Advisory Committees. Commercial sand crabbers have been consulted through the Crab Management Advisory Committee, trawl operators through the Trawl Management Advisory Committee and recreational fishers through Sunfish and other avenues. My decision was necessary because that process of consultation had failed to resolve the impasse between the different user groups.

3. No. My decision will not affect the licences of sand crabbers or their ability to continue crabbing, and compensation would not be appropriate.

4. No. I took a wide range of factors into account in making my decision, including ecological, economic and social issues as well as the views of various special interest groups. I also took into account the needs of marketers, restaurateurs and consumers. More severe restrictions on the catch of crabs by trawlers were unnecessary and may well have resulted in significant seafood price increases to consumers.

29. Commercial Fishermen; Sand Crabs

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (28/1/97)—

With reference to the Queensland Fishery—

- (1) How many trawlers are licensed to operate in Queensland waters?
- (2) How many of these are owned by foreign investors?
- (3) How many vessels are currently in survey to operate outside Moreton Bay?
- (4) Has he any statistics which indicate the number of fishing licenses which are currently in use and the number which are dormant; if so, will he provide details?
- (5) How many commercial fishers are currently licensed to take sand crabs?

Mr Perrett (25/2/97):

1. There are 1079 trawlers licensed to operate in Queensland waters. These consist of 823 otter trawlers, 222 beam trawlers and 34 "concessional

zone boats". The concessional zone boats are boats based in New South Wales ports which, as a result of the Offshore Constitutional Settlement arrangements between Queensland, New South Wales and the Commonwealth, are licensed to fish in the Queensland waters in the area between the Queensland/New South Wales border and Breaksea Spit at the northern end of Fraser Island.

2. I am not aware of any trawlers which are owned by foreign investors or the extent of foreign ownership in the fishery. Foreign investment issues are primarily the responsibility of the Federal Government and the Queensland fisheries licensing system does not require the recording of such information.

3. Survey details are not recorded by the Queensland fisheries licensing system and I am unable to provide this information. The matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague the Minister for Transport.

4. Yes. Approximately 30 trawl licences are currently not attached to vessels and are therefore dormant. Of the 823 otter trawl licences currently issued some 650 are used consistently throughout the year with the rest used only sporadically. Around 90 per cent of the catch in the fishery, however, is taken by approximately a quarter of the fleet.

5. There are 1064 commercial crab pot fishers licensed in Queensland. Some target different species such as mud crabs and spanner crabs, but all have the necessary licence endorsements to take sand crabs. Some 190 of these fishers also hold trawl endorsements.

30. Police Resources

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

With reference to his claims that the Coalition Government will increase police numbers in Queensland by 139 officers in 1996-97—

- (1) What was the actual strength of the Queensland Police Service as at 1 July 1995, 20 February 1996 and 1 January 1997?
- (2) What was the model strength of the Queensland Police Service as at 1 July 1995, 20 February 1996 and 1 January 1997?
- (3) How often is the police staffing model reviewed and regional and district model strengths altered?
- (4) When was it last reviewed?
- (5) When is the next review due?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): In relation to your question regarding model, actual and authorised police strength, might I refer you to Standing Order No 68 which requires that questions not be unduly lengthy.

As you would be aware, collating the information—past and present—specified by you would be a considerable strain on hard-working police and in my view their time would be better spent, as I am sure the people of Queensland would agree, providing policing services—a task which the

neglect and maladministration of your regime while in Government made extremely difficult.

As well, the information you seek relating to past years is relevant to that administration and should be readily accessible to you through your own files.

In so far as projected figures for the coming year, that information will be announced by the Government as allocations are made from the two Academy campuses in line with the Government's stated intent of providing a further 139 police across the State by June 30.

My advice is that the staffing model is reviewed regularly. Reviews occur when there is an increase in the funded strength of the Service, a significant change in allocation policy or, at least on an annual basis, when updated data is available regarding population growth, crime and traffic statistics.

Following the Bingham Review of the Queensland Police Service which identified significant deficiencies in the existing model, the Queensland Police Service is currently engaged in a major review of the model.

31. Challinor Centre; Basil Stafford Centre

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (28/1/97)—

With reference to capital works funds expended at both the Challinor Centre and the Basil Stafford Centre since 1 July 1996—

- (1) How much has been expended at each centre?
- (2) For what purpose were the funds expended?
- (3) What, if any, further expenditure is planned at each centre?
- (4) For what purpose is any further expenditure to be used?

Mr Lingard (14/2/97):

(1) Expenditure of \$242,000 has been incurred at the Basil Stafford Centre since 1 July 1996 and \$252,000 at the Challinor Centre.

(2) Expenditure at the Basil Stafford Centre has consisted of reviewing and upgrading fire alarms, painting in various areas, new floor coverings in various areas, repair and upgrading sewerage and toilet facilities and installation of fluorescent lights. Expenditure at the Challinor Centre has consisted of painting in various areas, new floor coverings, new furniture, new windows and security screens and new awnings and shade cloth.

(3) The 1996/97 Budget provided for \$2.1 million of capital works to be expended at both centres—with the announcement of the sale of the Challinor site to the University of Queensland in late 1996 the balance of the funds (\$1.6 million) will now all be spent at the Basil Stafford Centre.

(4) It is proposed to incur expenditure on the following at the Basil Stafford Centre—fixing and upgrading the swimming pool, new toilets and showers for the swimming pool, refurbishment of the Banksia villa complex (including air conditioning), and major site works and landscaping.

32. Police Districts, Annual Budgets

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

What was the annual budget for the Charleville, Dalby, Ipswich, Roma, Toowoomba and Warwick Police Districts for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 and what is an estimate for 1996-97 based on expenditure to date in the following categories (a) salaries, (b) wages, (c) allowances, (d) overtime, (e) statutory holidays, (f) weekend work, (g) travel allowance, (h) fares, freight, printing and stores, (i) general administrative expenses, (j) fixed assets, (k) payroll tax and (l) total?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Budgets, I refer you to Standing Order No 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our state.

Furthermore, the information you seek in relation to past Budgets related to the period of Labor administration and should thus be readily available to you through your own resources and files.

In so far as projected figures for the coming year, your questions would be appropriately dealt with through the Budget Estimates process.

33. Gunalda Range Development

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/1/97)—

- (1) In relation to the Gunalda Range realignment concept planning study, has Option B been chosen as the route for the new alignment over the Gunalda Range?
- (2) When does he expect the construction on this project to begin?

Mr Johnson (17/2/97):

(1) Maunsell Pty Ltd, the consulting engineers commissioned by Main Roads to undertake the concept planning for this section of the highway, are in the process of finalising the report. The consultant has considered alignment options A and B.

At this stage, no route has yet been chosen for the new alignment over the Gunalda Range. A recommendation is expected to be submitted to the Federal Department of Transport for approval shortly.

(2) The timing for commencement of the construction will depend on Federal Government approval of the route and allocation of funding. Prior to construction being commenced, an impact assessment study for the recommended route and a geotechnical investigation will need to be carried

out, as well as a detailed survey, acquisition of the required land, and the detailed design of the project.

It is anticipated that, subject to the approval by the Federal Government, construction could commence either late in the 1997/98 financial year or early in the 1998/99 financial year.

34. Community Health Centre, Palm Beach

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (28/1/97)—

With reference to the proposed Community Health Centre at Palm Beach—

- (1) Have plans for the centre been drawn up?
- (2) When will site preparation work begin?
- (3) When will work commence on construction?
- (4) Will the centre be opened in stages?
- (5) When is it expected the dental clinic will be operational and open to the public?

Mr Horan (26/2/97):

- (1) Yes.
- (2-5) Work will commence on the site during 1997, with a view to seeing a fully operation centre opened in 1998.

35. Health Services, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (28/1/97)—

With reference to the Bundaberg health services and recent decisions regarding services to the Bundaberg community—

- (1) As recent cuts to the early discharge program has meant severe cutbacks to the Blue Nurses and St Vincent de Paul nurses causing staff cutbacks, will he take action to reinstate the level of funding to the Blue Nurses and St Vincent de Paul nursing services?
- (2) Is Bundaberg the only area suffering cutbacks to the early discharge program; if not, what other cities are suffering cutbacks?
- (3) Will he reinstate an appropriate level of funding to ensure all beds at the mental health unit are kept open?
- (4) Will he allocate appropriate funding to provide more training positions for specialists at the Bundaberg Base Hospital?
- (5) Will he advise the prices paid by the Bundaberg health service for linen cleaning at the regional laundry?
- (6) How do these prices compare to private contract rates and has the regional laundry reached original expectations of output and costs?

Mr Horan (26/2/97): I am disappointed that the Honourable Member has 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 (3) to (6) of the question stand in direct breach of Standing Order 68 (a). However, for the benefit of

the patients and staff of the Bundaberg District, I provide the following information.

(1) There have as yet been no reductions in funding to the area covered by the former Regional Health Authority. The Post Acute Program (early discharge) is funded as a component of the Medicare Agreement. This particular funding from the Commonwealth is due to conclude in June 1998. I have written to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Family Services for the Commonwealth expressing my concern in this regard.

To ensure models of care that facilitate the transfer of services from an acute setting to the community are in place when the Post Acute Program ceases, certain action was taken this year, including the trial of alternative models of post acute care.

However, the role of voluntary and private sector services in the provision of post acute care will not diminish under this Government. In the provision of new services, priority will be given to community based service providers.

(2) The initiatives outlined above have affected all District Health Services.

36. Legal Aid Offices

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (28/1/97)—

Will he give an assurance that no regional Legal Aid office will be closed, as contemplated in the recent Legal Aid discussion paper?

Mr Beanland (25/2/97): I am informed by the Director of Legal Aid that the Legal Aid Commission of Queensland does not propose to close any regional Legal Aid offices. The cost of running legal aid services at each office is being closely examined. The Commission is examining the range of services offered at each regional location, including whether some administration functions can be streamlined. The overall aim is to reduce administration expenses and where possible increase service delivery.

37. Radiography Services, Gympie Hospital

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (28/1/97)—

With reference to radiography services at the Gympie Hospital—

- (1) Has he or his department directed the Radiation Advisory Council to override the qualification requirements for a diagnostic radiographer at Gympie Hospital; if so, on what basis was this decision made?
- (2) Does he have any endorsement for this decision from the professional registration body responsible for Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR); if not, why has he breached the guidelines set down by experts in this field?
- (3) What precautions has Queensland Health taken to ensure that this employee has the appropriate professional indemnity as an employee of the hospital whilst she is working outside the parameters of her professional qualifications?

Mr Horan (26/2/97):

- (1) No.
- (2) I made no such decision.
- (3) This employee was licensed by unanimous resolution of the Radiological Advisory Council of Queensland. Queensland Health currently indemnifies this employee and all its radiographers, as it does nurses and other hospital employees engaged in duties which it assigns to such persons.

38. Penalties and Sentences

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/1/97)—

With reference to the Government's announcement on 2 December 1996 of tough new sentencing provisions in its revised Criminal Code, an announcement which has been strongly publicly supported by himself and many Government members since the announcement and to the strong concerns expressed by Queensland Corrective Services Commission Director-General, Keith Hamburger, at a corrections forum in Brisbane in November 1996—

- (1) Does he agree with the serious concerns raised publicly by his QCSC Director-General?
- (2) Will he support the Director-General's call for the introduction of alternative sentencing methods to imprisonment?
- (3) As he told the 1996 Budget Estimates Committee of the Parliament that his announced prisons building program had not taken into account these proposed tougher sentencing laws, how will he ensure that there are enough prison cells available to not only resolve the current problems associated with overcrowding, when the rate of imprisonment becomes significantly higher again?
- (4) Does he agree that a higher rate of imprisonment and resulting overcrowding will make it even more difficult to rehabilitate those who break the law?
- (5) What is the public to believe that his Government's prison policy is when they see media reports indicating that his QCSC leadership is publicly at odds with his Government's announced policies and proposed laws?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): In responding to the Honourable the Member's question, let me say how delighted I am that he has taken the opportunity to study in depth, the Government's announcements on sentencing provisions and the comments by the Director-General of Corrective Services. No doubt after studying both the Government's proposals and the Director-General's comments he must feel ashamed of the pathetic record of the Goss Labor Government both in the area of sentencing and in the area of crime prevention.

Specifically in relation to the Member's question:

- (1) Yes, I do agree with the serious concerns raised by the Director-General of Corrective Services in relation to social breakdown which leads to crime. It

is as certain as night follows day that if in sections of our community we have alcohol and substance abuse, dysfunctional abusive families, domestic violence, severe neglect and abuse of children and chronic unemployment then our whole community will pay the price in increased crime. That is what the Director-General of Corrective Services is saying and I agree with that.

What I go on to say is that I condemn the hypocrisy of the Honourable the Member for attempting, by his question, to somehow infer that there is a conflict between an appropriate approach to sentencing which ensures that the public is protected from serious offenders and concerns expressed about social breakdown in the wider community which ultimately leads to crime. On the one hand criminals who are currently committing crime need to face the full consequences of their behaviour. On the other hand both community and Government need to address the issues in our community which cause crime.

This Government on coming into office, just over 12 months ago, inherited many serious problems from the previous Government, the Government supported by the Honourable the Member for Waterford. One of these problems was the pathetic approach to sentencing, particularly for serious offenders. This Government is moving to remedy the situation and I am sure our actions in this regard have the support of all thinking Queenslanders.

The other major problem inherited by this Government relates to the shameful performance of the previous Department of Family and Community Services. Many of the concerns raised by the Director-General of Corrective Services and referred to by the Honourable the Member, in my view, can be traced back to the dreadful inaction of that Department during the six years of Labor Government coupled with that Government's general lack of innovation in the total area of social development, particularly in the areas which impact on the youth of this State.

(2) The Director-General has raised the issue of a "restorative justice model" which exists in some other countries. Such a model could result in alternative approaches to sentencing however, this is a matter for my colleague the Attorney-General and any questions in relation to the Government's intentions in this area should be directed to him.

(3) One of the first actions taken by me on becoming Minister responsible for Corrective Services was to direct the QCSC to completely review its infrastructure needs. This has been done and this Government has provided the funds to overcome the dreadful neglect of infrastructure for Corrective Services by the Labor Government.

This plan will be updated each financial year to meet emerging circumstances.

(4) Prison overcrowding is not desirable and does not assist in rehabilitation. That is why I acted so quickly to remedy the problems caused by the Labor Government in this area.

(5) The QCSC leadership is not at odds with Government policy and I have addressed the Honourable Members question here in my reply under point (1) above.

39. Contract between Queensland Health and Gold Coast Surgicentre

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

With reference to a contract between Queensland Health and the Gold Coast Surgicentre which was entered into in late 1995 to utilise Commonwealth Government funding under the waiting list backlog program—

- (1) What is the status of this contract?
- (2) Is Queensland Health engaged in any legal action in this matter; if so, will he advise who is acting for the Crown in any legal action pending?
- (3) Does Queensland Health still have the funding set aside to effect this contract according to terms agreed in 1995; if so, how much funding remains unspent?

Mr Horan (28/2/97):

(1) Due to a number of very serious questions regarding the circumstances surrounding the signing of this particular contract by the previous Labor Government and Ashcoast Pty Ltd (Surgicentre), I have directed an immediate departmental inquiry and audit into this matter.

- (2) See above
- (3) See Above

40. Immunisation

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

- (1) What are the figures, by district, of the incidence of preventable childhood diseases such as whooping cough, measles and chicken pox?
- (2) Will he provide more details of Queensland's immunisation rates referred to in the media and some information to summarise his department's analysis of the reasons behind the low rate of vaccination?
- (3) What specific action has Queensland Health taken to ensure that those children going back to school after the summer holiday break have been properly immunised?

Mr Horan (27/2/97):

(1) Data are provided on the numbers of reported cases of measles and pertussis (whooping cough) in 1996. As no vaccine is yet available to prevent chicken pox, it is not currently considered a vaccine preventable disease, and it is not a notifiable disease.

The following figures are provided by the (then) region (total numbers of reported cases for 1996).

MEASLES

Region	0 to 4 yrs	5 to 9 yrs	over 9 yrs
Brisbane North	6	1	10
Brisbane South	3	2	13
Central	1	0	9
Central West	0	0	0
Darling Downs	1	1	5
Mackay	2	2	5
Northern	4	1	4
Peninsula	2	0	2
South Coast	3	1	6
South West	1	0	0
Sunshine Coast	0	0	2
West Moreton	0	0	0
Wide Bay	3	1	0
TOTAL (QLD)	26	9	56

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH)

Region	0 to 4 yrs	5 to 9 yrs	over 9 yrs
Brisbane North	3	15	99
Brisbane South	9	29	138
Central	1	5	13
Central West	0	0	1
Darling Downs	8	33	132
Mackay	2	3	16
Northern	1	12	13
Peninsula	8	15	64
South Coast	2	13	47
South West	0	0	5
Sunshine Coast	7	21	65
West Moreton	0	0	0
Wide Bay	5	4	22
TOTAL (QLD)	50	158	565

These figures indicate a significant number of cases of pertussis in the over 9 years age group. Immunity provided by the pertussis vaccine decreases over time. The disease when contracted by older children and adults is usually less severe. However, as the disease is highly contagious it is critical that children under 12 months who are most at risk of suffering severe side effects from the disease are vaccinated.

(2) The rates of immunisation referred to in the media are based on an Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) survey *Children's Immunisation Australia*—April 1995. The data indicates that 41.2% of all Queensland children at 12 months are age appropriately vaccinated (compared with 51.4% nationally); 33.1% of 2 year olds are age appropriately vaccinated (compared with 34.3% nationally); and that 29% of all children 3 months to 6 years are fully vaccinated (compared with 33% nationally).

The inclusion of Hib vaccine and other changes to the recommended immunisation schedule, while having no greater impact in Queensland than in other states, have meant that there is some confusion as to which vaccinations are due when, with consequent reduction in age appropriate vaccination rates. Parents are not always aware of the need to complete the vaccination schedule. Other factors which have been identified as impacting on vaccination rates include; fear of adverse effects of vaccines, lack of awareness of effects of the

disease, and in some cases, difficulty in accessing services.

The results of the ABS survey precede current initiatives in Queensland Health aimed at increasing immunisation rates. The Immunisation Coordination Project is comprised of seven sub-projects, each of which addresses an immunisation issue. The Immunisation Coordination Project commenced in August 1996.

(3) A press release reminding families of the need to have children's vaccinations up-to-date prior to the start of the school year received favourable coverage across the state.

Queensland Health is about to commence a major public awareness campaign on immunisation. This campaign will be launched on Monday 3 March 1997 and has been developed in collaboration with the Australian Medical Association (Queensland Branch) and the Australian Institute of Environmental Health. One of the messages of the public campaign will be to remind parents of the need to complete the recommended vaccination schedule.

41. Nursing and Medical Positions

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

- (1) How many new nursing positions have been advertised by Queensland Health in 1996-97?
- (2) How many of those nursing positions have been filled and at what level were these appointments made?
- (3) How many new medical positions have been advertised by Queensland Health in 1996-97?
- (4) How many of those medical positions have been filled and of those, how many new positions are visiting medical officer or medical specialist positions?

Mr Horan (27/2/97):

(1&2) 1835 nursing positions have been advertised from July 1996—January 1997, the vast majority of which have been filled. These include both community and hospital based positions. The vast majority of those positions not filled were advertised from November 1996—January 1997, which reflects the lead time from advertising until completion of the recruitment and selection process.

(3) 756 medical positions were advertised from July 1996—January 1997. In addition 1,430 applications were received as part of the Resident Medical Officer and Registrar Recruitment Program. Since the Goss Government abolished establishment levels and utilised activity levels it is not possible to refer to "new" positions with any degree of accuracy. I have, however, established a Health Workforce Planning and Analysis Unit to provide more accurate statistics on Queensland Health's workforce.

(4) From July 1996—January 1997, 1369 medical appointments have been approved. Eighty four (84) of those positions advertised were specialist medical positions.

42. Public Hospital Services and Staff

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

With reference to Christmas holiday closures of beds, wards, theatres and other health services in public hospitals—

- (1) How many beds, wards, theatres or other health services were reduced or shut-down during this period?
- (2) Have any permanent closures been implemented and will he give details of the closures and the hospitals concerned?
- (3) How long will these closures remain in place?
- (4) How many temporary and casual hospital staff are no longer employed by Queensland Health as a result of these efficiency changes?

Mr Horan (28/2/97):

(1) In the majority of hospitals in Queensland, activity levels are traditionally low over the Christmas/New Year period. This is primarily the result of lower community demand. This lower demand provides these hospitals with the opportunity to undertake essential maintenance works, which is critical to quality patient care. Lower demand for services enables staff to take annual leave, resulting in less disruption to services during the year. This practice of some staff having leave at Christmas/ New Year is the same as under previous Governments and the very least that can be done for our hard working staff.

Beds, wards and theatres affected during the period are immediately re-opened wherever it becomes necessary to meet unexpected demand. No patient is left uncared for.

(2 & 3) I am advised that no beds, wards, or theatres were permanently closed, and that those closed have been re-opened.

(4) I am advised that the number of temporary and casual staff has returned to pre- Christmas levels. Good management practice dictates that permanent staff are retained for base levels of activity, with temporary and casual staff routinely used to cover periods of higher demand. Therefore, temporary and casual staff are not utilised to the same extent during periods of low activity such as the Christmas season.

43. Public Hospital Budgets

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

With reference to his answers to previous questions in Parliament on budget estimates for individual hospitals giving lengthy explanations as to the unavailability of these base budget figures for 1996-97—

- (1) Now that he has provided the *Courier-Mail* with the details of certain hospitals in the south-east corner of Queensland, will he also provide indicative budgets for individual public hospitals across Queensland to the Parliament as requested on several prior occasions; if not, will he explain why he has been able to work out a way to determine the base budgets of a small number of key hospitals in the

metropolitan area but won't do the same favour for regional and rural Queensland hospitals?

- (2) Will he give an assurance that all senior hospital management, medical and nursing staff who have responsibilities to come in on budget have been provided with the details of the base budget they are working within?

Mr Horan (28/2/97):

(1) I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his question number 1474 of 1996.

(2) All District Health Services have a clear understanding about the composition of the current approved budget, as well as being aware of potential additional funding. The success of the systems of financial accountability established by the Coalition will be seen in the outcome of the 1996/97 Budget.

44. Nambour Hospital

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

With reference to reports that he has obtained additional funds from Treasury to assist the Nambour Hospital to cope with a significant budget over-run—

- (1) Has he approved extra funds for the Nambour Hospital from Treasury; if so, how much extra will this hospital be receiving in 1996-97?
- (2) Will he advise what the hospital's original base budget allocation was for 1996-97?
- (3) Are there any special terms attached to the additional funding as part of the rescue-package referred to in the Sunshine Coast media either with Treasury or Queensland Health in relation to service delivery or activity level targets; if so, what are they?

Mr Horan (28/2/97):

(1) Increased funding over and above various waiting list and Hospital access bonus pool funds has been allocated to Sunshine Coast District Health Service, Nambour Hospital for 1996-97 as follows:

Intensive Care Unit—\$600,000 allocated for the increased levels of intensive care treatment caused as a result of the Sunshine Coast District Health Service's higher levels of trauma;
Renal—\$175,000 allocated for the growing demand for renal care in recognition of the District's ageing population;

Day Surgery—\$250,000 allocated to increase day surgery levels at the hospital.

(2) The original budget allocations for 1996-97 are allocated by Corporate Office at a District Health Service level. Hospital budgets are determined and managed within each District to allow the District Manager some flexibility to meet existing/emerging service delivery priorities. These budgets are added to during the year as various Commonwealth grants become available and waiting lists and other fund allocations are made.

(3) The District's activity level targets are being revised regarding the ICU and Renal allocations for funding purposes. A Service Agreement for Day Surgery has been signed by the District in accordance with all Surgery on Time project funding to Districts.

45. Redcliffe Hospital; Caboolture Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

With reference to the redevelopment of the Redcliffe Hospital—

- (1) Has Queensland Health given any consideration to closing down maternity services at Redcliffe and redirecting expectant mothers to Caboolture Hospital; if so, on what basis has this proposal been floated?
- (2) Has any consideration or decision been made regarding the transfer of surgical activity planned for Caboolture Hospital to the Redcliffe Hospital; if so, what is the rationale behind this change; if not, why has Caboolture stopped taking bookings for most elective surgery procedures?

Mr Horan (28/2/97):

(1 & 2) The proposals to which the Honourable Member refers were put forward by the District Health Service and rejected as they were not in accordance with Coalition Policy. The bases of the proposals was that currently there are two comprehensive obstetric and surgical services being operated within 25 minutes drive of each other.

The proposals were rejected in part because the Coalition's Hospital Services Planning Principles recognise that hospital services, particularly non-tertiary services, should be located in recognition of their role in establishing and maintaining communities.

I am advised that Caboolture Hospital has not stopped taking bookings for elective surgery procedures.

46. Medical Specialist Positions

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

With reference to medical specialist shortages in Queensland—

- (1) How many new full-time medical specialist positions were funded in the 1996-97 State Budget?
- (2) How many vacancies are there for medical specialists at present for full-time and part-time placements and what districts are these vacancies attached to?
- (3) How many additional medical specialist positions would be necessary based on current advice from his department to resolve the shortage of medical specialists in Queensland and how much would this cost the State Government to implement, assuming the recommended increases could be filled by suitably qualified medical practitioners?
- (4) How many medical specialist positions (part-time/full-time) are filled by overseas locums?

Mr Horan (28/2/97):

(1) From July 1996 to January 1997, eighty-four (84) full-time medical specialist positions have been advertised.

(2) As at 31 October 1996 there were 108 medical specialist vacancies or 84 full-time equivalent medical specialist vacancies. Eighty (80) of these positions are full-time specialist positions. This represents a 36% fall in the number of vacancies from around 125 under then Health Ministers, and now Labor leaders, Messrs Elder and Beattie.

(3) Precise, current data is not available to Queensland Health, and any answer to the Honourable Member's question would be subjective. 1994 data published in the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee Report 1996.1 (January 1996), suggests that there was, at that time, a shortage of 265 non-surgical specialists in Queensland. This shortage is likely to have been reduced by this Government's improved recruitment record and Budget initiatives. The Report did not identify shortages of surgical specialists. Currently the average cost for medical specialist salary packages range from \$160,000—\$190,000 per annum (not including training & development and other on-costs).

(4) As at 31 October 1996, nine (9) medical specialists positions were filled by overseas locums.

47. ENT Specialist, Townsville General Hospital

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

With reference to an article in the *Townsville Bulletin* of 15 January, in which the Townsville District Health Service's District Manager, Dr Chris Kennedy, said that the addition of oncology and other tertiary services had caused an increase in the waiting list for public non-urgent, elective ENT surgical cases of up to two years—

Is there another ENT specialist available to do public theatre sessions at Townsville General Hospital; if so, why has the Government failed to provide funds for these much needed services?

Mr Horan (28/2/97): The Coalition is committed to the delivery of tertiary services in North Queensland, and is providing increased funds for ENT Services. With the addition of oncology and other tertiary services to the Hospital, the severity of Ear, Nose, and Throat cases presenting has increased. This is because cases previously treated in Brisbane may now be treated in Townsville. Such severe cases are usually emergencies and take more time in the operating theatre. This has caused an increase in the waiting list for non urgent (category 3), elective surgical cases, although I am advised not to the extent which you suggest.

The Townsville General Hospital has the services of a visiting Ear, Nose, and Throat specialist. This specialist currently provides one session of public theatre time per week. I have provided funding for additional sessions, and the Townsville District Health Service is now looking to increase theatre sessions in conjunction with an Ear, Nose, and Throat specialist.

48. Gun Buy-back Centres

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/1/97)—

With reference to media reports that Queensland's gun buy-back centres have no armed security guards or police presence for security reasons, and that police have advised that no funding is available for such security—

- (1) Will he provide armed security or a police presence for security for staff at the buy-back centres and the members of the public attending these centres?
- (2) Did the request by him for funding to the Federal Government for implementation of the weapons legislation include the funding of security at the guns buy-back centres?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97):

- (1) The compensation contractor, DAS Distribution, is responsible for security at compensation centres. There are a number of security options in place developed in collaboration with police. Publicly revealing all security measures is regarded as foolish in the extreme. Senior police have expressed their satisfaction with security measures, which are similar to those operating interstate
- (2) Federal funding was non-specific in its provision, however, Queensland has covered security measures in its funding arrangements.

49. Booval Mines Rescue Service

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (29/1/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Booval Mines Rescue Service currently has, as part of its emergency response fleet, the following vehicles (a) a Ford Trader twin cab truck which is 14 years old, has a high fuel consumption to carry load, which also contributes to handling instability and a braking system which is inadequate and (b) a Toyota bus which is 16 years old, is used for the purpose of carrying Mines Rescue Service members, has low mileage but, because of the age of its components and the condition of its sub-frame, is considered to be a safety risk?
- (2) Under Duty of Care principles, who accepts responsibility for damage, injury and or the loss of life where the inadequacies of these vehicles are the cause of an accident?
- (3) What other emergency response service would be expected to continue using vehicles which are inadequate for the needs of the service?
- (4) Would he, Department of Mines senior officers and/or the Chief Inspector of Mines be prepared to travel in outdated and potentially accident prone vehicles?

Mr Gilmore (17/2/97):

- (1) I am aware of the existence of the two vehicles to which Mr Pearce refers. These vehicles were the same ones in use when he was in office. Both vehicles are very low mileage, have always been garaged and regularly serviced. I am not aware of

any safety shortcomings of either vehicle and have asked for an engineer's report on both vehicles.

(2) Both vehicles are registered and kept roadworthy in accordance with Department of Transport standards. The Duty of Care provisions to which you refer, require personnel to operate the vehicles according to the road conditions pertaining at that time. It is obviously the responsibility of the Mines Rescue Brigade not to overload the vehicle beyond its capabilities. I have no evidence of any undue risk of "loss of life" to which you refer.

(3) The current equipment has serviced the Ipswich mines for a number of years. There are now only two small underground mines remaining and therefore to say the vehicles are inadequate for the needs of the mines is not appropriate.

(4) The Chief Inspector has travelled in the bus on numerous occasions and has advised he continues to be willing to do so. The Ford twin cab truck to which you referred is used so infrequently that few people ever get to travel in it. However, senior officers of the Department of Mines and Energy have advised that they would voluntarily travel in the vehicle if the need arose.

50. Rowes Bay-Pallarenda Foreshore Management Study

Mr SMITH asked the Premier (29/1/97)—

With reference to the interim copy of the second draft of the Rowes Bay—Pallarenda Foreshore Management Study—

- (1) It is clear that the principal cause of erosion is related to Government-sponsored, man-made structures, particularly in the harbour area, and is it equally clear that the relatively expensive beach nourishment option is the only viable solution?
- (2) Will he commit his Government to the major funding of this now urgently required work?
- (3) In view of the proximity of the local government elections and the fact that this will be a major issue, will he as Premier and Minister responsible for the central agencies of Government, state the Government's position in unequivocal terms immediately and not seek to have the issue blurred by referring this question to various line Ministers with responsibilities in this area?

Mr Borbidge (27/2/97):

(1) I have been advised that the Townsville Port Authority commissioned the consultants, Sinclair Knight Merz to undertake a scoping report on beach erosion issues along the northern coastal foreshore of Townsville. This report is currently being peer reviewed prior to consideration by a technical consultative committee which gives advice to the Townsville Port Authority on its dredging activities. This study report indicates that there are a range of causes of erosion and promotes beach nourishment as a solution to these problems.

However, erosion at Rowes Bay has been a concern for some time. Prior to the Sinclair Knight Merz

study, the Rowes Bay/Pallarenda Working Group had been formed to investigate potential management strategies for the Rowes Bay/Pallarenda foreshore area. This working group comprises of representatives from the Department of Environment, the Townsville City Council and other organisations.

The working group report is currently in draft form. This draft report does not attribute any cause to the erosion problem. Instead, it focuses on options for dealing with the problem. Management strategies have not been finalised or costed. Beach nourishment is only one of a number of options suggested to address the problem. Townsville City Council officers are currently providing comments and cost estimates on the recommended strategies to address the erosion problem.

(2) It would not be appropriate to allocate any funds until all of the options have been evaluated and a solution determined.

(3) The State will continue to support finalisation of the Rowes Bay/Pallarenda Foreshore Management Study. With regard to implementation, the Townsville City Council would have access to the Local Bodies Capital Works Subsidy Scheme for any capital works which are determined to be appropriate to solve the problem.

51. Crown Land, Bribie Island; Pumicestone Passage

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (29/1/97)—

With reference to the review his department is conducting of the use of Crown land on Bribie Island—

- (1) Is the freehold land purchased by the previous Labor Government on the island for conservation purposes now to be included in this review; if so, why, bearing in mind it was purchased by a Government Department out of its acquisition budget for a specific departmental purpose and is therefore not Crown land?
- (2) Will he rule out the possibility of any of this freehold land being sold by the Government as a result of this review; if not, why not?
- (3) Will he rule out the possibility of any of this land being developed for residential purposes; if not, why not?
- (4) Is he aware of the studies that have been conducted into the environmental quality of Pumicestone Passage and the alarming results achieved; if so, does he support the recommendations flowing from that study to limit population levels adjacent to the passage in an attempt to arrest and improve water quality in the passage?

Mr Hobbs (21/2/97):

(1) The Member should be advised that the Bribie island parcel in question was included by Labor in the former State Labor Government initiated Bribie Island Crown Land Allocation review.

(2) and (3) I agree with the recent statement by my colleagues the Honourable Treasurer, Joan Sheldon, MLA and Minister for the Environment, Hon. Brian Littleproud, MLA that this land will not be sold and will be retained for public use.

(4) I am aware of the previous and on-going studies you refer to. The results of these studies have and will continue to guide planning studies in this area. The Land Use Study is drawing on all documentation and research available to ensure sound land use planning recommendations are made.

52. Public Housing, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/1/97)—

As Maryborough has no public housing capital works program in place, is Maryborough going to get its share of the Spot Purchase Plan; if so, when?

Mr Connor (28/2/97): 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.

53. Townsville-Mount Isa Railway Line; Railway Housing, Cloncurry

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/1/97)—

- (1) In view of the increased traffic on the Townsville to Mt Isa railway line, what will the Queensland Rail proposed gang strength be?
- (2) In view of the shortage of housing in Cloncurry, will he confirm that his policy is to provide railway housing to all employees of Queensland Rail who desire accommodation and will he outline what proposals he has in place to address this problem?

Mr Johnson (17/2/97):

(1) Queensland Rail is currently investing approximately \$150 million in the upgrading of the Mt Isa railway line. This work includes the replacement of timber sleepers with steel and concrete and the removal of rail joints. There will consequently be an understandable reduction in the required maintenance resources on the railway. Queensland Rail in consultation with my office are currently reviewing the proposed gang strengths for the railway and no final position has been reached.

(2) Queensland Rail's policy with respect to housing for employees is to provide it on the basis of business needs. It usually follows that in remote areas, it is necessary to provide some housing in order to obtain the employees necessary for the conduct of its business. In the case of Cloncurry, Queensland Rail has recently advised the Public Transport Union that there will be no reductions in housing without consultation to clarify needs. Queensland Rail also confirmed that no employee in any location would be forced to leave a Queensland Rail house.

54. Super-stadium, RNA Showgrounds

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (29/1/97)—

With reference to an article in the *Sunday-Mail* on 19 January which states that serious talks are occurring between State Government officials and the Royal National Association over plans to site a super-stadium on the showground site—

- (1) Is this true; if so, will he now rule out any possibility of this stadium being sited at Roma Street or Suncorp Stadium?
- (2) Does the RNA support the State Government's move for a super-stadium on the RNA site?
- (3) What sort of money is being discussed at these talks to fund his super-stadium and where does he see these funds coming from?
- (4) Were any State Government officials or members of the new South Bank Board in attendance at the recent Superbowl in New Orleans to study the operation of that super-stadium; if so, who funded the costs of their travel and accommodation?
- (5) What capacity is being looked at for the stadium and how often is it projected it will fill in any one year?
- (6) Will he rule out any involvement of the heritage listed old Museum Building in these plans for a super-stadium?
- (7) How does he envisage the RNA being able to co-exist with a super-stadium and its attendant car-parking needs?
- (8) Will he rule out the possibility of Victoria Park being converted to car park to service the super-stadium?
- (9) Will the local residents and community groups be consulted about any such plans?

Mr Borbidge (27/2/97): As my colleague the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry, the Honourable Mr B Davidson MLA recently announced, consultants Bligh Lobb Sports have been engaged by the State Government to undertake a feasibility study to look at the viability of upgrading existing facilities such as ANZ and Suncorp Stadiums. In doing so, the Queensland Government has recognised that if Brisbane is to attract and retain major sporting events then it must have facilities that can compete successfully with the new Melbourne Super Stadium and Sydney's Olympic Stadium.

Should it be found that the upgrading of existing facilities is not viable, then the study will also provide an outline of the type and size of facility required and a preliminary assessment of possible options for locating such a facility in Brisbane.

Before any decision is taken with respect to upgrading existing facilities or the building of a new stadium there will be appropriate consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Neither I or my colleague, the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry are aware of any State Government officials or members of the South Bank Corporation Board attending the Superbowl in New Orleans.

55. Drowning of Resident at Basil Stafford Centre

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (29/1/97)—

With reference to the tragic drowning of a resident at the Basil Stafford Centre in December 1996 and the public statements in the *Courier-Mail* on 21 December of the Reverend Alan Male that "internal and external investigations are being held"—

- (1) Who is conducting each of these investigations?
- (2) When did each investigation commence?
- (3) Have either of these investigations resulted in any outcomes; if not, when will these investigations be finalised?
- (4) Will he give an undertaking to fully inform the Parliament when these investigations are completed?

Mr Lingard (19/2/97):

(1) On 20 December 1996, Reverend Allan Male, Director-General, Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, directed that an independent external and internal investigation be undertaken into the suspected drowning death of a Basil Stafford Centre resident on 19 December 1996. This investigation was to be in addition to the Queensland Police Service investigation into the incident. Mr Peter Dautel, a retired senior Police Officer was appointed as the external investigator. Mr Geoff Rowe, then A/Executive Director, Disability Services was directed to work with Mr Dautel as the internal investigator.

(2) Mr Rowe and Mr Dautel met to plan the investigation on 23 December 1996, with the formal investigation commencing on 2 January 1997.

(3) The investigators' report on the incident is currently being finalised and will be submitted to the Director-General by 14 February, 1997.

56. Emergency Services Department

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/1/97)—

With reference to the Staib Report recommendation of May 1996 that the funding of the Emergency Services Department be boosted by \$30m—

When is that recommendation going to be acted upon?

Mr Veivers (27/2/97): In response to the specific question made by Mr Wells, I can advise as follows:

The Staib Report's Review of Queensland Fire Service contains over 140 recommendations. Not one of these recommendations states that the funding of the Department of Emergency Services was to be boosted by \$30m.

The Report did, however, discuss the Queensland Fire Service under funding and suggested that an additional \$30m would put the budget in an optimum position. The Report went on to say that the additional funding needed was to be obtained

through the adoption of "user pays" principles and revenue generation through the existing Queensland Fire Service frame-work.

The recently established Queensland Fire & Rescue Authority Board will review the budget and provide submissions to me for consideration in the forthcoming budget cycle.

57. Legal Aid Funding

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (29/1/97)—

With reference to the Commonwealth Government's plan to slash \$5m from funding to legal aid in Queensland—

- (1) Does he condemn the actions of the Commonwealth Attorney-General in planning to cut legal aid funding?
- (2) What action is he taking to ensure that Queensland receives at least the level of funding it received under the Federal Labor Government?
- (3) Will he give an unequivocal assurance that legal aid services to Queenslanders will not be cut?

Mr Beanland (25/2/97):

(1) The Commonwealth Government seeks to have Commonwealth legal aid funding expended only on matters arising under Commonwealth law. In Queensland, the expenditure on Commonwealth law matters is in excess of the Commonwealth Government funding for legal aid. The Commonwealth Government has been informed that there is no justification for any reduction by the Commonwealth in legal aid funding for Queensland.

(2) The Commonwealth Government has been informed that a reduction in funding is unacceptable in Queensland. Discussions between officers are to take place in the near future to try to resolve the deadlock in negotiations.

(3) The Queensland Government has provided an additional \$2m in legal aid funding in 1996-97. If the Commonwealth Government proceeds with cutting legal aid expenditure by \$4.9m per annum, then reduction in funding for Commonwealth law matters, principally family law, will occur. If the Commonwealth reduces its expenditure, then the expenditure reduction should occur in its principal area of interest—family law.

58. Cardiac Unit, Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

With reference to his announcement to open a new cardiac unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital—

- (1) What range of medical treatments has he included in the 2,200 procedures referred to in his press statements on the new facility planned in its first year of operation?
- (2) Will the PA Hospital require any additional intensive care or high dependency beds to support this facility; if so, what arrangements have been made in this regard?

Mr Horan (27/2/97):

(1) The range of procedures to be included in the 2,200 procedures to be undertaken in the first year of operation include the full range of cardiac procedures, for example, coronary by-pass surgery, angioplasty and pace-maker insertion. The only procedure which will not be undertaken is cardiac transplants.

(2) The PA Hospital will require an additional 4 intensive care beds to support the new cardiac facility. These beds will be added to the existing High Dependency Unit and co-located as one Unit.

59. High School, Kuranda

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (29/1/97)—

Will he provide details of action being taken by the State Government to resolve concerns of the Kuranda State High School Parents and Citizens and the Mareeba Shire Council over access and headworks costs for the new high school at Kuranda?

Mr Quinn (28/2/97): The State Government has acted decisively to resolve the concerns raised by the interim Kuranda SHS P&C Association and the Mareeba Shire Council, regarding access and head works costs for the new Kuranda State High School.

The Coalition Government has implemented its election policy commitment to provide fifty percent subsidy support for local authorities in the provision of the external infrastructure required for state projects and also for set-down areas at new schools. There has not been any issue with the Mareeba Shire council over the availability of subsidy assistance since this policy was confirmed.

In addition to the construction of a bus and vehicle set-down area, which has been co-operatively planned by my Department and the council, there has been an application for the state government to provide extensive upgrading of the road linking the school site to the Kennedy Highway, as well as provision for a safe crossing of the highway and the extension of a water main.

The State Government recognises that there are sound arguments for the road access to be improved, but also considers that this is not simply external infrastructure to service the school. It is, in fact, part of the general transport infrastructure of the shire and its upgrading is compatible with the announced plan to support the development of an urban mode at Myola in the medium term. The Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) makes provision for Government subsidy to local governments for works such as the Myola Road upgrading and the provision of a bikeway. It is my understanding that these two projects will be supported for funding by the Department of Main Roads.

The State Government will contribute also, through the Department of Local Government and Planning, to the provision by the council of reticulated water. This represents the commitment of the Coalition to the development of such infrastructure. A proportion

of this contribution will be met by Education Queensland on account of the new school.

All of the issues raised in this question are linked with the location of the school. This location was determined by the previous Labor government. However, through sensible co-operation amongst Ministers, the Honourable Member for Barron River, and the Mareeba Shire Council, all concerns regarding the access and head works costs for the new Kuranda High School have been resolved. The school is on track for a successful 1998 commencement.

60. Advertising of Enterprise Bargaining Offer to Health Workers

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

- (1) How much did it cost to advertise in the media the State Government's enterprise bargaining offer for health workers and nurses?
- (2) In what media did this advertising appear?
- (3) Which unit of his department is responsible for this expenditure?

Mr Horan (27/2/97):

- (1) The total cost of advertising the Government's enterprise bargaining offer in the press and television was \$50,906.30.
- (2) Advertising was undertaken in metropolitan and non metropolitan press and on non metropolitan television. It was purely factual and was designed to forestall further industrial action.
- (3) Expenditure for this was from corporate funds set aside for the Financial Management Improvement project as the proposed Enterprise Bargaining Agreement is chiefly directed at achieving performance improvement against financial benchmarks.

61. Brisbane-Sydney Rail Service

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/1/97)—

- (1) Will he give consideration to initiating negotiations with the New South Wales State Government aimed at improving the interstate passenger rail service between Brisbane and Sydney, to eliminate the present totally unsympathetic schedule which brings travellers into Brisbane at 5am and into Sydney at approximately 10pm, after most connections have departed, and to introduce a modern catering service to replace the appalling food service now suffered by travellers?
- (2) Will he also consider promoting the restoration of the Brisbane Limited sleeping car train, now sitting idle at Junee, New South Wales to supplement the XPT services?

Mr Johnson (17/2/97):

- (1) To attain efficient use of rollingstock the XPT is turned around quickly and returns to Sydney. The XPT is utilised on another service prior to operating

the Sydney to Brisbane leg. This, as well as the slotting in with the Sydney suburban network, dictates arrivals and departures in Sydney of Countrylink services. Given these constraints, if the XPT could arrive in Brisbane at a more convenient time (eg 8.00am instead of 5.00am during daylight saving, 6.00am EST) it would arrive back in Sydney at an even more unreasonable hour than the current 9.35pm. Also the early Brisbane arrival connects with QR northbound services such as Spirit of Capricorn, Sunlander and Queenslander.

Currently travellers between Brisbane and Sydney have the option of a direct XPT daylight rail service via Kyogle or a two hour coach ride to Murwillumbah to connect with an overnight XPT service.

The catering service provided on board XPT's is a buffet service supplying pre packed airline type meals and light refreshments which provides passengers with a variety of economical meals priced from \$5 to \$7. This form of catering is widely used on railways around the world and has proven to be the most cost efficient system for train on-board catering. The traditional dining car arrangement is not always well patronised, is very expensive to operate and reduces the payload of the train.

Any complaints or comments received about catering on XPT services is passed on to New South Wales Countrylink management for their consideration.

- (2) If the Brisbane Limited was to be reintroduced, an additional operating subsidy from Queensland Rail would be required by Countrylink. Queensland Rail currently contributes 11.4% of the net loss of the XPT and the additional costs would far outweigh any benefits.

The State Rail Authority of New South Wales embarked on a policy to progressively introduce XPT services throughout NSW country and interstate from April 1982. The first XPT departed from Brisbane on 12 February 1990. Despite various community complaints about the withdrawal of sleeper services, no plans exist for their reintroduction.

Another option which may see a change in Brisbane to Sydney services include the sale and most likely privatisation of Australian National. The new owner of AN may consider departing some Indian Pacific services from Brisbane to Perth if there was enough demand. If this was to occur, Queensland Rail would assist in every way possible to ensure the success of such a venture.

62. Dental Unit, Goondiwindi Hospital

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Health (29/1/97)—

- (1) Has the dental unit which previously operated out of the Goondiwindi Hospital closed; if so, will he explain why and advise where Goondiwindi residents can access dental health care?
- (2) When did the service officially close?

Mr Horan (27/2/97):

- (1) I am advised that the dental unit at Goondiwindi Hospital has not been in operation since the

beginning of the Beattie Ministry, due to difficulties in recruiting a dentist either on a permanent or a temporary basis.

Following a vigorous recruitment campaign, Southern Downs District Health Services advise that a dentist will commence in Goondiwindi in the near future. It is intended that this dentist will provide adult oral health services to Goondiwindi and also Inglewood from April 1997.

As a result of the Coalition's rural incentives scheme and other measures, in 1997 Southern Downs District will be able to offer adult oral health services at every facility in the District.

(2) The Dental Unit at the Goondiwindi Hospital has never been officially closed and nor is it intended that it will be. It fell into disuse under the Beattie administration and will be restored to full operation by the Borbidge Government.

63. Public Housing

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/1/97)—

With reference to the priority wait system to be introduced in March for persons applying for public rental accommodation—

Will those persons currently on the wait list be notified of the new system, and what steps will be taken to ensure those persons are not disadvantaged?

Mr Connor (28/2/97): People on current waiting lists will be advised of the new system in conjunction with the routine correspondence relating to reviews of their applications.

64. Racing Development Fund

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/1/97)—

With reference to the media release of August 1996 reprinted in *Walk and Talk*, the official newsletter of the QGBOTA, which states that he has announced approval of "more than \$250,000 from the RDF" and goes on to detail grants of \$110,800—

Has the balance of more than \$139,200 been distributed, and will he provide details of such distribution?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97): Executive Council Minute No. 681 dated 27 June 1996 approved a \$250,000 Racing Development Fund (RDF) grant for the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA) to fund greyhound code capital works and development projects.

This grant currently has an unexpended balance of \$117,130 (excluding interest received). To date \$132,870 has been paid out of this grant to greyhound clubs.

There are a number of projects currently being undertaken which will be reimbursed from this grant prior to the end of the financial year.

Payments are made from the grant only after work has been undertaken and evidence of the work ie. invoices have been lodged with the GRA.

Attached is a summary of the position of the grant including payments to clubs, committed funds and approved works.

65. Native Title

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Premier (29/1/97)—

With reference to the Native Title and pastoral leases—

- (1) What is his definition of (a) title, (b) aboriginal title, (c) pastoral lease, (d) lease and (e) aboriginal rights on pastoral leases?
- (2) Did the High Court Wik judgement confirm pastoralists rights on pastoral leases to (a) raise livestock and (b) establish fences, yards, bores, mills and accommodation?
- (3) Do pastoralists retain the same legal interest as was their legal entitlement before the decision?
- (4) Does the Wik decision not have a legal impact on (a) the value of the pastoral lease and (b) the value of the security which the pastoral lease may provide for borrowing money?

Mr Borbidge (27/2/97): With respect to the Honourable Member's questions, the answers are contained within the Wik decision of the High Court, a copy of which is attached.

66. Dredging, Moreton Bay

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Environment (29/1/97)—

With reference to dredging applications presently being assessed by the Department of Environment for sand and gravel extraction from Moreton Bay—

- (1) Which companies have made application for which areas, in what volumes and over what time frame?
- (2) What are the current extraction levels by these companies or others from Moreton Bay and for what areas?
- (3) Does he intend to grant these applications; if so, does he intend to alter the Moreton Bay Marine Park zoning plan from what it was in February 1996 to accommodate these applications?
- (4) Is the consideration of these applications the reason this zoning plan has still not been finalised some 12 months later?
- (5) Does he believe that the applied for levels of extraction are consistent with the principles embodied in the declaration of a marine park?
- (6) Does he agree that his much heralded cessation of dredging in the Brisbane River has simply shifted the problem into Moreton Bay?

Mr Littleproud (13/2/97):

- (1) The following applications for permits to dredge in Moreton Bay are currently being considered by the Department of Environment:

APPLICANT	LOCATION	ANNUAL VOLUMES (Cubic metres per year)
Bowen Tug & Barge Pty Ltd	Central Banks	70,000
Bowen Tug & Barge Pty Ltd	Skirmish Bank	70,000
Bowen Tug & Barge Pty Ltd	Salamander Bank	100,000
D. G. Hislop	Rous & Rainbow Channels	30,000
Moreton Tug & Barge Co. Pty Ltd	Central Banks	100,000
Moreton Tug & Barge Co. Pty Ltd	Western Banks	100,000
Pioneer Concrete (Qld) Pty Ltd	Pearl & Main Channels	160,000
	TOTAL	630,000

The applicants have not specified any time frame over which they wish the permits to be issued. However, the Marine Land Dredging By-laws 1987 under which permits are issued, provides that the period of a permit may not exceed two years. Current permits issued to the above companies operating in Moreton Bay under both the *Marine Parks Act 1982* and the Marine Land Dredging By-laws, have been issued for periods of twelve months.

(2) The actual quantities of material removed from Moreton Bay during 1996 are as follows:

COMPANY	LOCATION	ANNUAL QUANTITY APPROVED FOR EXTRACTION (cubic metres)	ACTUAL QUANTITY EXTRACTED DURING 1996 (Cubic metres)
Boral Resources (Qld) Pty Ltd	Middle Banks	130,000	33,224
Bowen Tug & Bunkering Pty Ltd	North East Channel & Main Channel	70,000	18,050
Bowen Tug & Bunkering Pty Ltd	Spitfire Banks	70,000	2,649
Marine Contracting Pty Ltd	Middle Banks	20,000	3,000
Marine Contracting Pty Ltd	North East Channel	40,000	14,850
Marine Contracting Pty Ltd	Rous Channel	40,000	11,923
Marine Contracting Pty Ltd	Spitfire Banks	35,000	2,600
Moreton Tug & Barge Co. Pty Ltd	Rous Channel	35,000	13,411
Pioneer Concrete (Qld) Pty Ltd	South West Spit	25,000	26,318
	TOTAL	465,000	126,025

(3) The granting of dredging permits under the Marine Land Dredging By-laws 1987 and the Marine Parks Act are matters for decision by the Director-General, Department of Environment. In December 1996 the Department of Environment commissioned WBM Oceanics Australia Pty Ltd to undertake a study into the sand resources of the northern section of Moreton Bay. This study will assist the Department in the assessment of extractive industry applications within Moreton Bay Marine Park. The objectives of the study are to provide information on suitable areas and methods for sand and gravel extraction (based on resource availability, conservation value, amenity value and other relevant considerations) and provide recommendations on appropriate management of present and future extractive operations in Moreton Bay Marine Park. The consideration of all new applications to extract sand within the Marine Park has been deferred pending the outcome of the study. The proposed Marine Park zoning plan has not been altered to accommodate any new dredging applications. The extraction of sand and gravel is consistent with the proposed objectives of the General Use zone, which is the only zone within which sand extraction will be considered.

(4) The consideration of specific applications, including dredging applications, under the Marine

Parks Act, has not delayed finalisation of the Moreton Bay Marine Park zoning plan.

(5) Marine parks are declared as management tools providing for multiple use of marine areas, similar to a town plan over land. Marine parks seek to maintain natural resource and conservation values whilst allowing a wide range of uses to occur. Under the proposed zoning plan, any new sand and gravel extraction proposals will only be considered in General Use zones and be subject to environmental impact assessment.

(6) The material extracted from the Brisbane River is generally of a different nature to the type of material available in Moreton Bay. While the cessation of dredging in the Brisbane River will result in material being sourced from alternative locations and the use of alternative technologies, the Department of Environment is not aware of any problems being caused in or transferred to Moreton Bay due to the proposed cessation of dredging in the Brisbane River.

67. Railway Signalmen, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/1/97)—

With reference to the ongoing restructure of Queensland Rail, in particular as it applies to the signalmen's position—

- (1) What guarantees will he give to the signalmen employed in Rockhampton that (a) their jobs are secure and (b) that there will be no abolition of their positions?
- (2) What other assurances will he give to these workers and their families that they will continue to retain the employment and conditions they currently enjoy with Queensland Rail?

Mr Johnson (17/2/97):

- (1) An operational review of shunting resources was conducted in Rockhampton in mid 1994.

The review examined:

staffing levels needed to meet the traffic task currently being undertaken which had significantly changed over several years due to efficiencies gained by the introduction of altered work practices.

the current infrastructure needed to support the operations.

As a result a decision was made to concentrate all shunting activities in Rockhampton into one yard and rationalise the yard track layouts to enable the current interlocked signalling, which was both expensive to maintain and in need of upgrading, to be removed.

Capital funding was sought and received for the alterations of track work and an upgrade of administrative and employee facilities to occur.

The removal of the interlocking also reduced the need for Signalmen to operate the signal cabin controlling the area.

The six signalmen involved were advised of the decision and Union and employee representatives both at a local and state level have been regularly consulted.

Employee Relations officers have been made available to discuss individual needs of the employees affected.

- (2) Queensland Rail workers whose positions have been identified as surplus to operational needs are retained in the workforce with no reduction to their award pay rates to which they have been classified and no loss of conditions.

68. Public Works and Housing Department Employees

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/1/97)—

- (1) What is the number and classification of blue collar employees currently employed by his department?
- (2) What is the number and classification of white collar employees currently employed by his department?
- (3) What district and area are they employed in?
- (4) Will he give these employees and the House assurances that their jobs are safe in the light of the Government's privatisation policies?

Mr Connor (28/2/97):

- (1) and (2) There are 2348 blue collar employees and 2728 white collar employees currently employed by the Department of Public Works and Housing. The classifications for these employees vary markedly from apprentices and trades persons to senior executives.

- (3) The districts and areas where these employees are employed, are detailed in the attachment.

- (4) There are no plans to privatise.

69. Cost to Schools of Security Call-outs

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (29/1/97)—

With reference to electronic security systems which have dramatically reduced the loss of property and the disruption of classes in Queensland schools, thus saving the Education Department millions of dollars that would otherwise have been expended in replacement costs, yet his department's policy of charging schools for certain call-outs by the Queensland Protective Services is transferring the above savings as additional costs to local schools—

Will he therefore rescind the policy of charging local schools for security call-outs?

Mr Quinn (28/2/97): Schools that have the benefit of accessing the on-ground service provided by State Government Security are expected to meet the cost of false alarms that they have caused. The rationale for this approach is that management to minimise false alarms occurs most effectively at the school level. For the limited number of schools in this situation, the Department meets the cost of all genuine callouts and false alarms where there is no obvious cause.

It is not proposed to change the current practice at this time, but the provision of school security is under regular review with the objective of achieving effectiveness and equity.

70. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/1/97)—

With reference to her answer to Question on Notice No. 1233, wherein the Member for Gladstone was seeking confirmation that the megabank will not result in forced redundancies or reduction in services, the Minister stated "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 . . . (and that it) is certainly not in a position to provide such confirmations for the private sector merged group" and to sections 123 and 124 of the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 which provide the Government with general reserve powers to notify corporatised boards of public sector policies and to issue directions in the public interest, sections under which confirmations of no forced retrenchments and maintenance of services could readily have been provided—

- (1) Why did she once again mislead this House and, in particular, the Member for Gladstone?
- (2) If she had no intention of protecting Suncorp and QIDC jobs and services after she privatised them why did she and her Coalition colleagues uniformly support the motion passed by this House, that there should be no forced retrenchments arising from the privatisation of Suncorp and QIDC?

Mrs Sheldon (28/2/97):

(1) I did not mislead the House or the Member for Gladstone. The obligations placed on the Government by the Reserve Bank ensure that responsibility for day-to-day operational management of the enterprise rests with Suncorp-Metway management in the same way as it rested with the corporatised management structure applied to Suncorp by the former Labor Government. This model applied to Suncorp, even though it was never formally corporatised under the GOC Act prior to the commencement of the process to effect the merger.

Under that policy, Government-owned businesses such as Suncorp and QIDC were given a strict commercial charter with their Boards held responsible for any decisions regarding staffing levels and service delivery.

The Government would not ordinarily be involved in these types of decisions and would not seek to influence or dictate the employment or service delivery practices of a commercial business operating in a very competitive commercial environment.

Mr Hamill has referred to sections 123 and 124 of the GOC Act initiated by Labor. While the GOC Act makes provision for shareholding Ministers to intervene in the operations of Government owned businesses, the clear philosophy underlying the GOC Act is that intervention would only occur in exceptional circumstances or as an exercise of "reserve power".

Similar principles applied in respect of Suncorp, even though the GOC Act did not apply to Suncorp prior to the commencement of the merger process. For example; prior to February, 1996, Suncorp initiated a program to reduce the number of its branches and agencies. Despite the impact on employment and services in the regions concerned, the Labor Government did not move to stop the closure of five Suncorp branches and 22 agencies.

(2) The motion passed by the Parliament sets out important principles that were already reflected in the Heads of Agreement signed by the Government and Metway Bank. As publicly stated by the Chairman of merged group, the approach taken by the group on staffing issues is consistent with the objectives embodied in the resolution of Parliament.

71. Mr N. Bonner; Indigenous Advisory Council

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (30/1/97)—

With reference to his appointment of former Liberal Senator Neville Bonner to chair his Indigenous Advisory Council—

- (1) As this is only an advisory body why is there a need to establish a permanent office for Mr Bonner in the city at a cost of \$250,000 and employ him on a two year full time contract?
- (2) What other advisory bodies does he have that have a chairman on a similar appointment with similar facilities?
- (3) What salary will Mr Bonner be paid during this two year contract and what other components will make up his contract package?
- (4) What other staff will Mr Bonner have at his disposal and what designation will they be?
- (5) What operational budget does he intend to allocate Mr Bonner's council to, as he put it "make a genuine difference"?

Mr Lingard (19/2/97):

(1) This Government amalgamated the functions of the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (AJAC) located in the Department of Justice and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Overview Committee (OVC) located in the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. This amalgamation resulted in the creation of a new and powerful Indigenous Advisory Council which required the services of a full time Chairperson at a very senior level.

(2) Nil.

(3) The final details of Mr Bonner's appointment are currently being negotiated. In the meantime, he has been engaged in a temporary capacity at the SES level.

(4) Mr Bonner and his Council will be assisted by a Secretariat which also services the Interdepartmental Committee on Indigenous Affairs, as well as covering the requirements of the former OVC and AJAC. This secretariat currently has an establishment of 10 positions. The positions are:

1 x Manager—AO8

1 x Program Development Co-ordinator—PO5

3 x Senior Program Development Officers—AO6

1 x Program Development Officer—AO5

1 x Senior Administration Officer—AO4

1 x Administration Officer—AO3

2 x Administrative Officers—AO2

This establishment is currently under review.

(5) The total annual allocation to the operations of the Indigenous Advisory Council is currently \$651,895 comprising salaries for Secretariat staff and administration costs of the Council. These funds were obtained by utilising funds previously allocated to the operations of the AJAC and the OVC.

72. Eastlink

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (30/1/97)—

With reference to Central Queensland Economic Audit issued in November 1996 by Coopers and Lybrand which states that "Queensland's peak

demand for electricity is expected to outrun the current generating capacity in the State by 1998" and I note that his decision to scrap Eastlink pushed back interconnection with the electricity supply in other States from January 1998 to some time in 2001, and that he will not bring any new sources of generation on stream until the year 2000—

Will he now accept that his politically motivated decision to scrap Eastlink has exposed the State's industry to a shortfall in power supply that may take years to overcome?

Mr Gilmore (17/2/97): In mid-1996, the Queensland Government and the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation conducted a competitive bidding process for additional capacity to meet anticipated needs in 1999 and 2000. This resulted in contracts for an additional 744 megawatts. Taking into account this additional capacity and demand growth of between 250 to 300 megawatts a year, Queensland will need new capacity from about 2003.

In relation to future generation capacity requirements, the Government considers that a competitive market is the best mechanism for determining the timing and nature of additional capacity requirements. Power producers will be free to enter the competitive electricity market and with the introduction of customer contestability, able to contract directly with customers to the extent necessary to underpin construction and ownership of new power stations. Presently, there are a number of power organisations formulating plans for new power stations. Consequently, the Government will not be conducting a further bidding process for capacity requirements post 2003.

73. Whale-watching Permits

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to his intention to issue new permits in Moreton Bay in 1997 for whale watching—

- (1) If it is his intention to commission research by organisations such as the Pacific Whale Foundation and James Cook University to better understand whale movements in Queensland waters and to place these in a regional perspective and as he has often stated "he has no evidence to suggest that issuing additional whale watching permits in Moreton Bay will not have an adverse effect on migrating humpback whales" why doesn't he delay the issuing of further permits in 1997, until he has the results of this research to assist him in making the necessary decisions?
- (2) If as he states he has no evidence to suggest that issuing additional whale watching permits in Moreton Bay will not have an adverse effect on migrating humpback whales why isn't he implementing the precautionary principle embodied in conservation legislation under his control and delaying the issuing of further whale watching permits until he has better information on which to base that decision?

- (3) How many of the whale watch operations along the New South Wales coast are land based observation points and how many are water based along the lines of Hervey Bay?
- (4) Who will be the key stakeholders consulted when the draft Cetacean Conservation Plan is finalised?

Mr Littleproud (20/2/97): I am aware that as the Member for Redcliffe, your interest in this subject goes back some years, for example, when you made representations to the then Minister for Environment in 1994 on behalf of a constituent seeking a whale-watching permit for Moreton Bay.

Similar representations in respect of whale-watching in Moreton Bay have, of course, been made over the years by other Labor Members including the former Deputy Premier, the Honourable Tom Burns, the Member for Cleveland, Mr Briskey, the former Attorney-General, the Honourable Dean Wells, and the former Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing, the Honourable Bob Gibbs.

You may also be aware that your local Redcliffe City Council made representations to the Labor Government in support of whale-watching in Moreton Bay. The Council may be concerned that the tone of this question suggests that you are not in favour of whale-watching in Moreton Bay.

(1) Researchers have been observing whale migration patterns from Point Lookout on North Stradbroke Island for over 20 years and have compiled detailed annual records for the last 15 years.

Scientists have estimated that around 2500 Group V humpback whales migrate along the east Australian coast and that this population is growing at around 10-14% per year.

The Cetacean Conservation Plan aims to promote on-going research on whales and dolphins, and a priority area of research identified in the plan, is placing the Group V humpback whale population in a regional context with respect to factors such as population size and migration patterns.

Research data available on the Moreton Bay area does not suggest that commercial whale watching, at the level permitted last year, would threaten the recovery of the humpback whale population.

(2) The Cetacean Conservation Plan has yet to be considered by Cabinet and gazetted.

(3) The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service has advised the Department of Environment that there are over 50 vessel based whale and dolphin watching operations working from at least 14 locations. The Service has advised me that it is not aware of any commercial land based whale watching operations, but indicated that a variety of popular locations such as Byron Bay, Hat Head, Sydney Heads and Royal National Park are used for whale watching.

(4) Throughout the development of the Cetacean Conservation Plan, the Department has been committed to a thorough and wide-ranging consultative process. When the initial draft plan was prepared in September 1994, notification of its

release was advertised widely throughout Queensland in metropolitan and regional newspapers. Thirty-one written responses were received by the Department and the issues raised by respondents were considered in the preparation of the final plan. Following the plan's release the Department also consulted with a broad range of stakeholder groups to help prepare the final conservation plan. This consultation has encompassed representatives of the whale watching and tourism industry, conservation agencies such as the Australian Whale Conservation Society, scientific interests, and other State Government departments, including Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry, and Tourism, Small Business and Industry, as well as the Commonwealth Government.

The Cetacean Conservation Plan is currently being amended to better address the concerns raised by these stakeholders. There will be further consultation with key stakeholder groups, before the plan becomes law.

74. Tropic Line Theatre

Mr SMITH asked the Premier (30/1/97)—

With reference to his decision to cut funds to the northern based Tropic Line Theatre from \$31,000 to nil for 1996-97—

- (1) In view of the fact Tropic Line has accomplished everything that was expected of it, including 11 productions for the year to the satisfaction of the northern community, why has he denied funds to this professional regional-based group—in fact, the only professional theatre group outside Brisbane?
- (2) Is he aware that it is considerably less expensive for people in Brisbane to travel to Sydney to pursue theatre interests than for people to travel from Townsville to Brisbane for the same purpose?
- (3) Does he have any idea how bitterly people in regional Queensland, and in particular North Queensland, resent the disparity in funding for the arts between Brisbane and the more distant regions of this State?
- (4) Does he realise that Central and Northern Queensland are relatively speaking the worst served significant population group in Australia in terms of cultural opportunities?
- (5) Will he seriously re-examine this disgraceful funding disparity with a view to giving the tax-paying citizens of North Queensland better value for their tax dollar?

Mr Borbidge (3/3/97):

(1) Following review of the earlier decision not to provide State Government assistance to Tropic Line Theatre Company in 1997, the State Government has allocated \$33,000 to the organisation to maintain a professional theatre presence in Townsville in 1997 and has plans to negotiate a long term funding agreement for the provision of live theatre to the Townsville region.

Tropic Line is not the only professional regional based group outside Brisbane. In Townsville, where Tropic Line is based, a number of other organisations received substantial funding towards 1997 activities. These include: Dance North, \$370,500 plus a special grant of \$13,000 towards the 1997 activities of Extensions, the Youth Arm of the Company; La Luna Youth Theatre, a grant of \$44,000; Woomera Aboriginal Corporation, \$93,432; Townsville Community Music Theatre, \$68,425; and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, a \$45,000 grant plus a recently announced challenge grant of \$33,000. With these additions the total of performing arts funding to Townsville in 1997 is \$725,857.

Other professional performing arts organisations funded for 1997 activities in regional Queensland include Opera North, the Lyre Bird Ensemble and the Deaf Theatre of Mackay for a total of \$307,410; the Rockhampton Performing Arts Complex, a grant of \$17,626 towards a professional production for young people; \$56,100 to Just Us Theatre Ensemble in Cairns; and \$27,294 to the Seventh Wave Theatre Company at the Gold Coast.

Including project grants, this is a total of \$1,132,250 for performing arts activity in regional Queensland of which funding to Townsville represents more than 60%.

(2) The Government is well aware of the need to provide affordable cultural activities for regional and remote communities. In addition to encouraging resident professional activity the Government increased funding to \$920,000 to the statewide Regional Arts Development Fund and it allocated \$321,534 to the ARTS REGIONAL TOURING SERVICE (ARTS) to provide a total of 47 weeks of touring and 171 performances by the State's major performing arts organisations in 13 major regional centres. Twelve smaller centres will also be serviced in 1997 through the Queensland Arts Council, the Arts Grant Program and recurrent operational funding bringing the total State Government commitment to professional regional performing arts touring in 1997 to \$2,045,534 a 100% increase over the level committed to this activity in 1991.

Statistics indicate similar support for other art form areas such as the visual arts, craft, design, and writing.

(3) The State Government is aware of the continuing need to provide an infrastructure for the arts in regional Queensland and to respond to the growing needs of the regional population.

Significantly, in the 1997 Arts Grants Programs of Assistance a total of 52% of the (\$3 Million) funding available was allocated to regional Queensland, that is applicants outside of the south-east corner. This figure does not include the further \$200,000 increase to the Queensland Arts Council to ensure services to regional Queensland were maintained following the deplorable withdrawal of Australia Council funding.

Of the 22 recurrently funded and multiyear funded organisations, one is located in Townsville, three have regional coverage, seven are involved in regional tours and nine with a statewide brief were allocated 30% of the \$8 Million pool.

In addition the State Government has also allocated up to \$750,000 towards the refurbishment of the Townsville Arts Centre, the home of Dance North in Townsville. Further evidence of our commitment to regional Queensland, Townsville in particular.

(4) I challenge Mr Smith to present statistics that support his claim that the population of Central and North Queensland are the worst served significant population group in Australia in terms of cultural opportunities. Proper and thorough research will reveal, I'm sure, that regional Queenslanders are better served by their State Government than their counterparts in other states such as New South Wales and that Queensland is in fact leading the nation in implementing strategies to address the arts and cultural needs of regional Queenslanders.

(5) As announced on Monday 10 February 1997, the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts, Joan Sheldon, has provided a \$33,000 funding package for Townsville's Tropic Line Theatre Company to assist the company in 1997.

The Office of Arts and Cultural Development will liaise with the Company to help devise a more secure funding arrangement for Tropic Line in order to ensure Townsville has ongoing access to professional live theatre works.

Tropic Line Theatre Company has expressed its delight with the package and will consult with organisations in the Townsville region and the Office of Arts and Cultural Development later this month to discuss longer term arrangements for the provision of live theatre to the region.

The Office of Arts and Cultural Development is also implementing strategies to secure multiyear funding for up to forty organisations by the 1999 funding round. Professional arts organisations with a history of quality programs considered essential to the development of Queensland's regional and metropolitan arts and cultural industries will be invited to enter into long term agreements based on strategic plans negotiated with the Office of Arts and Cultural Development. Regional Queensland will further benefit from the implementation of these strategies.

75. Transpacific; Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility, Narangba

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to plans by Transpacific to establish a private regional hazardous waste treatment facility at Narangba to become operational in May—

- (1) Is this correct and has the facility been licensed by the Department of Environment?
- (2) Is the location of this facility at Narangba consistent with the areas zoning and have nearby residents been consulted on this impending development?
- (3) What waste streams and in what volumes will this plant be treating?
- (4) Have Transpacific requested that the Gurulmundi Landfill Act be amended to allow some of their wastes to be dumped there; if so, what response did they get?

- (5) If they are unable to use Gurulmundi as a dump site how does he see them expanding their Narangba operation to its full potential?

Mr Littleproud (19/2/97):

(1) Transpacific has advised the proposed development is an addition to the existing oil recycling plant. The objectives of the proposed development are to provide on-site waste treatment facilities for the treatment of waste by-products generated as a result of the existing oil recycling process to reduce the necessity of off-site treatment and, where available processing volume allows, to provide treatment of compatible wastes generated by other industries. No indication has been provided to date about whether the proposed development is designed to play a regional role nor that it would be operational in May.

A licence is required by the company prior to any commencement of the treatment processes. No application for an environmental authority (licence) under Section 41 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 has been received by the Department of Environment (DoE) for the proposal.

(2) Local Government (Caboolture Shire Council) information indicates that the location of the existing operation and the proposed development is consistent with the zoning of the area. For at least the last 20 years the area has been zoned "special industries". This allows for the development of noxious and offensive activities.

The company has commenced fulfilling its obligations regarding the public notification procedure required by Council By-laws for new developments.

(3) The Environmental Impact Assessment prepared by the company states that the wastewater treatment plant will have a processing capacity of 30 kL per (work) day (7830 kL per annum) and the waste treatment capacity for the chemical fixation/solidification process will be 8 kL per (work) day (2088 kL per annum). The proposed facilities will mainly be used to treat acidic process water and metal contaminated sludges generated by the already existing oil recycling plant. Depending on available processing volume, off-site waste is also proposed to be treated. These wastes will be acidic and alkaline in nature.

(4) No request is known to have been received by the Department of Environment from Transpacific to amend the Gurulmundi Landfill Act.

(5) Transpacific has stated in a letter accompanying the submission of the Environmental Management Plan to Caboolture Shire Council:

"Please note that a letter of confirmation that a waste landfill operator has agreed to accept the treated product from the CFS (chemical fixation and solidification) process will be forwarded to the Council prior to the commencement of operations (CFS process) at the facility."

In the circumstances, Transpacific will be able to appropriately dispose of the treated product from the proposed CFS process in accord with the Company's submission.

76. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (30/1/97)—

With reference to her responsibility for overall budget management—

For each department and agency, (a) what proportion of their current (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 January 1997, (b) what proportion of their capital (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 January 1997 and (c) what proportion of their total (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 January 1997?

Mrs Sheldon (24/2/97): Data on Consolidated Fund current and capital budgets expended as at 31 January 1997 is not yet available.

77. Public Works and Housing Minister, Air Travel

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (30/1/97)—

With reference to a number of recent trips where he has either made use of the Government air-wing or chartered planes—

Will he detail (a) names of those who travelled with him on each trip, (b) in what capacity they travelled and their employment details, (c) where the trip was overnight, what the costs were and who paid for accommodation and meals, (d) what other costs were incurred, (e) total cost of each trip and (f) if any money was recouped from other organisations?

Mr Connor (3/3/97):

16 January 1997:

- (a & b) Brad Sharpe, Senior Media Adviser; Gaven Watson, Camera man, Channel 10; Melanie Wendt, Journalist, Channel 9; David Kelly, Photographer, *Courier-Mail*; Deidre Starke, Journalist, *Courier-Mail*
- (c) The trip was not overnight
- (d & e) Air transport \$10,197.65.
- (f) None.

23/ 24 January 1997:

- (a & b) Chris McGetrick, Media Adviser; Tony Irelandes, Chairman, Joint Ministerial Advisory Committee (JMAC); Tony Cavanagh, Liberty Beyond; Deanne Stevens, ABC Journalist; Michael Coombes, Channel 7 Journalist; Dale Roberts, Channel 7 Cameraman; Leisa Scott, the *Australian*; David Sproule, the *Australian*; Jackie Murray, SBS
- (c) \$2,265 paid by the Department of Public Works and Housing. (The meal component of this figure included meals for departmental representatives who attended to brief the travelling party of journalists and the Minister).

- (d) Air transport \$17,650. Ferry \$400.
- (e) \$20,315
- (f) \$1,805 from Liberty Beyond on account of Tony Cavanagh.

78. Extended Drug Package

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (30/1/97)—

With reference to the new Extended Drug Package, formerly known as the Remote Area Drug Package—

- (1) When will a training program be commenced for the upgrading of QAS officer skills in the administration of drugs allowed under the Extended Drug Package?
- (2) The Central Region of the QAS has, according to a previous answer to a Question On Notice, 100 officers trained in the provision of i.v. fluid resuscitation. How many of these officers are located in QAS stations outside Rockhampton and Mackay?
- (3) What is the criteria used to deploy QAS officers trained in the provision of i.v. fluid resuscitation to selected rural locations in the region, and why don't all patients deserve the same level of service?
- (4) Will relief staff for training purposes be provided to QAS stations in rural locations where the Extended Drug Package has the support of local medical practitioners?

Mr Veivers (27/2/97):

(1) A training program for QAS officers is scheduled to commence in late March 1997. The commencement of the program has been set to provide sufficient time for in-service training of Regional Education Officers, development of quality teaching material and drug ordering lead time. The development and medical authorisation of the technical content and the up skilling of regional training personnel will take until the release date to complete. The content of the program is clinically complex due to the introduction of 14 new drugs and new procedures.

Roll out of the Extended Care Package will be a QAS regional responsibility as the regions are best placed to identify the order of priority for stations implementation.

(2) The QAS currently has 61 officers trained in the provision of I.V. fluid resuscitation in the Central Region. The answer to the previous Question On Notice stated that there were 60 officers trained in this program, not 100, as you have stated in part (2) of your question. The extra officer has recently completed the QAS Aerial Transport Educational Unit which has provided him with the competencies to administer I.V. fluid resuscitation

I include for tabling Attachment (A) listing stations which are outside Rockhampton and Mackay, but within the Central Region, where these officers are deployed.

It is important to note that the Extended Care Drug program is not dependent on officers being trained

and authorised in the provision of I.V. fluid resuscitation. The vast majority of the new drugs in the package can be administered via an inter-muscular injection with a small number being administered orally.

(3) Central Region officers currently authorised by the QAS to perform I.V. fluid resuscitation gained their qualifications from two training programs. The first being an Air Attendants training program, and the second as part of a pilot program which operated at Mackay and Rockhampton stations. As a result there are no selection criteria for the deployment of officers to any station. The officers who are presently at rural stations and have I.V. therapy qualifications transferred there after they had gained their qualifications.

There is not an inequity in patient care deliverables as these skills were first provided to officers who operated in different specialised environments and have moved, taking their skills with them.

(4) As the training will be provided locally, and only involves attendance at a two day workshop, this should be able to be managed within the normal operations of the various station's rosters. As a result there is no need to provide relief staff to cover officers during the provision of this training.

79. Crocodiles

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to his new Estuarine Crocodile Management Plan—

- (1) How are problem crocodiles defined under this plan and does a length measurement apply?
- (2) Will commercial crocodile farm operators who capture problem crocodiles be allowed to slaughter these animals and market them or will they be restricted to breeding from them only?
- (3) Will commercial crocodile farm operators be allowed to identify problem crocodiles for removal or will this responsibility be retained by Department of Environment staff?
- (4) How many problem crocodiles were identified and removed in 1995 and 1996 from Queensland waters?
- (5) How many of these were released back into the wild and how many were placed on crocodile farms?

Mr Littleproud (19/2/97):

(1) Section 3 of the Nature Conservation (Problem Crocodiles) Conservation Plan 1995 states:

"A crocodile in the wild is a 'problem crocodile' if, in the chief executive's opinion, it is, or is likely to be, a source of danger to humans, stock or dogs."

A specific length measurement does not apply. In assessing the likelihood of any particular animal being a problem, regard is given to both the length and age of the animal.

(2) Section 13 of the Conservation Plan requires that a problem crocodile which is to be kept in

Queensland must be kept alive for at least 30 days. After this period, a crocodile farm could slaughter the animal for market.

(3) The responsibility for assessing whether a crocodile is a "problem crocodile" is retained solely by experienced wildlife officers of the Department of Environment.

(4) Ten (10). An additional problem crocodile was identified and a Damage Mitigation Permit was issued, but the animal could not be captured by the authorised crocodile farm.

(5) All were relocated back to the wild into isolated areas from which they were not expected to move and where there was minimal risk of them again becoming problem animals.

80. Quarry, Wolffdene Region

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (30/1/97)—

With reference to plans by Pioneer Concrete to spend \$17m establishing a major quarry in the Wolffdene area—

- (1) Where is this quarry to be located and what area of land will it occupy?
- (2) What are its projected annual outputs and what consultation has been conducted with nearby land owners, residents and the local authority?
- (3) What environmental assessment has been conducted to date on this proposal and what is planned to occur prior to the projects startup?

Mr Gilmore (17/2/97):

(1) The Department of Mines and Energy understands that the quarry in question involves the installation of new plant on an old established operation.

(2) Licensing and environmental control responsibilities associated with quarrying rest with the relevant Local Authority and in this case that is believed to be the Gold Coast City Council.

(3) The only jurisdiction that the Department of Mines and Energy may exercise in relation to quarries concerns matters of safety and health. The issues you have raised in this instance are not of this nature.

81. Fleay's Wildlife Park

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to the recently completed review of management of Fleay's Wildlife Park on the Gold Coast—

- (1) Who conducted this review, at what cost and where were the funds drawn from?
- (2) Will he rule out any possibility of selling the park or allowing the Currumbin Sanctuary to take over its management?
- (3) Were the family of Dr Fleay consulted during the review and are they in agreement with its findings?

- (4) If the review involves staff changes, will he give an undertaking that the present staff will be guaranteed positions within the Department of Environment?
- (5) Is the report publicly available; if not, why not?
- (6) What are the recommendations of the review?

Mr Littleproud (13/2/97):

(1) The review was conducted by Coopers and Lybrand Consultants. The cost of the consultancy was \$29,000. The funds were drawn from Fleays Wildlife Park Revenue Retention budget.

(2) Yes.

(3) The Fleay family were consulted during the management review of the park. It is understood that the Fleay family are in general agreement with the outcomes of the review so far. It is anticipated that the Fleay family will agree with the future management direction of Fleays Wildlife Park.

(4) The recommendations of the review have not yet been finalised. However, there is no intention of dismissing staff at the wildlife park.

(5) The draft report has been considered and the consultants have been advised of the preferred option to be developed in the final report. The draft report is an incomplete working document and will not be released publicly. Once the final report is submitted a decision will be made on the availability of that document, but it should be borne in mind that Fleays operates in a commercial environment and it may therefore not be in the best interests of the operation to release such information.

(6) The draft report did not contain recommendations. The two options identified were the continued direct management by the Department of Environment subject to several operational changes, and the establishment of trustee arrangements. Given the apparent strength of local feeling that Fleays should continue to be managed directly by the Department and the advice of the consultant that the facility could break even in four years if certain reasonable changes are made, I have decided that this course will be pursued.

82. Cardiac Unit, Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (30/1/97)—

With reference to his recent announcement to bring forward the opening of a \$10m cardiac unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital—

- (1) What is the capital cost of this initiative?
- (2) What is the recurrent cost?
- (3) How much does he expect the 500 open heart procedures in the first year of the new facility's opening to cost or can he give a figure for the average cost per open heart surgery procedure?

Mr Horan (27/2/97): I thank the Honourable Member for his support of this important Coalition initiative. In answer to his question, I am advised:

(1) \$10 million comprising an allocation of \$4.740 m for construction, plus \$5.651 m for equipment purchases.

(2) \$7.5 million has been allocated in the 1997/98 financial year.

(3) In the first 12 months, it is anticipated that 500 Open Heart procedures will be performed, together with 1200 Diagnostic Catheterisation procedures, 400 Coronary Angioplasty procedures and 300 EPS/Pacemaker procedures for a cost of \$7.5 m. It is not possible to specifically allocate the costs for the 500 open heart procedures or to give a figure for the average cost per open heart surgery procedure at this time. Once the new unit is fully functional, costs for clinical procedures will be more readily available, and I will be happy to provide them to you.

83. Green Corps Funding

Mrs WOODGATE asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to the initial four projects identified by the Federal Environment Minister as being of the highest priority for Green Corps funding—

- (1) What role did he, his department, his personal staff or the Borbidge Government generally play in helping select these four projects?
- (2) What criteria was used, who were the State personnel involved and what were their qualifications to equip them to make such decisions?
- (3) Does he regard revegetating one bank of the Ross River in suburban Townsville which quite co-incidentally borders the electorate of Mundingburra, as among the highest priority environmental projects requiring funding in this State?
- (4) Why wouldn't the Coastcare program be a more suitable funding source for replanting mangroves in the Tinchy Tamba wetlands in suburban Brisbane?
- (5) Was his "refunding" of the Lake Eacham rainforest nursery in the same week a Green Corps project to revegetate a watercourse in the Malanda area was announced sheer co-incidence or a case of gross political embarrassment?
- (6) Why wouldn't the Landcare program be a more appropriate funding source for revegetation of the headwaters of the Condamine River?

Mr Littleproud (13/2/97):

(1) The Green Corps is a Commonwealth Government initiative. In November 1996 the Commonwealth called for expressions of interest from national organisations to manage Green Corps. The successful applicant was the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers (ATCV). Decisions regarding the initial four Green Corps Projects in Queensland were made by the Commonwealth's Green Corps Advisory Committee on the basis of proposals put forward by the ATCV.

(2) (3) (4) and (6) Questions regarding the criteria and procedures for reaching a decision on the initial four projects should be referred to Commonwealth Department of Employment Training and Industrial

Relations, the Commonwealth Department of Environment Sport and Territories or the ATCV.

(5) The operations of the Lake Eacham Nursery are not connected to the activities of the ATCV or the Green Corps.

84. Hairy-nosed Wombats, Western Plains Zoo

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to the death of a second northern hairy-nosed wombat in captivity in the Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo—

- (1) Was a post mortem carried out on this animal; if so, what was the cause of death?
- (2) What sex and approximate age was the animal and when was it captured?
- (3) Under what conditions was the animal being held at Western Plains particularly with regard to underground facilities and feeding?
- (4) What State Government funds had been spent on designing and building these facilities and general husbandry of this animal?
- (5) How many other northern hairy-nosed wombats are being held by Dubbo and do they hold current permits to trap more; if so, how many and of what sex?
- (6) How many wombats have to die as a result of this ill conceived scheme before he will agree with the previous Labor Government and order its scrapping?

Mr Littleproud (19/2/97):

(1) It should first be made clear that this is not the second death of a northern hairy-nosed wombat in captivity. Only one northern hairy-nosed wombat has died at Western Plains Zoo.

A post-mortem was carried out following the death of the wombat. A gastrointestinal volvulus ("twisted bowel") and intussusception (telescoping of one end of the bowel into the other) were found and appear to be the cause of death.

(2) The wombat was a sub-adult male and was approximately two years old. It was captured on 21 June 1996.

(3) The wombat's enclosure at Western Plains Zoo consisted of a sleeping room and larger outdoor yard. The sleeping room was well ventilated and contained a sleeping box. The yard was covered in 200 mm of sandy soil in which the wombat could dig, and contained a concrete pipe covered in soil and leafy branches to provide shade and cover.

(4) No Queensland State Government funds have been spent on the wombat facilities or husbandry of the wombat at Western Plains Zoo.

(5) No other northern hairy-nosed wombats are held at Western Plains Zoo. Western Plains Zoo does not hold any permits to trap more northern hairy-nosed wombats.

(6) In contrast to the previous Labor Government which dithered on the issue, the Coalition Government accepted the recommendation of the

Department and the recovery team, which was comprised of eminent experts from around Australia.

The captive program for the northern hairy-nosed wombat is not "ill conceived". The decision to undertake a captive program was not made lightly. The northern hairy-nosed wombat recovery team considered the issue over a six month period, including two recovery team meetings and consultation with other endangered species experts. When it had been determined that a captive program was the best option to assist the recovery of the species, a very conservative captive management plan was approved.

If the Honourable Member has a genuine (rather than political) interest in this amazing species, he may wish to meet with the recovery team and explore with these scientists and conservationists the logic and purpose of the recovery program.

85. Coroners Act

Mr BRISKEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/1/97)—

With reference to work that had been done in his department on a new Coroners Act, and especially to the proposal that the new Act should contain adequate provisions for record keeping that would assist in the identification of causes of accidental death and death by misadventure, as well as information regarding causes of fires—

- (1) Does he propose to progress this matter; if so, will any initiative he takes include the establishment of an extensive statistical and accident prevention policy unit in the Coroner's office?
- (2) What time lines does he propose for some action to be taken on this issue?

Mr Beanland (25/2/97):

(1) & (2) I am aware that the previous Government was engaged in a review of the Coroners Act for over four years. In December 1993, it announced that it would create an Office of State Coroner but never implemented that decision. I am aware that many issues that arose during the review of the Act are unresolved, and the current Act contains some antiquated provisions. I have directed that the Act be examined with a view to modernising its provisions and improving its efficacy.

With respect to the second part of this question, I advised that it would not be appropriate to establish an extensive statistical and accident prevention policy unit in the coroner's office. While the coroner's role in investigating deaths results in insights about how accidental deaths might be prevented, the Queensland Department of Health has the primary responsibility for accident prevention and research. Injury surveillance and data collection are the subject of substantial national attention by Health Ministers. Queensland Health has funded the Queensland Injury Prevention Centre at the Mater Hospital to develop an injury database. As injury is a priority area for Queensland Health, it would be unnecessary duplication for my Department to establish an injury policy unit in the coroner's office.

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology and Monash University are presently developing an Australian Coroners Database and Information Network for use by coroners and various other research bodies. I anticipate that Queensland will participate in the national database, provided it is properly developed. This will complement other Government initiatives to modernise this State's courts.

86. Burning of Black Agricultural Plastic, Bowen Region

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to the ongoing problems caused by the burning of black agricultural plastic in the Bowen area of North Queensland—

- (1) What number of complaints have been received in the department's Townsville office in 1995 and 1996 regarding this matter?
- (2) Why has he amended the draft Environmental Protection (Air) Policy to delay until 1 January 1998, the application of its provisions to horticultural activities which burn black plastic?
- (3) What has happened to the departmental/plastics industry working group which was working towards a viable solution to this problem over twelve months ago?

Mr Littleproud (19/2/97):

(1) I am informed by the Department of Environment that the numbers of complaints received, alleging smoke nuisance caused by the burning of agricultural plastic mulch in the Bowen area of North Queensland were:

1995—18;
1996—18.

(2) Following consideration of submissions made in response to the exposure draft of the Environmental Protection (Air) Policy the Department is proposing to amend the document. I am informed that the Department proposes to modify the section dealing with agricultural plastic, partly on the basis of submissions from the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, which advised that in some regions there are no practicable short term recycling or disposal alternatives to burning available to growers.

Deferring commencement of environmental controls over burning plastic until January 1998 will allow time for the industry to finalise provisions in the Code of Practice for Agriculture and to establish appropriate disposal arrangements.

(3) The Working Group is active and meets approximately every two months. It has identified and investigated a number of short-term and long-term options for the management or replacement of plastic film, some of which are being investigated further.

In addition, a number of companies have been approached by the Working Group to source alternative mulch material for inclusion in field trials which commenced mid-1996 and are continuing.

87. Backpacker Establishments

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (30/1/97)—

With reference to backpacker establishments arranging work for backpackers while in Queensland, if backpacker establishments are doing so—

- (1) Do they need to be registered under any act for doing this arrangement of work; if so, what are the specific requirements for their registration and operation?
- (2) If they are receiving payment for arranging work, do they have a legal obligation to ensure correct wages and conditions are provided?
- (3) If transportation is provided for this arranged work and payment received, does this require the backpacker establishment to be registered under any act?
- (4) Are any of the Bundaberg or Childers backpacker establishments registered in any way as an employment agency to arrange work under Queensland laws?
- (5) What are the penalties for establishments operating as employment agencies and not being registered?

Mr Santoro (25/2/97):

(1) If backpacker establishments arrange work for backpackers in Queensland, a licence under the Private Employment Agencies (PEA) Act 1983 would only be required if the owner were to—

hold him or her self out to be an agent ready, for reward, to procure employment for persons seeking it; or employees for persons seeking to employ others;

or hold him or her self out to be an agent ready, whether for reward or not, to place persons in employment and charge the person, or the employer of that person, a fee.

(2) Conditions and the payment of correct wages are the responsibility of the actual employer.

(3) If payment is provided for transport there is no requirement for registration under any employment related legislation administered by the Department of Training and Industrial Relations.

(4) There is no record of a PEA licence being held in Childers. A check of data on PEA licence holders in Bundaberg has revealed there is no evident linkage with backpacker establishments in that centre.

(5) A person who contravenes the relevant provisions of the PEA Act is liable to a penalty not exceeding \$2 000.

88. Backpacker Establishments

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/1/97)—

With reference to backpacker establishments—

Are any of these establishments receiving payments for transport of backpackers to and from workplaces; if so, (a) do the backpacker establishments need to be registered as a bus operator; if so, what are the requirements for registration of bus operators of this

nature, (b) which backpacker establishments are appropriately registered to undertake such transport and (c) what penalties are there for unregistered bus operators?

Mr Johnson (4/3/97): Queensland Transport does not record information regarding whether backpacker hostels provide transport services to and from workplaces for payment. However, it does keep records on all public transport operators including a number of backpacker hostels providing scheduled passenger, tour, long distance or charter services.

- (a) If a backpacker hostel has the appropriate operator accreditation (scheduled passenger, tour and/or charter) it is legally able to receive separate payments from its passengers for transport services.

If backpacker hostels are providing transport services for payment (i.e. separate fee or fare) than these organisations would require accreditation from Queensland Transport. If hostels provide the services free of charge (i.e. cost of service included within room charge) then the organisation would not need accreditation.

Queensland Transport requires operator accreditation where organisations provide public passenger services for a fare or other consideration. The accreditation categories are scheduled passenger, tour, long-distance and charter. To obtain such accreditation, operators need to have a satisfactory personal history, undertake a training course and meet the requirements of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Standard 1995. Queensland Transport's annual accreditation fee is \$200 for 10 or less vehicles and \$1,000 for more than 10 vehicles.

- (b) Queensland Transport does not require operators to indicate the types of services they provide other than under the 4 accreditation categories. Consequently it is not possible to provide definitive information on the number of backpacker hostels providing public transport services. However, departmental records indicate four organisations which have the word "backpacker" in their names that are accredited.

They are: the Cardwell Backpacker Hostel, Surf N Sun Beachside Backpacker Resort, Backpacker's Tropics Explorer (now Travel Unlimited Australia), and Barrier Reef Backpacker.

- (c) Under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 the maximum penalty for providing services without accreditation is \$12,000 for individuals and \$60,000 for corporations.

89. Mount Isa Greyhound Club

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/1/97)—

With reference to the Mt Isa Greyhound Club and a Show Cause Notice given to the Club by the Greyhound Racing Authority and as all the questions

have been answered, with proof that the club should continue to operate—

- (1) What is the situation with regard to the Mt Isa Greyhound Club?
- (2) What does the Government propose to do with the Mt Isa Greyhound Club?

Mr Cooper (27/2/97):

- (1) The Board of the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA) shall be appointing an external auditor to investigate all claims by the Mt Isa Greyhound Racing Club, and two other northern based greyhound clubs, as to their financial viability.

A report will be requested by the GRA from the auditors within two weeks of their appointment. Upon receipt of the report the GRA Board will reconvene to consider the report.

- (2) The Board of the Greyhound Racing Authority (GRA) is the relevant authority to deal with the circumstances surrounding the Mt Isa Greyhound Racing Club. The Government expects to be, and is being, kept fully informed by the GRA with respect to its management of the greyhound racing code.

90. Electricity Tariffs

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Premier (30/1/97)—

With reference to the *Weekend Australian* on 30 November 1996 where he said and I quote "It is not Government policy to be advocating increases in electricity tariffs for domestic consumers whilst industry is given substantial concessions" and I note the report of his Electricity Task Force which estimates that their recommended removal of cross-subsidies would increase domestic electricity prices by 14 per cent and reduce prices faced by commercial consumers—

Does this mean his statement in November was wrong and, in fact, it is now the practice of his Government to increase domestic electricity tariffs while giving industry substantial concessions?

Mr Borbidge (3/3/97): In response to Mr Sullivan's question I can advise that the Government has given a commitment as part of its blueprint for reform of the electricity industry that prices for domestic consumers will not rise in real terms. This means that in real terms, domestic consumers across the State will not pay any more for their electricity in the future than they pay now. The Government will be imposing a price cap at today's values so that prices do not increase ahead of competitive forces taking hold and efficiency savings driving prices down.

It is incredible that the Opposition which, when in Government, committed Queensland to participate in a competitive electricity market, is now running around spreading stories about prices to domestic consumers rising under the Government's electricity reform blueprint. The Government's fundamental objective is to deliver lower overall prices that will encourage further investment and economic development in this State, including in regional areas which will benefit directly from reliable and lower cost electricity supply.

The Government's blueprint for electricity reform is a comprehensive and robust plan. The Government has in place a strategy to ensure it is implemented as quickly and effectively as possible to ensure the benefits available from a competitive market—increased growth and more jobs—are captured for this State at the earliest opportunity.

91. Bayview Country Estate; Koala Conservation

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to his failure to acquire a portion of the Bayview Country Estate for conservation of the area's koalas—

- (1) Why did he obtain a private valuation of this land when standard Government practice is for the Natural Resources Department to supply such valuations?
- (2) What were the two valuations which were used in negotiations with the land owner, and is the owner aware that two different Government valuations exist?

Mr Littleproud (25/2/97):

(1) It is customary when there is a wide divergence in valuations to acquire a further valuation of the property in question. The decision to obtain a further valuation was supported by the owner of the property.

(2) The Department of Natural Resources valued the property within the range of \$1.81 million and \$4.535 million on a number of bases reflecting different potential development concepts. The valuation ultimately used in negotiations with the owner was \$2.65 million. This valuation was obtained with the knowledge and approval of the owner of the property in question based on current town planning approvals.

92. Water Usage Charges

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (30/1/97)—

With reference to the proliferation of different water usage charging regimes operated by local councils throughout the State and uncertainty for tenants both public and private—

- (1) What recommendations has the Residential Tenancies Authority made for dealing with the issue?
- (2) What legislative and/or administrative steps does he propose to deal with the issue for (a) private rental tenants and (b) public rental tenants?

Mr Connor (3/3/97):

(1) & (2) The Residential Tenancies Authority late last year completed its review of the Residential Tenancies Act 1994. The Board of the Authority delivered a report of the review to my office before Christmas and staff are currently examining its many recommendations. I shall advise the Honourable Member of the outcome in due course.

93. Sand Crabs

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (30/1/97)—

With reference to his recent announcement that he intended to legalise the taking of blue swimmer crabs by trawling, viz allowable catch of 100 in Moreton Bay and 1000 outside—

- (1) Why has he set the above limits given QFMA's recommendation that catch limits should be restricted to 60 and 600?
- (2) As pot sandcrabbers are claiming that the above decision will ruin their industry, what considerations is he giving to these claims and what evidence does he have to refute these claims?
- (3) Why did he not wait for the completion of the TRAWLMAC Discussion Paper before he made his announcement?
- (4) What steps does he intend to take to enforce the proposed limits?
- (5) Why did he single out sandcrabs and ignore the other by-catch products such as Moreton Bay Bugs and squid?

Mr Perrett (25/2/97):

1. I took a wide range of factors into account in making my decision, including ecological, economic and social issues as well as the views of various special interest groups. I also took into account the needs of consumers. More severe restrictions on the catch of crabs by trawlers were unnecessary and may well have resulted in significant seafood price increases to consumers.

2. I do not accept that pot sandcrabbers will be ruined by my decision. It will not result in an increase in the catch of sand crabs by trawlers. It simply recognises that trawlers have been taking sand crabs for many years and places practical limits on them for the first time.

3. My decision was taken in order to resolve the long standing uncertainty as to what is actually permitted and to break the impasse between the different user groups, which had not been resolved despite extensive consultation and negotiation. My decision provides a starting point for further development of the management arrangements for sand crabs. That development will occur through the normal fisheries management planning process, of which the TRAWLMAC Discussion Paper is one part.

4. The Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol already has sufficient capacity to enforce the new catch limits. The specific mechanisms and processes for their enforcement will be resolved in consultation with the fishing industry.

5. I have not singled out sand crabs. I am currently considering other initiatives which will also recognise a range of other bycatch species including Moreton Bay bugs and squid.

94. Hazardous Waste Supermarket, Swanbank

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to a Waste Management Industry forum held on 4 December 1996 in Brisbane at which the prospect of a hazardous waste supermarket being sited at Swanbank was discussed—

- (1) Why was neither the Department of Environment nor the Ipswich City Council represented at the forum, bearing in mind that both the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry and the Brisbane City Council were?
- (2) Will he rule out the possibility of the Gurulmundi dump being relocated to Swanbank?
- (3) Will he rule out the possibility of a ministerial rezoning of the Swanbank site to enable its conversion to this hazardous waste supermarket?
- (4) Is the postponement of the planned 19 February forum of the same industry group and its planned facilitation by the Department of Environment, rather than the failed National Party candidate Glennis Head, simply an attempt by the Government to give some semblance of control over the people who are really driving waste management in this State—the polluters?

Mr Littleproud (13/2/97):

- (1) The Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry acted as facilitator of the meeting. It is appropriate that the Department of Environment be at reasonable "arms-length" from an industry forum which is dealing principally with commercial development opportunities which the Department of Environment will ultimately regulate.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) I have no authority to make a ministerial rezoning.
- (4) No.

95. Lake Eacham Nursery

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to his "refunding" of the Lake Eacham nursery—

- (1) Has a sum of \$50,000 been committed for this purpose?
- (2) Will this money need to cover the wages of a departmental employee at the nursery as well as operational costs; if so, what breakdown is planned?
- (3) How does he justify taking \$30,000 from coastal funds for the work of this nursery which is located a considerable distance from the coast on the Atherton Tableland?
- (4) Does he intend to continue this funding next year and in subsequent years; if so, in what amounts?
- (5) Was the timing of his announcement to refund the nursery linked to the announcement by his Federal counterpart Senator Hill in the same week to make a rainforest revegetation project in the nearby Malanda area one of the four highest priority environmental projects in this State?

Mr Littleproud (20/2/97):

- (1) The Department's allocation to the Lake Eacham Nursery in the 1996/97 financial year is \$80,000. Funding is also provided by the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and the community group, Trees for the Eacham and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT), bringing the total funds for the nursery in 1996/97 to some \$107,000.
- (2) The total 1996/97 budget for the Lake Eacham Nursery supports two employees, running costs for a 4-wheel drive vehicle and other operational expenses. The Department's allocation funds the wages of the nursery manager, vehicle running cost and other operational expenses. The salary of the second employee is provided by WTMA and TREAT provides some \$7,000 for potting materials.
- (3) A sum of \$10,000 has been allocated to the nursery from Coastal Management funds (not \$30,000 as claimed in the question). Use of these funds is justified on the basis of the establishment costs and field operational expenses of a major island revegetation program for Lizard Island, Snapper Island and the Low Isles.
- (4) The Department is committed to the continued functioning of the nursery and will ensure adequate funding is available to support its core operations in future years. In addition, given the significant role played by the nursery in activities that benefit the whole community, external funding will continue to be sought to maximise delivery of services.
- (5) No.

96. Infrastructure Development

Mr HAYWARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (30/1/97)—

With reference to Budget Paper No. 3, page 3 and the statement "the Queensland Infrastructure Financing Fund (QIFF) will be discontinued during 1996-1997 and outstanding balances will be utilised more effectively in direct infrastructure development"—

- (1) Will she (a) explain what she means by direct infrastructure development and (b) outline projects which have been selected and the reasons for such selection?
- (2) Will projects selected return their capital cost to the Government or will they be expended on one-off opportunities?

Mrs Sheldon (4/3/97):

- (1) As announced in the 1996-97 Budget, \$1.6 billion in additional funding is provided under the Infrastructure Rejuvenation Package to finance a range of capital works project over the three years 1996-97 to 1998-99.

Key components of projects include:

- a \$733 million boost to the existing \$1.5 billion 10 Year Hospital and Health Services Building Plan 1996 to 2006;
- almost \$400 million to upgrade the Pacific Motorway and provide a busway and high occupancy vehicle lanes along the South East Freeway/Pacific Motorway corridor between Brisbane City and the Logan Motorway; and

\$105 million for Corrective Services, including construction of a new prison in South East Queensland, a new women's prison and expansion of the Lotus Glen prison.

This funding, which is over and above the normal capital works program of Departments, is to be provided entirely from one-off sources including uncommitted balances in the Queensland Infrastructure Financing Fund (QIFF).

(2) Funds in QIFF will be used to finance both commercial infrastructure which will provide a direct return on capital and for infrastructure that provides a broader return for the State economy.

Such an approach effectively utilises the balances in the QIFF fund which were built up essentially from one-off financial returns to the State including proceeds from divestment of the Government's holdings in the Queensland Nickel project and the proceeds from the refinancing of Q-Fleet.

97. Arts Funding

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (30/1/97)—

With reference to the discussion paper on the Government's proposal to slash peer assessment in the arts funding process which was issued in the week before Christmas with a 6 January deadline for public submissions—

- (1) Is she aware of arts community concern that the proposed cuts to peer assessment will damage the transparency and accountability of arts funding?
- (2) Does she not accept that the lack of opportunity in having only a couple of weeks over the Christmas-New Year break to prepare public submissions makes her Government's consultation process a joke?

Mrs Sheldon (4/3/97):

(a) Yes I am aware of a variety of views in the arts community regarding the role of peer assessment in the arts funding process. One of the views that I hear constantly is that the existing processes established under the Labor Government are time consuming, costly and in need of review. For that reason I appointed a Working Party to review peer assessment and to present to me options for simplifying that process. It has just completed its report and I will consider it over the coming weeks. The Government's commitment to the philosophy of peer assessment is unchanged and I understand the models proposed by the Working Party are consistent with those recently introduced in other states.

(b) The Working Party which reviewed peer assessment acknowledged that the time for consultation was necessarily limited so that any changes could be advised to the community and not unduly contract time available for the 1997 application process. A period of three and a half weeks was available in which to respond to the discussion paper and a good response was received from throughout the state.

98. Flying Fox Lyssavirus

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (30/1/97)—

With reference to the detecting of lyssavirus in flying foxes in different parts of Queensland and Australia—

- (1) Has any testing been carried out on flying foxes in Cape York or on the Torres Strait Islands; if so, where and when and what numbers of flying foxes and of which species were tested?
- (2) What results were achieved from this testing and have the results yet been conveyed to Cape York Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities?
- (3) If this testing hasn't been done, why not, particularly when it is a known fact that Aboriginal and Islander communities hunt and eat flying foxes?
- (4) What testing has been carried out on the many species of insectivorous bats that are found in Queensland and if none, why not, considering that the virus has already been detected in one species of insectivorous bat?

Mr Perrett (25/2/97):

1. The Department of Primary Industries is supporting Queensland Health by conducting a surveillance program of bats throughout Queensland for the newly identified lyssavirus. The Department of Primary Industries expertise lies in the area of animal health. Human health issues are matters for the Minister for Health.

No practical, effective blood test is available at present to diagnose the disease in bats. Surveillance is based on examination of brain material after death. Most submissions have come from bats that have been observed to be ill or to be behaving strangely.

The Department is happy to receive bats from all areas of Queensland. Submissions have come chiefly from larger human population centres where suspect cases have been noticed. No samples have been received from Cape York or the Torres Strait communities as yet.

2. The Department of Primary Industries has announced positive diagnoses by media release and has made information public through information sheets and through the world wide web services of the internet. As diagnosis of this disease in bats is now a routine matter, future diagnoses will not ordinarily be advised by media release. The information will continue to be disseminated by other means.

3. The question asked suggests a misunderstanding of the basis of this surveillance program. The virus has been shown to occur in three of the four species of Australian flying fox. The fourth species, the "Spectacled", has a limited range in north Queensland and, for this reason, it may be some time before a diagnosis is made in this species. The virus has also been diagnosed in Queensland in the yellow-bellied, sheath-tailed insect-eating bat. The virus has been shown to be present over a wide area from Townsville to Melbourne. It is likely that the virus will

be found eventually in most species of bats and in all areas where bats occur.

For these reasons, demonstrating the presence of this virus in any particular area is largely of academic interest. It should be presumed that any bat is a potential carrier of this virus.

The risks associated with handling bats have been highlighted by Queensland Health. Preparing flying foxes for eating obviously involves handling potentially infected animals. I understand that Queensland Health has identified this risk and has considered actions that may be taken to minimise the risk.

4. Scientists in my Department have made special arrangements to sample as many different species of insect-eating bat as possible. Over 40 small bats from in excess of 8 different species have so far been tested. These bats are smaller and less noticeable than flying foxes and thus sick bats are less likely to be submitted to our laboratories. An integrated research plan has been developed as a national program. Sampling of small bats has been included in that program.

Scientists are interested in knowing how the prevalence of the virus varies over time and in different species and in different areas. This work is a major challenge and will take some time to complete.

99. Flying Fox Lyssavirus

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (30/1/97)—

With reference to several recent events associated with the discovery of lyssavirus in Australia—

- (1) In the Rockhampton case (a) what numbers and species of animals had Ms Pagget cared for prior to her death, (b) by which animal(s) was she bitten or scratched, (c) which of these animals, if any, were tested for lyssavirus or any other diseases, (d) what symptoms did they display, (e) what was the fate of these animals and (f) from which animal is Ms Pagget believed to have contracted lyssavirus and what is the evidence?
- (2) In the case of the Currumbin "attack" (a) why was the "attacking" flying fox killed, given that it did not present any symptoms of illness, (b) why did the veterinary report describe the animal as having "undergone some sort of personality change", (c) why were the test results confused with those of another flying fox, (d) which was the other flying fox which tested "strongly positive", (e) where was it found, (f) how did it become in contact with humans and (g) what were its symptoms?
- (3) In the Townsville case (a) what symptoms did the child display to cause the Townsville General Hospital staff to suspect her of having contracted lyssavirus, (b) why did the killing and testing of the animal which had bitten the child take place more than 2 weeks after the bite and (c) what was the result of the test carried out on the animal?

- (4) Generally (a) what research has been undertaken to estimate the prevalence of lyssavirus in flying fox populations, (b) where was the yellow-bellied sheath-tailed bat which has recently tested lyssavirus positive found, (c) how did it get in contact with humans, (d) which other animals have been tested in Australia for lyssavirus and (e) which has been found to be lyssavirus positive?

Mr Horan (27/2/97): I am disappointed that the Honourable Member has 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 Queensland, I provide the following information.

(1) The lady from Rockhampton who died from a lyssavirus infection had been caring for animals for some time, however she only had exposure to flying foxes for a few months. Although her record keeping was not good, it is known she had contact with about half a dozen flying foxes, one yellow bellied sheath tail bat, a large number of possums as well as wallabies, kangaroos, gliders, dogs and cats. She had a recent history of being bitten by the microbat as well as having been scratched by at least one of the flying foxes. She had an earlier history of having been bitten by a possum.

All of the flying foxes that could be traced including one that had scratched the victim were tested for lyssavirus. All proved negative. Unfortunately, the yellow bellied sheath tail had been released to the wild and could not be recaptured. Prior to the lady's illness, a further flying fox had been taken for veterinary attention, euthanased, and the body disposed of. It was therefore no longer available for examination. Although no history was obtained of a bite or scratch from this animal, it remains the prime suspect.

Remaining in contact animals (excluding flying foxes) were traced, identified with microchips and confined for a month. None showed abnormal signs.

(2) These questions relate to the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Primary Industries.

(3) The Townsville child did not have a lyssavirus infection. Considerations of privacy preclude the release of clinical information relating to the child. The delay in examining the flying fox that inflicted the injury was due to a reluctance on the part of the carers of the animal to have it sacrificed. Tests carried out on the animal proved negative.

- (4) (a) A systematic study of prevalence or incidence of lyssavirus infection in flying foxes has not yet commenced but is being planned in consultation with wild life experts.
- (b) The yellow bellied sheath tail with lyssavirus infection was found in a rural setting near Toowoomba in a state of semi paralysis.
- (c) It caused no injury and was at no time in care.
- (d & e) Species other than flying foxes and microbats, are not known to have been

tested but there is no evidence to suggest that they are likely to be infected with lyssavirus.

It should be noted that systematic studies are planned and will be done according to the priorities established by the Lyssavirus Expert Group.

100. Queensland Rail, Use of Security Services

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/1/97)—

With reference to Queensland Rail's use of the services of security firms to provide surveillance on Citytrain services—

- (1) What hourly rates are charged by such firms to provide this surveillance, and in particular, what rates are charged for the "Guardian Services"?
- (2) If such services are provided by fixed contract, how many security employees are involved, and at what cost?

Mr Johnson (4/3/97):

(1) The Chubb Security firm is contracted to provide security on trains to a minimum of 543 hours per week. Hourly charges for this service are as follows:-

Monday—Saturday	\$17.95 per hour
Sunday	\$27.49 per hour
Public Holidays	\$34.45 per hour

(2) Guardian trains require 14 personnel for each night of the week—total for the week is 618 hours. This equates to an approximate weekly cost for Chubb security officers on Guardian trains of \$13,372.70.

Outside of Chubb Security personnel Guardian trains between Ipswich and Rosewood are serviced by Queensland Rail Ticket Inspectors while the Beenleigh to Helensvale Guardian trains are serviced by a combination of QR Ticket Inspectors and Police Officers on special duty. Police Officers on special duty cost \$51.80 per hour.

101. Fire Safety Education Program

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (30/1/97)—

With reference to the significant decline from previous years in the number of Grade 1 students to receive, in 1996, the benefits of the Fire Safety Education Program—

- (1) What was the reason for his failure to properly deliver this essential and possibly life saving education program?
- (2) Will he undertake to ensure that the program is delivered to the Grade 2 students who missed out on it in Grade 1?

Mr Veivers (27/2/97):

(1) The Fire Ed Program is a highly successful initiative of the Queensland Fire & Rescue Authority. It is delivered to school children by firefighters from the local fire station.

The program is jointly sponsored by Suncorp and the Queensland Fire & Rescue Authority.

It is aimed at instilling fire safety conduct and awareness in children at the earliest opportunity in their learning curve.

All feedback received so far indicates the program has been well received by the children, parents and firefighters.

Industrial action in 1996 by United Firefighters Union members of the former Queensland Fire Service staff caused an interruption in the delivery of fire education. By the time the industrial action ceased the schools were occupied with other matters such as holidays and examinations, and the students could not be accessed.

Furthermore, the introduction of the Fire Ed Program into schools is progressive and some difficulties are encountered in resourcing presentations to remote rural schools as most have rural fire brigades with unpaid volunteer staff who have to deliver the Program.

(2) The Fire Ed Program is offered by the Queensland Fire & Rescue Authority to schools. The acceptance of this offer is a matter for the discretion of school principals. However, the Queensland Fire & Rescue Authority will also examine the resourcing implications of conducting a full year program in conjunction with a Year 2 catch up. Any request from a school principal for delivery of this program would be promptly actioned.

102. Bayview Country Estate; Koala Conservation

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (30/1/97)—

With reference to his ill fated plans to purchase portion of the Bayview Country Estate in the interests of koala conservation—

- (1) What instructions were given to the Natural Resources Department in valuing this piece of land?
- (2) On what basis was the land concerned valued and what valuation was arrived at?
- (3) What offer did the department make to the developer and what was the outcome of these negotiations?
- (4) Have negotiations broken down completely or are they continuing?
- (5) Will he exercise the discretion open to him to increase the Government offer for this land in an attempt to secure it for koala conservation?
- (6) When does he see the Koala Coast State Planning Policy being finalised?

Mr Littleproud (25/2/97):

(1) The Department of Natural Resources was requested to provide a market valuation of the land.

(2) The land was valued on a number of bases, reflecting different potential development concepts, with the valuation range being \$1,810,000 to \$4,535,000. A second valuation was obtained, on the basis of the current town planning approvals, which was \$2,650,000.

(3) The Department made an offer to purchase the Bayview land on the basis of the second valuation. The landowners have indicated that the offer is not accepted.

(4) While there are no ongoing negotiations, neither party has completely withdrawn its interest.

(5) Within my portfolio offers for the purchase of land are based on the valuation plus any other cost headings which have been established by the Land Court precedents. This framework provides the basis for negotiations. At this stage the offer and the asking price are at variance.

(6) The review of the Koala Coast State Planning Policy is close to finalisation. The Policy has been thoroughly re-assessed taking into account the information and views gathered through the public comment process. The research component of the Koala Coast Protection Plan is now well established and has contributed to the technical aspects of the review. I anticipate that the revised State Planning Policy and Planning Guidelines will be complete within two months.

103.Overseas visit by Children's Commissioner

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (30/1/97)—

With reference to the trip to Singapore taken by the Children's Commissioner, Mr Norm Alford, during his first month in office—

- (1) Was this trip taken at public expense; if so, what was the total cost, including travel, accommodation and other relevant expenses?
- (2) What was the purpose of this trip?
- (3) What benefit, other than offensive, controversial statements in support of public flogging, has accrued to the Queensland taxpayer for this expenditure?

Mr Lingard (14/2/97): My response is as follows:

- (1) No.
- (2) I understand it was a private holiday visit for which arrangements had been made several months previously.
- (3) Refer to (1) and (2) above.

104. Water Storage, St George Region

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (30/1/97)—

With reference to his recently announced plans to construct further off-stream water storage in the St George area in an attempt to resolve problems encountered by channel irrigators using Fairbairn Dam to irrigate cotton crops—

- (1) What environmental assessment was conducted on these plans prior to his announcement, what environmental assessment is currently under way and what assessment is planned before the project commences?
- (2) Is he satisfied that this is appropriate particularly in light of Queensland's participation

in the Murray-Darling Basin scheme and the likely effects of reducing even further the flow in the Balonne River after it crosses the New South Wales border and floods into the Narrine wetlands?

- (3) How does he explain the abandoning of his ultimatum to withdraw funding for this project unless consensus was reached among water users along the river?
- (4) Under what conditions and when will water be diverted into the off-stream storage?
- (5) What impact will this additional off-stream storage have on Dirranbandi irrigators to the south?

Mr Hobbs (21/2/97): The Member's question is based on a false premise in that the Fairbairn Dam is near Emerald some 470 kilometres to the north of St George. The Fairbairn Dam has no function whatsoever associated with St George irrigators. Assuming, however, the Member means the Beardmore Dam, answers are:

Extensive independent impact assessment studies have been undertaken. Information gathered during that process was used in the final determination and further information gathered from this process will continue to contribute to the decision making process.

2. This storage proposal, along with others eg. Condamine Weir at Condamine, are included in Queensland's position for meeting the requirements of the Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council decision about diversions from the basin. The Water Allocation and Management Planning process now under way on the Condamine—Balonne will underpin development of the detailed operating rules for the storage. The WAMP process has been endorsed by the Murray Darling Basin Commission's Independent Audit Group as an acceptable process for identifying Queensland's water cap arrangements. The Audit group's report recognises the highly variable nature of Queensland streamflows and the appropriateness of event by event flow management, the system which was included in the development proposal for the Offstream storage.

3. I was satisfied with the consensus arrived at within the protracted timeframe.

4. It is proposed that the Offstream Storage will be composed of three cells:

i) An environmental cell of 20 000 megalitres. It is envisaged that this cell will be filled under rules related to provision of environmental or compensation flows, currently classed as flows up to 730 megalitres per day. The purpose of the compensation cell is to improve efficiency of storage of these flows through provision of dedicated storage capacity. Consultation with downstream users will ensure an equitable and responsible filling procedure will be put in place.

ii) A waterharvesting cell of 30 000 megalitres. This cell will be filled under existing waterharvesting licences. The cell does not represent an increase in the storage of the

entire system, rather it involves a transfer of storage from a number of individual on-farm storages into a centralised cell in the offstream system.

iii) A cell of 25 000 megalitres to supply the St George Irrigation Project. This cell will be filled by diverting water when flows exceed a nominal 30 000 megalitres per day. In recognition of the variability of streamflows in the Balonne River, this diversion will be subject to the event based system of management.

On a long term average basis, diversion will not occur when flow at St George (Jack Taylor Weir) is less than 30 000 megalitres per day. Agreed environmental and riparian flow requirements will be met for each flow event. A Ministerial Advisory Group will be formed with representatives from the Dirranbandi and St. George regions to recommend suitable filling procedures. Flow management will also be monitored and revised as information is updated in accordance with flow events.

5. The impacts of the individual cells of the off stream storage are:

The environmental cell provides a mechanism for storing environmental flows as required by existing agreements. The Impact Assessment Study found that this cell will have a negligible impact on the annual volume of flow and operation of the cell will result in a minor redistribution of flow throughout the year.

The waterharvesting cell represents an aggregation of existing licences. I am advised operation of this cell is equivalent to the situation which would occur if these licences were individually developed.

The objective of the St George Irrigation Project (SGIP) cell is to improve the reliability of supply of irrigation water to SGIP. The need to improve the present reliability has arisen due to hydrologic investigations in recent years that have indicated reliability is less than previously believed due to reduction in the estimated storage capacity of Beardmore Dam and an increase in the storage draft. The SGIP cell will create a situation reflecting where Beardmore Dam supply would have been at its original intended capacity.

105. Public Hospital Waiting Lists

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (30/1/97)—

With reference to the table of official statistics which I have provided for the information of the Minister and which shows that the number of patients waiting for operations in Queensland's major hospitals had risen from 22,505 at the end of 1995 to 23,309 on 1 October 1996—

What are the equivalent figures for each of the hospitals in each of the categories under the headings 'number of patients', 'number of long wait patients' and 'percentage waiting too long' as at 1 January 1997?

Mr Horan (28/2/97): What matters to the people of Queensland and especially those waiting

for surgery is not how many other are waiting, but how long they wait. The massive increase in elective surgery activity under this Government means that more Queenslanders will have access to these vital services. It also means that waiting times have fallen dramatically.

Category 1 was the target of phase 1 of the Coalition's Surgery on Time initiative. At the end of this phase (1 January 1997), 463 patients in Category 1 were waiting, and 18 of these were long wait patients representing 3.9% of total patients waiting. This is a dramatic fall from 47% long-wait patients under the previous Labor administration.

Category 2 is the target of the current phase of Surgery on Time. Although the number of patients waiting in Categories 2 and 3 increased last year, the Government was successful in ensuring no increase in waiting times. As at 1 January 1997, 38.5% of total Category 2 patients were long waits, (compared with 42% at the beginning of the Surgery on Time project) as were 27.7% of Category 3 patients.

The following summary of category 1 long waits, highlights the dramatic success of phase 1 of Surgery on Time.

ELECTIVE SURGERY PROJECT (ESP) HOSPITALS: ELECTIVE SURGERY PATIENTS WAITING

Hospital	1 JANUARY 1997		
	Category 1		
	Total Number of Patients	Number of Long Wait Patients	Long Wait (%)
Cairns Base Hospital	20	2	10.0
Gold Coast Hospital	40	7	17.5
Ipswich Hospital	35	1	2.9
Nambour Hospital	55	0	0.0
Princess Alexandra Hospital	30	0	0.0
Rockhampton Base Hospital	24	0	0.0
Royal Brisbane Hospital	128	0	0.0
The Prince Charles Hospital	27	1	3.7
Toowoomba Base Hospital	51	1	2.0
Townsville General Hospital	53	6	11.3
All ESP Hospitals	463	18	3.9

106. Public Housing, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (30/1/97)—

With reference to his response to a Question on Notice late in 1996 in which he indicated that a Site Upgrade Project to address the security problems for the seniors residing in the units at 41 Fifth Avenue Sandgate was undertaken during 1996 and while this initiative is to be applauded, it appears that the seniors living in the blocks opposite at number 32 Fifth Avenue, haven't been so fortunate and there has been ongoing problems of break-ins involving both residents units and motor vehicles at 32 Fifth Avenue—

Is his department proposing to undertake a Site Upgrade Project in consultation with the residents of 32 Fifth Avenue during 1996-97; if so, will the

upgrade include improving the security around the perimeter of the property, particularly the entrances in Sixth Avenue?

Mr Connor (3/3/97): My Department has already erected fencing to improve security at 32 Fifth Avenue, Sandgate. It is currently undertaking a feasibility study to ascertain what further works need to be undertaken to increase the security of this unit block. This study will include analysis of the security issues regarding the entrances to Sixth Avenue. The feasibility study will ensure that any further public funds spent on this development are used effectively and efficiently. The initial scope of works for the feasibility study was determined through consultation with the residents of 32 Fifth Avenue.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

107. Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island

Mr SMITH asked the Premier (18/3/97)—

With reference to his Government's previous commitment to ensure the proposed Nelly Bay Harbour at Magnetic Island would be constructed—

Will he restate that commitment in unequivocal terms or will he confirm information coming from at least two departmental sources that the project is to be shelved?

Mr Borbidge (17/4/97): The Government is committed to facilitating a project on the failed Magnetic Quay site on Magnetic Island. In response to issues raised by the community and government agencies during the period of public comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in late 1995, the preferred developers, Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd, have recently prepared a revised development proposal for the site. The developers are currently fine tuning the revised proposal prior to it being formally considered by Government. A supplement to the draft EIS to address the revised proposal will be prepared by consultants and released to the public for further comment within a couple of months. Far from shelving the project, the Government has welcomed the continuation of the EIS process as a means of advancing the project.

108. Community Sports Development Program

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (18/3/97)—

With reference to the recent allocation of funds under the Community Sports Development Program—

- (1) What was the total funding allocated to sporting organisations under this program for 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97?
- (2) For each State electorate in Queensland, how many applications for funding under the Community Sports Development Program were received, how many of these applications were successful and what was the total funding made available under this program in each State electorate in 1996-97?

Mr Veivers (17/4/97):

(1) The Community Sports Development Program (CSDP) has had the following amounts allocated for the years indicated:

Year	\$ Allocated
1994	1,000,000.00
1995	1,000,000.00
1996	1,000,000.00
1997	1,000,000.00

The CSDP operates over a calendar year.

(2) For the 1997 CSDP a total of 572 applications were received, of which 408 applications were approved for funding. The total dollar value, to date, of applications approved for the 1997 CSDP is \$774,345.90.

Attached is a breakdown of funding allocated by electorate under the 1997 CSDP.

Remaining monies allocated under the 1997 CSDP funding call will be disbursed through a second funding call with an emphasis placed on working with applicants who were unsuccessful in the first call and assisting rural and remote communities.

109. Capital Charge

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (18/3/97)—

- (1) If the capital charge payment is deferred, (a) will Treasury charge additional interest accrued for the period of deferral and (b) what would the cost be if the capital charge due in 1998-99 was delayed by one year?
- (2) Will Treasury give examples of the deferral cost impact; if so, what are they?

Mrs Sheldon (17/4/97):

- (1a) Yes.
- (1b) On current estimates (which are subject to further revision), the capital charge due in 1998- 99 would be \$23.4M. If payment of this charge were to be delayed by one year, the additional charge would be \$1.9M, based on an estimated QTC long term borrowing rate of 8%.
- (2) See (1b).

110. Macarthur Chambers

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (18/3/97)—

With reference to an application from a Sydney based finance firm to refurbish Macarthur Chambers in the city centre—

- (1) Why does the northern wall require glazing and what type of glazing is intended?
- (2) Will the ground floor chambers with its mezzanine floor be retained intact in this re-development?
- (3) What other options is Pandal Nominees Pty Ltd examining other than refurbishment of the building?
- (4) Other than for the construction of a new lift well in the building and the glazing of its northern wall, what other alterations are planned to lead the Heritage Council to declare that the proposal will have a substantial effect on the cultural heritage significance of the place?
- (5) Is he satisfied that the Heritage Council has sufficient funding to enable it to do its job?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97):

(1) The demolition of the adjoining building has left a rough exposed northern elevation to the building. The proposed new glazing will provide additional lighting to the commercial office space and a new finish to the exposed wall.

Windows will be inserted between the concrete frame of the building with a floating clear glass curtain wall over this.

(2) I am advised that some later intrusive elements are to be removed but the ground floor chamber and mezzanine floor will be retained and conserved.

(3) My Department has no knowledge of any alternative proposals being considered by Pental Nominees Pty Ltd.

(4) I am advised that these proposed alterations were the principal reason for the giving of a public notice under the provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

(5) Yes.

111. High School, Narangba

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education (18/3/97)—

Will he provide a timetable of progress on the construction of the new high school at Narangba to serve the Burpengary/Narangba area?

Mr Quinn (17/4/97): The case for a high school within the Burpengary/Narangba area will be reviewed within the context of the budget priorities for the 1998/99 capital works program.

The prioritisation process will assess the nature of demand from the local area, with other cases presented in the same budget context.

112. Waste Treatment Technology

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (18/3/97)—

With reference to a new waste treatment technology being produced locally by the Miltox group based on fired clay encapsulation—

- (1) Where is this work being conducted and what is the zoning of this site?
- (2) Have local residents been consulted regarding this process in their midst?
- (3) What discharges does the process produce and where is the encapsulated material disposed of?
- (4) What waste streams is the process designed to treat and what stage of development is the process at?
- (5) How does the process vary from the failed Neutralisation process?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97): I am advised the Miltox Group does not currently operate any waste treatment facility in Australia. Following local trials at Redbank, Queensland, the Miltox pilot stage plant was relocated to Singapore in 1991.

The Department of Environment has not received any application for environmental authority (licence) under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for any proposed operation in Queensland by any group with the name "Miltox". Such a licence is required to lawfully commence carrying out an activity involving "regulated waste treatment".

113. Government Owned Corporations

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (18/3/97)—

What studies or investigations are currently being undertaken or are planned for incorporation or privatisation of GOCs, statutory bodies or other interests?

Mrs Sheldon (17/4/97): Apart from the Queensland Abattoir Corporatisation which is in the process of being privatised, there are no plans at present to privatise any statutory bodies or Government Owned Corporations. The Commission of Audit made a series of recommendations in respect of corporatisation and privatisation of a number of Government functions, and the Audit Commission Implementation Office is currently further investigating these options. However, no decision has been made in respect of these options at this stage, and any such decisions will be based on a comprehensive assessment of the benefits to Queensland.

There is currently only one candidate for corporatisation under the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993—the Golden Casket Lottery Corporation, which is scheduled for corporatisation on 1st July 1997. However, there will be two further candidates nominated shortly. WorkCover Queensland will be nominated as a candidate Government owned Corporation, and this is consistent with the findings of the Kennedy report. Also, a new entity, Queensland Corrections, which will undertake the delivery of corrective services in Queensland from 1st July 1997, will be nominated as a corporatisation candidate.

The TAB Board has commissioned a study by consultants Macquarie Corporate Finance into a range of critical issues relating to both their commercial business and to their relationship with the racing industry. The purpose of the study was to ensure that TAB was appropriately positioned to maintain its recent level of success, and consequently continue in its critical role in funding the Queensland racing industry.

One issue that was addressed in the Macquarie report was whether existing ownership arrangements were best suited to enable TAB to continue its success in the face of a rapidly changing gaming and wagering market. To this extent, the report does canvass various ownership options. However, it is important to note that the Government has made no decision in respect of these options, or the other issues which the report addresses. It is equally important to note that the Government would be irresponsible to disregard expert advice on these matters, given the critical role which the TAB plays in funding the racing industry in this State. Any decision will be made only after appropriate assessment of the facts, and broad consultation with the key stakeholders.

114. Environment and Heritage Department Land, Bribie Island

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (18/3/97)—

With reference to the freehold land of approximately 1,960 hectares on Bribie Island acquired by the Department of Environment and Heritage in 1995—

- (1) When was this land, which had been specifically excluded from the consideration of his department's (then known as the Lands Department) review of Crown Land use on Bribie Island by virtue of the fact that it was not Crown Land, included for consideration of that review?
- (2) By whose written authority was the land included in that review?
- (3) How many times was the committee formed by the Lands Department to consider the review convened between July 1995 and December 1996, and who was present at those meetings?

Mr Hobbs (10/4/97):

(1) The freehold land held in the name of the Queensland Government as represented by the Department of Environment has always been in the study area. However, it was not until it was purchased by the previous government in late 1995 that its future use, in the context of the greater planning study, could be considered.

(2) No formal written authority was sought to include this area in the study. Indeed, none was required as the study is simply a mechanism to gather information so that sound planning and land use decisions can be made for State land on Bribie Island.

(3) The consultative committee has met on one occasion between the nominated dates. This was on 9 August 1996 when representatives of the various subgroups that were formed in November 1994 met with Department of Natural Resources representatives to discuss the submissions made by the subgroups. Those present were representatives of the Departments of Environment, Tourism, Small Business and Industry and Minerals and Energy.

115. Fire/Ambulance Station, North Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (18/3/97)—

With reference to the proposed Fire/Ambulance station at North Rockhampton—

- (1) When and at what site will this be built?
- (2) What is the budget for its construction?
- (3) Will the site be a co-location and house all central communications for both the above services?

Mr Veivers (17/4/97):

(1) Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) and Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) own adjoining blocks on Yaamba Road (Bruce Highway) North Rockhampton opposite Yeppoon Road.

QAS has included notional funding in the proposed 1997-98 Capital Works Budget for the construction of a new station.

QFRA has a proposal to construct a new fire station on land adjoining the proposed ambulance site. This project has been delayed by budgetary constraints.

No decision has been made as to when the project will replace the fire station at Thozets Road.

(2) QAS has included a notional amount of \$600,000 in the 1997/98 Capital Works Budget Proposal however funding allocation is subject to overall budget approval and other projects may receive priority.

QFRA has no funding for this project.

(3) Separate fire and ambulance stations will be constructed on adjoining sites subject to funding approvals.

In December 1996 Cabinet approved the establishment of a joint working party involving Police and Emergency Services to develop strategies for integrated communication systems. Until such time as it is decided where to locate joint facilities no decision can be made in relation to such a facility at North Rockhampton.

116. Mining Industry

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (18/3/97)—

With reference to the expression of concern by the Australian Collieries Staff Association to him regarding the shortage of appropriately qualified mining personnel particularly in the underground sector—

- (1) What action has he taken to ensure that new mines have an obligation upon them to provide an appropriate ratio of professional and statutory training positions to meet current and future demands?
- (2) Will he direct the Queensland Coal Board to conduct a survey throughout the coal industry to identify those professional and statutory positions so as to provide young people with information about future industry labour needs?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97):

(1) The Australian Collieries Staff Association also liaised with me on concerns at the shortage of appropriately qualified mining personnel, particularly to meet the needs of the underground coal mining sector.

As I informed the Association, the continued availability of appropriately qualified, experienced and competent mining personnel to fill statutory positions is a prerequisite for a safe and viable mining industry. The responsibility for training and development of adequate numbers of such personnel, to match attrition rates and rising demand, lies with the mining industry creating that demand.

I am aware that there is a shortage of qualified and experienced mining people and that the anticipated growth in underground coal operations will exacerbate it. The shortage is not a problem for Queensland alone, and I consider the problem is sufficiently evident to warrant the serious and urgent attention of the coal industry.

Appointees to statutory positions in the coal mining industry must hold certificates recognised, or awarded, by the Queensland Board of Examiners.

The Board zealously and objectively guards standards of competence when considering applications for certificates regardless of whether the applicant and his or her accreditation is of national or international origin.

Notwithstanding the seriousness of the problem, the Queensland Government has no mandate to require industry to provide any ratio of professional and training positions to balance attrition rates or rising demand. However, I will continue to raise the issue of maintaining an appropriate supply of appropriately trained persons with representatives of the coal industry, as I believe it is their responsibility to address what is a national problem for the coal industry.

(2) No. I do not believe that a Government sponsored survey would assist in rectifying the problem.

117. Queenslander Rail Service

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/97)—

With reference to rumours of an impending reduction of travel train services in country Queensland—

- (1) Will he give a commitment to the retention of the Queenslander, one of the very few trains in Australia, now of best world standard, as a regular time-tabled train?
- (2) Will he consider the need to construct six new first class sleeping cars for the Queenslander, each to include three deluxe cabins complete with ensembles, as is the norm in the USA, to further enhance the reputation of this superb service?

Mr Johnson (17/4/97):

(1) In 1998 the luxurious heritage based train, the Great South Pacific Express, (currently under construction in the Townsville workshops) will commence operating. This new train is part of a strategic partnership with the most prestigious and sought after companies, Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. A Heads of Agreement contract was signed with Venice Simplon-Orient-Express in December 1996. This joint venture will provide Queensland Rail with global audience of past travellers on the Orient Express trains as well as first hand knowledge of operating first class trains. The Great South Pacific Express will be a five star service operating between Brisbane and Cairns and is aimed at leisure travellers around the world who are looking for special and unique experiences.

The Queenslander is currently Traveltrain's flagship service but this role will be incorporated to a superior level in the Great South Pacific Express service. Traveltrain is currently investigating the best options for the use of the Queenslander rollingstock after the Great South Pacific Express enters service. I can assure the Honourable Member, however, that the Queenslander rollingstock will continue to be utilised on north coast line services for many years to come and that there will be no reduction in train services to country Queensland.

(2) The rollingstock for the Great South Pacific Express is currently under construction in Queensland Rail's Townsville workshops and does include luxurious cabins with ensembles, double beds etc.

Far from reducing country passenger services in regional Queensland, Queensland Rail is always looking for opportunities to improve existing services or add new services. In early 1998 the new Tilt Trains will commence operation between Brisbane and Rockhampton. These trains will replace the existing Spirit of Capricorn service and reduce the travelling time by two and one half hours.

Queensland Rail is currently undertaking research to investigate new rollingstock options to eventually replace the Sunlander and Queenslander services as this rollingstock is, in the main, over 40 years old and close to the end of its economic life. However, these new trains are unlikely to be constructed and enter service until past the turn of the century.

Investigations for the possible introduction of a new train service between Brisbane and Bundaberg are nearing completion and if proven to be economically feasible will provide for a daily service between these two cities.

118. Overseas Visit by Treasurer

Mr NUTTALL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (18/3/97)—

With reference to her recent visit to Hollywood and her endeavours to advertise the benefits of Queensland to the US Film Industry—

- (1) Who accompanied her on the trip?
- (2) What position does each person hold either within her Ministerial Office or within her department?
- (3) What portion of the total cost for each person was paid for by her department and what portion of the total cost was paid for by the Ministerial Services Branch?
- (4) What was the total cost of the trip, including expenses, incurred by each person?

Mrs Sheldon (17/4/97): This trip was the subject of a detailed report (attached) which was submitted to the Clerk of Parliament. Although discussions with US film industry representatives were an important part of the trip, a wider range of Arts and Treasury matters were canvassed in both the UK and US as documented in my statement.

I was not accompanied on my travels by any Ministerial staff, but by the Director of the Queensland Performing Arts Trust Tony Gould A.M. and my spouse.

Mr Gould was conducting business on behalf of the Trust and was funded by QPAT from the proceeds of its entrepreneurial ventures (ie: the profits from commercial activity). All other travel expenses for my spouse and I were funded by the Ministerial Services Branch in line with Ministerial guidelines.

The total cost to taxpayers as documented by the Ministerial Services Branch was \$27,299.16.

119. Queensland Health, Rebuilding Programs

Mrs EDMOND asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (18/3/97)—

What is the expected return to Treasury as a result of capital charges on the rebuilding programs in health in (a) 1998-99, (b) 1999-2000 and (c) 2000-01?

Mrs Sheldon (17/4/97): Based on the agreed framework for applying the capital charge and the capital works estimates provided by Health at the 1996-97 Budget (which are subject to revision), the capital charge would be:

- (a) \$23.4M in 1998-99;
- (b) \$51.3M in 1999-00; and
- (c) \$69.7M in 2000-01.

120. Clayfield Police Division

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/97)—

With reference to the Clayfield Police Division which covers the south western suburbs of my electorate—

- (1) When will the headquarters of this division, which is currently housed in a building situated within the Boondall Division, be located within the Clayfield Division?
- (2) Has a site been chosen to locate the headquarters within the Clayfield Division's boundaries; if so, where is this site?
- (3) How much money has been allocated for the purchase of a site and the construction of the facility?
- (4) How many operational police are expected to be based at the new headquarters?
- (5) What police units eg CIB, JAB, will be housed within the facility?
- (6) Will the Nundah CIB premises continue to be used for that purpose; if not, what is the intended use of this facility?
- (7) Will the department consider using the current premises of the Nundah CIB as a site for a community police beat project?

Mr Cooper (17/4/97):

(1) The Queensland Police Service Capital Works Program indicates that construction of a 24 hour Divisional Headquarters for the Clayfield Division is planned for the 1999-2000 financial year.

(2) & (3) A suitable site has been identified and negotiations are continuing on its possible purchase. When a suitable site is obtained, an estimate to erect a complex will be determined.

(4) The Clayfield Division has a current complement of 95 officers. Some of these officers work at the Toombul Police Beat Shopfront and at four shopfronts at old police stations. Depending on which of the latter continues, the remainder will work from the new complex.

(5) The following units and personnel will be accommodated within the new Divisional Headquarters:

- Divisional Inspector (Commanding Officer)
- Administrator (Senior Sergeant)
- Tactician (Senior Sergeant)
- Administrative Assistants
- Intelligence Officer (Senior Constable)
- Community Liaison Officer (Sergeant)
- General Duty Officers
- Enquiry Section
- Traffic Branch
- Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB)
- Juvenile Aid Bureau (JAB)

(6) & (7) Consideration will be given to the use of the existing property at Nundah when a new police complex is constructed to service the area.

121. Literacy Classes, Wide Bay Region

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (18/3/97)—

- (1) Why have vocational literacy classes been left unfunded in the Wide Bay Region as this has denied 100 students of the opportunity of gaining full adult literacy level, which virtually rules out any chance of employment for them?
- (2) What will now become of the 6 tutors who are now redundant because of this lack of funding?
- (3) Did this situation come about, because he as Minister failed to ensure that the Wide Bay Region secured this funding from the Federal Government?
- (4) Will he now provide the necessary funding to enable these adult students to achieve literacy or will he leave these people to languish on the dole queues?

Mr Santoro (17/4/97):

(1) In the 1996 Commonwealth Budget, funding was cut for the Special Intervention Program which provided language and literacy classes to help jobseekers gain the skills they need for employment. A new program called Jobseeker Preparation and Support, under which local CES managers make referrals to training providers, was commenced.

(2) No tutors in Adult Literacy have been made redundant at Maryborough Campus of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE.

(3) No. The Commonwealth did not consult me prior to making its decision.

(4) My Department currently provides funding of \$600 000 under the Regional Priorities Language and Literacy program. This program responds to the needs identified by the 6 Regional Language and Literacy Networks across Queensland. On the advice of the Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast Network, 4 new language and literacy programs began in 1996 in the Wide Bay region including small townships such as Howard and Burrum Heads. In 1997, these regional programs will expand to 6 new sites including Proston, Murgon and Tiaro.

122. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (18/3/97)—

With reference to her responsibility for overall budget management—

For each department and agency (a) what proportion of their current (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 January 1997, (b) what proportion of their capital (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 January 1997 and (c) what proportion of their total (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 January 1997?

Mrs Sheldon (17/4/97): Data on Consolidated Fund current and capital budgets expended as at 31 January is provided in the following table:

Department	Capital Exp. % Original Budget	Current Exp. % Original Budget	Total Exp % Original Budget
Education	36.5	62.4	60.0
Electoral Commission	n.a.	55.9	55.9
Environment	32.8	51.6	47.4
Emergency Services	14.5	56.6	55.5
Economic Development & Trade	66.0	52.7	52.8
Families, Youth & Community Care	25.1	57.6	56.5
Office of the Governor	50.5	63.0	61.7
Health	27.8	57.2	54.7
Justice	5.6	56.3	47.2
Legislative Assembly	70.8	57.1	57.3
Local Government & Planning	n.a.	44.7	44.7
Main Roads	51.4	66.2	53.2
Mines & Energy	48.9	58.6	58.3
Natural Resources	36.6	54.2	49.2
Ombudsman	n.a.	54.8	54.8
Police	40.5	58.8	57.7
Premier & Cabinet	38.3	59.5	55.2
Primary Industries, Fisheries & Forestry	31.8	54.2	52.7
Public Works & Housing	38.3	55.5	46.8
Queensland Audit Office	n.a.	57.4	57.4
Queensland Corrective Services Commission	39.3	60.0	53.1
Tourism, Small Business & Industry	n.a.	73.5	73.5
Training & Industrial Relations	42.2	59.6	58.0
Transport	10.3	64.6	62.3
Treasury	87.3	92.1	92.0
TOTAL	41.3	62.7	59.1

123. Ron Camm Bridge

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/97)—

With reference to the need to duplicate the Ron Camm Bridge at Mackay under the National Highway Program—

- (1) What steps has he and his department taken to ensure that the Federal Government provides funding for this project in the May Budget?
- (2) What assurances has he received from his Federal counterpart that funding will be made available?

Mr Johnson (17/4/97): The case for Federal funding of the duplication of the Ron Camm Bridge at Mackay, with works scheduled to commence in 1997-98, has been made each year from 1994-95, in

Queensland's National Highway Forward Strategy Report which is submitted for consideration of the Federal Minister for Transport on an annual basis.

Since assuming responsibility for the Transport and Main Roads portfolio following the change of Government in February 1996, I have continued to make strong representations to the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Development, the Honourable John Sharp MP to secure Federal Funding approval for this project at a total estimated cost of \$23.55 million as a matter of high priority.

Further, the high priority for Federal funding of the Ron Camm Bridge and Approaches is a standing item on the agenda at meetings which are held on a regular basis between Main Roads' officers and their Federal counterparts.

As a result of these efforts, together with those of the local Federal Member Ms Deanne Kelly MP and Mackay City Councillors, John Sharp announced on 14 February 1997 that he intends to visit Mackay in the near future to look at Mackay's traffic problems first-hand. He also indicated in that announcement that he had asked his department to review funding priorities to examine the scope for bringing forward the funding of the duplication of the Ron Camm Bridge.

Thus, as I indicated in my response to Question No. 1406 raised by Mr Mulherin on 4 December 1996 and which, in part, dealt with the priority given to the duplication of Ron Camm Bridge, I am confident that Federal Minister John Sharp fully appreciates the merits of this important National Highway Project. I am also confident that Federal Funding approval will be obtained to allow these duplication works to proceed within the next few years.

124. Queensland Events Corporation

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (18/3/97)—

With reference to the Queensland Events Corporation will he advise for the years 1994, 1995, 1996 and to date in 1997 (a) the name of each event provided with a QEC grant or subsidy, (b) the name of the company or persons to whom those grants or subsidies were provided, (c) the amount (in dollars) of each grant or subsidy and (d) the region in which each event was staged?

Mr Davidson (17/4/97):

(a)-(d) The Queensland Events Corporation was established to support and develop events that are capable of generating substantial economic activity by attracting significant numbers of visitors from interstate and overseas. Consideration is also given to events that will receive high profile media coverage around the world promoting Queensland.

The following is a list of events which have received support from the Corporation during the years from 1994 through to 1997. The actual funding provided to the events cannot be disclosed by the Queensland Events Corporation as it is commercial-in-confidence and disclosure may breach confidentiality agreements.

Year :	Event supported	Funding/support provided to	Location
1994	World Masters Games	1994 World Masters Games (Brisbane) Limited	Brisbane
1994	World Gymnastics Championships	1994 World Gymnastics Championships Limited	Brisbane
1994	Queensland Winter Racing Carnival	Event owned by Queensland Events Corporation	Brisbane
1994	One Australia America's Cup training	Southport Yacht Club	Gold Coast
1994	Great Queensland Bike Ride	Multi-Sport Marketing	Gold Coast to Noosa
1994	Mountain Bike World Cup	Cairns World Cup Pty Ltd	Cairns
1994	World Parachute Championship	Kooralbyn Skydiving Centre	Kooralbyn
1994	Gold Coast International Marathon	Lewzem Pty Ltd	Gold Coast
1995	Waltzing Matilda Centenary	Winton Shire Council	Winton
1995	Great Barrier Reef Dive Festival	Dive Queensland Inc.	Cairns
1995	Queensland Winter Racing Carnival	Event owned by Queensland Events Corporation	Brisbane
1995	Oceania Cycling Championships	Queensland Cyclists Association Inc.	Townsville
1995	World Mountain Bike World Cup	Cairns World Cup Pty Ltd	Cairns
1995	Australia Remembers	Susan Needham	Brisbane
1995	VP50 Townsville	Townsville City Council	Townsville
1995	Women Beach Volleyball	Australian Volleyball Federation Inc.	Brisbane
1995	Champion Rowing Sprints	Rowing Queensland Inc.	Gold Coast
1995	Women International Triathlon	Triathlon Australia	Gold Coast
1996	Tornado Catamaran Championships	International Tornado Association Inc.	Gold Coast
1996	World Mountain Bike Championships	1996 World Mountain Bike Championships Cairns Pty Ltd	Cairns
1996	Queensland Winter Racing Carnival	Event owned by Queensland Events Corporation	Brisbane
1996	Carnival of Flowers	Toowoomba City Council	Toowoomba
1996	Queensland Masters Games	Queensland Masters Games Association Inc.	Gold Coast
1996	Gold Coast International Marathon	Gold Coast Marathon Week Pty Ltd	Gold Coast
1996	Ballymore Rugby Tens	Queensland Rugby Union Limited	Brisbane
1996	Cairns Event Strategy	Cairns City Council	Cairns
1996	World Cup Triathlon	Noosa Triathlon Association Inc.	Noosa
1996	Queensland Golf Open	Windaroo Golf Club Limited	Windaroo
1996	Indy Carnival off-track events	Ann Seiersen	Gold Coast
1996	Queensland Seafood Festival	Queensland Tourist & Travel Corporation	Brisbane
1997	Beef '97	Australian Beef Cattle Exposition Association Inc.	Rockhampton
1997	Johnnie Walker Classic	International Management Group of America Pty Ltd	Gold Coast
1997	Australian Surf Life Saving Championships	Surf Life Saving Australia Limited	Gold Coast
1997	Queensland Winter Racing Carnival	Event owned by Queensland Events Corporation	Brisbane
1997	Indy Carnival off-track events	Ann Seiersen	Gold Coast
1997	Gold Coast Tennis Classic	Tennis Queensland	Gold Coast
1997	Super League World Nines	Townsville City Council and AEC Group	Townsville
1997	Whitsunday Masters Games	Whitsunday Visitor & Convention Bureau	Whitsundays
1997	Ballymore Rugby Tens	Brisbane Visitor & Convention Bureau	Brisbane
1997	Australian Triathlon Championships	Triathlon Australia	Mooloolaba
1997	Australian Safari Rally	Automotion Motorsport Pty Ltd	Cairns, Gold Coast and other areas in regional Queensland
1997	Gold Coast International Marathon	Gold Coast Marathon Week Pty Ltd	Gold Coast

125. Training and Industrial Relations Department

Government Departments, GOCs, Treasury, private companies or persons?

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (18/3/97)—

Mr Santoro (17/4/97):

- (1) What property and buildings are owned outright or in partnership by the Workers' Compensation Department?
- (2) What are the addresses of the properties and current market value?
- (3) What monies have been loaned to others by the Workers' Compensation Department (before and since its inception as a separate body) to finance the purchase or construction of buildings?
- (4) What rate of interest has or is being paid?
- (5) Are any monies owed to the Workers' Compensation Department by other

(1) & (2) WorkCover Queensland owns the following buildings, with addresses and market values as listed:-

WorkCover Queensland Building, 270/280 Adelaide Street Brisbane—\$27,150,000

South Brisbane Centre, Ipswich Road Woolloongabba—\$ 5,050,000

Main Roads Building, 477 Boundary Street Spring Hill—\$7,100,000

Clermont Office Building, 36 Capella Street Clermont—\$110,000

Warwick Office Building, 159 Palmerin Street Warwick—\$135,000

Bowen Residence, 14 Daniel Street Bowen—\$94,000

Cairns Residence, 42 Boden Street Cairns—\$143,000

Emerald Residence, 48 Retro Street Emerald—\$98,000

Kingaroy Residence, 83 Moore Street Kingaroy—\$111,200

Southport Residence, 12 Parasol Street, Ashmore—\$160,000

(3) & (4) Since 1 July 1978 when the Workers' Compensation Board of Queensland was established separate from the then State Government Insurance Office (SGIO) and following the formation of WorkCover Queensland on 1 February 1997, no arrangements have been entered into, lending money from the Fund for the purchase or construction of buildings. Therefore, there is no applicable interest rate to report. Prior to 1 July 1978, SGIO entered into arrangements to loan monies to Cooperative Housing Societies. These Societies lent money to individuals for home purchase/building. Since separation in 1978, no further such loans have been made.

(5) Yes. Monies owed to WorkCover Queensland by other Government Departments, GOCs, Treasury, private companies or persons come under the following categories:-

- outstanding premium and penalties;
- finances awarded by the Courts;
- court costs awarded by Courts;
- overpayments to injured workers in relation to claims; and
- balance of cooperative housing loan repayments.

126. Capital Charge

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (18/3/97)—

- (1) In what ways does the capital charge constrain his department's ability to accelerate the Capital Works Program?
- (2) Will he have to go to Treasury to either remove the charge or slow down the Capital Works Program?
- (3) When will he approach the Treasurer to reduce the charge and which projects has he identified to slow down?

Mr Horan (21/4/97):

- (1) None.
- (2 & 3) No and none. Introduction of a capital charge does not affect timing of projects within the Program.

127. Bingham Report Recommendations on Preventive Policing

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/97)—

(1) What sections of the Bingham Report that dealt with preventive policing have been implemented?

(2) What is the status of the other recommendations that deal with preventive policing?

Mr Cooper (17/4/97):

(1) There are ten recommendations within the Bingham Report that deal primarily with aspects of preventive policing. These are recommendations 10, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141 and 142. The majority of the discussion on these recommendations appears in Chapter 9 of the Report.

Working parties have been established to facilitate the implementation of these recommendations and their final reports are now being considered.

(2) The working parties tasked with examining these recommendations have extensively consulted with stakeholders within and external to the Queensland Police Service.

The key recommendations in relation to preventive policing are recommendations 133 and 134. These require the development of a clear policy statement on policing in partnership with the community and of appropriate strategies to implement that policy. This will be achieved through the preparation of a statement of values, a draft policy statement and a draft strategic plan for subsequent inclusion within the Queensland Police Service Corporate Plan. It is intended the policy statement will be completed by July 1997. Implementation of the subsequent recommendations is dependent on the progress of recommendations 133 and 134.

128. Police Station, Palm Beach

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/97)—

With reference to recent media reports indicating that construction of the Palm Beach Police Station will be brought forward—

- (1) When will tenders be called for construction of the station?
- (2) What is the likely closing date of tenders?
- (3) When is construction likely to begin?
- (4) When is the expected date that the station will be open and operational?

Mr Cooper (17/4/97):

(1) Tenders for the construction of the new Palm Beach Police Station were called on 10 March 1997.

(2) Tenders closed on 4 April 1997.

(3) Construction is expected to commence in June 1997.

(4) It is anticipated the station will be operational in early January 1998.

129. Diesel Locomotive Provisioning Shed, Whyte Island

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/97)—

With reference to the Queensland Rail Whyte Island Provisioning Facility and the Draft ISO 14001 Environmental Management System Audit Report prepared by Quality Assurance Services dated 5 December 1996—

- (1) What work has been undertaken, and what is its outcome, to develop an environmental policy which includes (a) a clear commitment to prevent pollution, (b) an indication of the nature, scale and impacts of Queensland rail's operations at the Whyte Island facility, (c) an indication of how the policy provides the framework for environmental improvement and targets, (d) endorsement by top management and (e) communication to employees and availability to the general public?
- (2) What steps have been taken to apply the method for determining significance of environmental aspects (forms EMS-2101-AO1)?
- (3) What steps have been taken to ensure that the legal compliance procedure identifies who is responsible, what process is used to identify a legal requirement, and when and how often legal requirements are determined?
- (4) What objectives and targets have been developed for the Whyte Island facility and what quantifiable environmental targets have been set for that facility?
- (5) What steps have been taken to ensure that job descriptions at the facility mention specific environmental management responsibilities?
- (6) What progress has been undertaken for concluding a training needs analysis and what competency gaps have been identified to be overcome through training?
- (7) Have the communication processes now been developed and have they been audited; if so, what is the result?
- (8) Have the operational procedures been now referenced and identified in the manual?
- (9) Do current operational controls cover all activities with significant environmental aspects; if not, what steps have been taken to insure that they do?
- (10) Will he provide dates upon which testing of emergency procedures have been undertaken?
- (11) What monitoring of programs has been commenced?
- (12) Has this monitoring included performance against set environmental improvement and targets?
- (13) What procedures have been undertaken to specify how records will be maintained and finally disposed of?
- (14) Where will the records be kept and will they be accessible to the public?

(15) Who is on the Whyte Island Environment Committee?

(16) If there are no community representatives will he give a commitment to allowing a community representative to be a member of the committee?

(17) What steps have been taken to ensure that the General Manager for Freight Rail is involved in the management review process for the Whyte Island EMS?

(18) As in a normal quality assurance audit, the auditor merely checks to insure that there is compliance with the self designed systems and standards put into place by the body seeking certification, to what extent does the quality assurance system or the Whyte Island Provisioning Facility rely upon its operations meeting external and objective standards as distinct from those formulated by Queensland Rail?

Mr Johnson (17/4/97):

(1) The Whyte Island Environmental Policy has been drafted, circulated for comment and will be considered by the Whyte Island Environmental Committee on Tuesday, 1 April 1997. The policy will give:

- a clear commitment to prevention of pollution;
- an indication of the nature, scale and impacts of the Queensland Rail's operations at the Whyte Island facility;
- an indication of how the policy provides a framework for environmental improvement objectives and targets.

The policy will be circulated to staff and will be available to the public on request.

(2) The method for determining significance of environmental aspects has been enhanced to accommodate the findings of the audit and upon its endorsement by the Whyte Island Environmental Committee will be applied.

(3) The draft EMS has been enhanced to accommodate the finding of the audit and defines who is responsible, the process to identify legal requirements and how often this process is applied.

(4) Formal objectives and targets must consider policy commitments and significant environmental aspects as outlined in the standard. Following endorsement by the Whyte Island Environmental Committee, objectives and targets will be formalised.

(5) Environmental Management responsibilities are being incorporated and documented into operational procedures and also into relevant training modules. This approach satisfies the requirements of the standard. Modifications to job descriptions is another method of satisfying the standard.

(6) A full and formal Training Needs Analysis can only be developed upon consideration of significant aspects. Upon endorsement by the Whyte Island Environmental Committee a formal Training Needs Analysis will be conducted. A modularised environmental training package is under development with input from site staff.

(7) The full communication process is still under development and will include:

1. A Complaints Management System
2. Environmental Committee Reviews
3. Annual Reviews
4. Quarterly Reports
5. Audits
6. Incident Management

Many of these processes are already documented in the draft EMS. The full communication process will be audited during the certification process.

(8) As operations procedures are formalised, they will be appropriately referenced in the manual.

(9) As quoted from the QAS Audit Report "Assessment of the Whyte Island Facility suggests that key operations with potential significant environmental aspects were well controlled". Once again, upon endorsement by the Whyte Island Environmental Committee of the significant aspects, any informal operational controls will be formalised.

(10) As highlighted in the QAS Audit Report no formal testing of emergency procedures had been documented, however a requirement to conduct six monthly testing of emergency procedures has been incorporated in the regular inspection regime.

(11) As outlined in the response to Question (4), objectives and targets are currently being developed, but monitoring of programs can not yet commence until such time as these are finalised.

(12) When monitoring does commence performance against the set environmental objectives and targets will be included.

(13) A procedure has been drafted to detail Management of Environmental Records.

(14) The draft Environmental Records Management Procedure details storage responsibilities and locations, and outlines that records will be available to the public upon formal request.

(15) The Whyte Island Environmental Committee is comprised of:-

- Manager, Freight Environmental Office
- Manager, Operations South
- Environmental Adviser
- Whyte Island Station Officer
- Whyte Island Provisioning Shed Operator

(16) As the Environmental Management System is being developed consistent with the ISO 14001 Standard, the Standard does not require that a community representative be included on the committee. However, minutes of Environmental Committee Meetings will be available to community representatives upon request.

(17) Whilst the General Manager Freight Operations does have the ultimate responsibility of the Whyte Island Environmental Management System, delegation of the Management Review process has been devolved to divisional managers with the General Manager Freight Operations fully briefed on issues and progress.

(18) The Whyte Island Environmental Management System is under development, consistent with the external ISO 14001 Standard. Notwithstanding this, the Environmental Management System will also ensure external regulatory requirements are met.

130. Police Station, Roma

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/97)—

With reference to his promise made in Roma on Tuesday, 18 February that a new Police Station for Roma will be given Government priority—

If the Roma Police Station is a Government priority why was construction not begun in 1995-96 when it was on the Police Capital Works program of the ALP Government, but removed by his administration, and why was it totally removed from the Police Capital Works Budget for the 1996-97 Budget?

Mr Cooper (17/4/97): The assertion that the replacement Roma Police Station was listed on the 1995/96 Police Service Capital Works Program is incorrect, as no funding was allocated in that year or previous years.

As with so many other Labor claims during its period in office this is just another phantom or fantasy designed to hoodwink the people.

Replacement of the Roma Police Station has been identified as a priority; however, commencement of construction will depend on the availability of funding and other statewide priorities.

131. Drug Abuse

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (18/3/97)—

With reference to drugs abuse—

- (1) How many deaths occurred because of heroin in Queensland in 1996?
- (2) How many deaths occurred because of all other opiates in Queensland in 1996?
- (3) How many deaths occurred because of all other illegal drugs in Queensland in 1996?
- (4) Did any deaths occur from marijuana in Queensland in 1996?
- (5) How many deaths occurred in Queensland in 1996 in which illegal drugs were a contributing factor but for which illegal drugs were not listed as the cause of death?
- (6) How many drug overdoses were ambulance drivers called out to in 1996?
- (7) What ages were these overdose victims?
- (8) What education program is the Government undertaking to inform young people of the problems of addiction?
- (9) What education programs are in place in Queensland schools to teach children about addiction?
- (10) What amount of time is allocated to such program in schools?

- (11) How many people are on the methadone program?
- (12) Is there a waiting list of people wanting to go on the methadone program?
- (13) Are any people being denied treatment on the methadone program?
- (14) What are the conditions for placement on the methadone program?
- (15) What programs other than methadone are available or are being considered for heroin dependent people?
- (16) What is the cost in Queensland for administering illicit drug laws broken down by costs for (a) Police, (b) the legal system, (c) ambulance services, (d) hospital services and (e) other medical and administrative services?
- (17) What proportion of those people who are currently in prison for crimes in Queensland are there for reasons directly attributable to illegal drugs?

Mr Horan (21/4/97): I am disappointed that the Honourable Member has 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 (2), (4), and (6) to (17) of the question stand in direct breach of Standing Order 68 (a). However, for the benefit of your constituents, I provide the following information.

(1), (3) & (5) There were 70 deaths due to illicit heroin/morphine use during 1996. The majority (68) of these had an average of two or more other drugs present and it can be difficult to say which of these drugs directly caused the death.

132. South East Busways Network Project

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/97)—

- (1) How much money has been expended this year on the South East Busways Network Project and in what areas has that money been expended?
- (2) How much money is expected to be expended before the end of the current financial year on the project and in what areas?
- (3) Is there any indication in forward estimates of expenditure of levels of funding for the Busways Project in future years?
- (4) Is funding in future years largely or entirely dependent upon the returns from sales of Government assets?

Mr Johnson (17/4/97):

(1) Current activities on the South East Transit Project include preparation of planning layout options and the draft Impact Management Plan, communication and community involvement, property acquisition. Costs incurred on the project as at 25 March 1997 are \$2.065m.

(2) Projected expenditure on the project as at the end of the current financial year is \$7.3m,

components of which will include the Impact Management Plan and planning layouts (nearing completion), acquisition of properties, and project operating costs. Final expenditure will obviously depend greatly on detailed timing of land acquisition.

(3) The baseline budget over the project life has been projected as follows:

Year—Expenditure
1996/97—\$7m
1997/98—\$32m
1998/99—\$160m
1999/2000—\$180m
2000/2001—\$141m
Total—\$520m

Expenditure profiles for the project will be monitored and reviewed regularly on an on going basis.

(4) The funding for the South East Busways Network Project is dependent on the three year Infrastructure Rejuvenation Package which will provide \$1.6 billion in additional funding over three years to 1998-99 to finance a range of capital works project. This funding, which is over and above the normal capital works program of Departments, is to be provided entirely from one-off sources, including uncommitted balances in the Queensland Infrastructure Financing Fund, proceeds from the sale of the State Gas Pipeline, other asset sales and capital restructuring of Government Owned Corporations.

133. Cyclone Evacuation Centres

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (18/3/97)—

With reference to concerns by the Whitsunday Emergency Service about conditions and safety of evacuation centres in our coastal resorts and to the previous Governments considerations that these buildings were unsafe for Category 2 cyclones and ordered QBuild to inspect the buildings and return with recommendations—

- (1) Has he instructed or pursued these inspections?
- (2) What reports has he considered or initiated to progress the safety of communities during cyclones with respect to evacuation centres?
- (3) What action is he taking to audit all cyclonic refuges?

Mr Connor (17/4/97): Contrary to the statements by the Member for Whitsunday, this initiative and the current investigations by Q-Build and Project Services of my Department originated solely from within Q-Build itself as part of its role in my Department's Disaster Management Plan, and not from the sources identified by the Member.

(1) Q-Build began the identification and categorisation of potential shelter buildings in Cairns, Mackay and Hervey Bay as a pilot project in mid-1996 and subsequently identified a total of 254 buildings as potential shelter building sites. These buildings generally included school auditoriums and gymnasiums, community halls, theatres and shopping centres.

(2) In September 1996, a specialist consultant engineering firm was engaged to undertake the desk top review of the potential shelter buildings identified in the above areas. This report was finalised in March 1997. Q-Build Regional Offices have been provided with the schedule of the shortlisted potential shelter building locations which is to be made available to the local government authorities for inclusion in their respective Disaster Management Plans.

(3) Until such time as the buildings are subjected to detailed inspections and assessments to check compliance with cyclone shelter construction standards, they remain only potential locations. Some upgrading works may also be involved, for example strengthening an element of the building, fitting window shutters etc, prior to the building being classified as a cyclone shelter.

Identification and categorisation of the potential locations will continue as resources and other competing priorities permit.

134. Culliford Wall, Toowoomba

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (18/3/97)—

With reference to the demolition of "Culliford Wall" at Toowoomba and other sites—

- (1) Did this wall (built in 1860) have significant cultural heritage value?
- (2) Was the wall nominated for listing under the Queensland Heritage Act administered by him; if so, when and what action did he take to protect the wall from demolition?
- (3) Did he take any steps to issue a stop order under the Queensland Heritage Act; if not, why not?
- (4) How many sites have been demolished in the last 12 months while awaiting assessment of their heritage nomination?
- (5) What are the details of these sites?
- (6) How many stop orders has he issued in the last 12 months?
- (7) What sites have been subject to these orders?
- (8) Why did he falsely blame the National Trust for the demolition of the wall?
- (9) Has he apologised for this?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97):

(1) No. The Queensland Heritage Council has considered the nomination of the place and decided that it is only of local significance and not of significant cultural heritage value.

(2) A nomination for the "Culliford Walls" was received by the Department on 18 February 1997. I am advised that, as the application did not indicate that the place was at risk, no immediate action was considered necessary.

(3) No such advice was received as there was no clear indication that the place was under threat from any development proposals.

(4) Four

(5) The Grand Hotel, Grafton Street, Warwick; "Stoneleigh", Lutwyche Road, Windsor; 90-92 Stoneleigh Street, Windsor; Dennison Street Rail line, Rockhampton

(6) Two

(7) Toowoomba Auto Electrical, 95 Russell Street, Toowoomba; Skilmorlie, 12 Bryden Street, Windsor

(8) I did not.

(9) See (8).

135. Queensland Rail Board

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/97)—

With reference to the massive business for Queensland Rail generated from Mount Isa and in view of the potential from the north west of Queensland—

Why has he neglected to have a person from this area on the railway board?

Mr Johnson (17/4/97):

(1) I agree with the Honourable Member for Mt Isa that the area he represents is an important region. It is not possible to have all regions represented individually, but the important link between Mt Isa and Townsville Port will be well served by the inclusion of Mr David Carmichael, the Chairman of the Townsville Port Authority, on the Queensland Rail Board.

(2) The present Board composition was not selected from only a regional perspective. Members were selected to provide the correct blend of business acumen by offering a broad range of legal, engineering, accounting, and management skills. This will enable efficient decision making on Queensland Rail activities throughout the State and assist Queensland Rail in addressing the commercial challenges that lie ahead.

136. Teachers

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (18/3/97)—

- (1) How many teachers are currently seeking employment with Queensland Education?
- (2) How many of these are graduates still awaiting employment?
- (3) What number of vacancies remain in each region's staffing establishment?

Mr Quinn (17/4/97):

(1) There are 6017 teachers actively seeking permanent employment with Education Queensland. A significant proportion of these people have indicated limited geographic preferences, restricted generally to metropolitan areas and/or the south-east corner of the state.

(2) Of the figure mentioned above, 36.7% are graduates. Of these graduates, 6.88% are rated S1, 13.2% are rated S2 and 11.7% are rated S3. The remainder of graduate applicants are rated T4, US, XI and XN.

(3) It is difficult to provide accurate figures for the number of vacancies within each region. At any point in time regions are filling vacancies as they arise.

137. Community Legal Services

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (18/3/97)—

- (1) What provision will be made for community legal services upon establishment of a separate State-based Legal Aid Commission?
- (2) Is he aware that many cases, including domestic violence and consumer cases, involve aspects of both State and Commonwealth legislation?
- (3) Is he aware of the danger that responsibility for funding community legal services could be the subject of endless dispute between State and Commonwealth legal aid authorities?

Mr Beanland (16/4/97):

(1) The State Government is establishing a new Commission, Queensland Legal Aid. For State matters, it will be business as usual with services being provided at the present level. For Commonwealth matters, negotiations are continuing with the Federal Government.

(2) Yes.

(3) The establishment of Queensland Legal Aid will enable that body to enter into an agency agreement with the Commonwealth Government for the provision of legal aid services. The possibility of disputes arising will be minimised if the Commonwealth states clearly its priorities and the services for which funding will be provided.

138. Flyover, Chermside Area

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/97)—

With reference to a number of constituents in the Chermside area who have expressed concern over recent years about "a proposed flyover" at the Gympie Road/Hamilton Road intersection and following a campaign of half truths from local Liberal Party members during the recent Brisbane City Council elections about redevelopment of the Chermside Shopping Centre, some residents believe that another flyover is planned from Murphy Road to Banfield Street and as any such flyovers would be a massive structure adversely affecting small businesses along Gympie Road and Hamilton Road and the western end of 7th Brigade Park—

Have there ever been any plans by his department to construct a flyover in the Chermside area, or is this proposal simply an "urban myth" that has gained credence through repetition by ill-formed persons?

Mr Johnson (17/4/97): A busway in the Gympie Road corridor is a key link in the South East Queensland Regional Busway Network.

Last year when Coles Myer proposed a major upgrade of the Chermside Shopping Centre, Queensland Transport required that planning be

undertaken for a busway through the shopping centre site.

The planning included a bridge over both Murphy Road and Downfall Creek. This flyover, which was to be generally about 10 metres wide, was for buses only.

Recently, the shopping centre was sold. The new owners, Westfield, have submitted plans for expansion and while the size and shape of the expansion is different from that submitted by Coles Myer, it nevertheless remains a major expansion. The development plans presently are under review and requirements for a busway are yet to be finalised.

However, the shopping centre is a key node in the northern busway and provision of a busway integrated into the development will be essential if the objectives of the Regional Busway Network and the Integrated Regional Transport Plan are to be achieved.

Main Roads has no plans for the construction of any flyovers in the Chermside area, including the Gympie/Hamilton Roads intersection.

A flyover at this intersection was investigated by the department in 1986. Following this investigation, it was decided that a flyover would be inappropriate. Consequently, the department's planning since that period has not included any grade separation structures.

139. State Emergency Service

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (18/3/97)—

- (1) Is it a fact that the cheques representing reimbursement for expenses incurred by SES Local Controllers, Deputy Controllers and Group Leaders through 1996 were delayed due to his absence overseas and his inability to sign the accompanying letter?
- (2) Have these cheques, which usually represent small three figure sums, in the past generally arrived prior to Christmas and are often used by these SES Unit Executives and their families to supplement their Christmas budget?
- (3) Does his department have on hand testimonials or other information suggesting that SES Local Controllers, Deputy Controllers and Group Leaders obtained more benefit from receiving his letter than they would have obtained from having their Christmas budgets supplemented?

Mr Veivers (17/4/97):

(1) I was absent from my office on a trade delegation to China and South East Asia from 7-18 December 1996 and went on leave from 23 December 1996 to 20 January 1997. The extent of commitment and sacrifice of time by SES Volunteers is such that I felt it was important that I personally sign the letters. Therefore the letters were held over until my return from recreation leave.

(2) The annual payment of out-of-pocket expenses to SES Volunteer Executives usually occurs around the Christmas period. These allowances for the 1996/97 year were paid in February 1997. The

allowances were previously paid in December 1995 (for 1995/96) and January 1995 (for 1994/95).

(3) I am not aware of any testimonials or other information from SES Volunteer Executives requesting that the allowances be paid prior to Christmas each year.

140. Travel by Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (18/3/97)—

With reference to the diverse nature of his portfolio responsibilities and the need to visit many organisations and regions—

Will he provide all details regarding all travel undertaken by him since February 1996, including (a) destinations, (b) purpose of each trip, (c) names of every organisation and individual visited on each occasion, (d) names of ministerial staff and any other person accompanying him on each trip, (e) method of travel for each trip, eg government jet/commercial flight etc and (f) the cost of travel, the cost of accommodation and the cost of related expenses for each trip?

Mr Lingard (8/4/97): The Member would know that I travel extensively throughout Queensland to deal with issues relative to my portfolio responsibilities.

Because of frequent changes to schedules and itineraries however, and because of unscheduled late deputations on many occasions, and even changes to the expected membership of some deputations, I do not keep records of all the people or organisations referred to by the Honourable Member.

If the Honourable Member seeks information in respect of any individual trip or meeting, or if she is concerned that I have failed to meet with any particular group or organisation, then she should refer to this specifically.

141. Spanner Crabs

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (18/3/97)—

With reference to his decision to close the spanner crab fishery on 21 March for one month and his further decision to increase the total allowable catch from 2000 tonnes to 2600 tonnes—

What research data was used to indicate that the spanner crab tonnage could be increased without affecting the sustainability of this resource and will he table this advice as well as that which he used to establish the 2000 tonnes total allowable catch in the first place?

Mr Perrett (16/4/97): The fisheries management agency which is responsible for providing advice to Government on management arrangements for the spanner crab fishery is the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. The Crab Fishery Management Advisory Committee provides advice to the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority.

The Board of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority consists of people who have been chosen for their expertise in fisheries management, fisheries science and fishing industry experience. The Crab MAC also has a membership with expertise in these areas.

I am confident that these fisheries management advisory bodies take a very responsible approach to the management of our spanner crabs resources to ensure both the economic viability and sustainability of the spanner crab fishery.

The spanner crab fishery is a relatively new industry in this State. It commenced in the 1980s and remained at a relatively low level of production for the first decade. During the past five years it has grown very rapidly and expanded northward as far as central Queensland.

The exponential growth in the fishery that has occurred in the past few years is not expected to be maintained and there are serious concerns within the responsible elements of the industry and within Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and Crab MAC that the fishery could collapse unless steps are taken to introduce reasonable constraints. It should be noted that the only other significant spanner crab fishery in the world which has been in operation for a considerable time is based in Hawaii. Advice from the Hawaiian (U.S.) authorities is that this fishery is severely depleted due to lack of controls on fishing effort. We need to be aware of this situation which reinforces the need to carefully manage the fishing pressure on our spanner crab stocks.

In Queensland we now have good data on catches and fishing patterns in the spanner crab fishery. This information comes from the daily log books which are kept by all commercial fishers. Our information on the biology of spanner crabs comes from a three year research program carried out by the Fisheries Group of DPI. These two sources of information together with the practical experience of members of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, taking account of advice from Crab MAC have been the basis for developing management arrangements for the spanner crab fishery. Significant consultation processes have been carried out to ensure the industry has an input to management.

I am advised that the predictions of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the spanner crab fishery are based on the best available information from catch statistics and research. When estimates have been made of the TAC the management bodies have applied caution in accordance with a 'precautionary approach' which is mandatory in such circumstances. Whilst we wish to minimise the risks of serious reductions in spanner crab stocks we also wish to maximise profits.

I completely reject any suggestion to take a high risk approach to management of the spanner crab fishery by placing inadequate controls on fishing activities. The 2000 tonne TAC was based on the best available information and a need to be cautious. The level has been adjusted to 2600 tonnes which is within reasonable safety limits for sustainability, but this will be carefully monitored to ensure the

sustainability of the resource and the economic viability of the fishery. The TAC may be further adjusted over time as additional information becomes available.

142. Advance Account

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/3/97)—

With reference to her Ministerial Program Statements for the 1996-97 State Budget and the provision of \$259,353,000 in her Advance Account—

- (1) What was the balance in that account at 28 February?
- (2) What sums have been outlaid from this account this financial year?
- (3) For what purposes were each of these sums expended, and what was the date of each of these outlays?
- (4) Have any additional funds been allocated to her Advance Account this financial year?

Mrs Sheldon (18/4/97):

- (1) The balance in the account at 28 February was \$201,291,000.
- (2) The sums that have been outlaid from this account this financial year totalled \$58,062,000 at the end of February, with major expenditure commitments for items such as enterprise bargaining and natural disasters still to be funded before the end of the financial year.
- (3) The purposes for which these funds were expended are provided in the accompanying table. As the provision in the Treasurer's Advance Account are transferred to other Departments and not expended directly from this account, the month in which the transfer was effected is listed in the attachment.
- (4) No additional funds have been allocated to the Treasurer's Advance Account in this financial year.

143. Wahroonga Nursing Home

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (19/3/97)—

With reference to his decision in Maryborough recently to keep open the Wahroonga cottages and units for the elderly citizens of the Maryborough district—

- (1) When will he start accepting clients into the cottages and units?
- (2) Will there be a minimum up front charge of \$26,000 like the one currently being charged for entry into the Wahroonga Nursing Home?

Mr Horan (21/4/97):

- (1) The Member for Maryborough may not be concerned by the condition of the Cottages, but I am. He is well aware that the existing units/cottages were built in the 1950s, and that the current quality of accommodation is unsatisfactory, given modern standards. He is also aware of Labor's decision to allow the Cottages to fall derelict, and of his public

silence at that time. The solution to this situation, which is being developed by my Department and the Department of Public Works and Housing, will ensure that there is adequate and suitable accommodation for the current and future aged citizens of Maryborough.

Existing residents will not be forced to relocate, nor will they be denied access to better accommodation when available.

- (2) No.

144. Public Housing

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/3/97)—

With reference to his stated comments that "the management of Public Housing will be handed to the private sector", in other words—Real Estate Agents—

- (1) Has he taken note of a similar management role in New South Wales which failed?
- (2) Will there be cost increases flowing from his plan to hand management to the private sector; if so, will the cost increases be passed on to public housing tenants?

Mr Connor (18/4/97):

- (1) The Department has had discussions with the NSW Department of Housing regarding its experience with the outsourcing of property management to the private sector. It is not, however, proposed to introduce the same model in Queensland as implemented in New South Wales. The range of services delivered by the private sector company in NSW were much broader than those proposed to be delivered in Queensland and included the management of private tenancies.

The agreements between Stockland and the NSW Department of Housing for the management of various portfolios expired in November 1996. Agreement could not be reached, however, on new terms and conditions and the arrangements were terminated. It is understood that the NSW Department of Housing will be maintaining the framework established by Stockland for the management of stock, including the use of a network of private sector real estate agents.

My Department will be reviewing any information available from New South Wales which might be relevant to the proposal.

- (2) The trial is being conducted to provide benchmarks for the delivery of property management functions to the Housing Program. It is expected that the costs of the program will be offset by efficiencies from improved property and tenancy management practices. The financial status of public housing tenants will not be affected by the trial.

145. State Government Advertising Campaign

Mr NUTTALL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/3/97)—

With reference to a massive advertising campaign that the Government has undertaken in recent weeks

to inform the people of Queensland just how well the State's economy is supposed to be doing with the injection of investment dollars and the creation of jobs even though Queensland's unemployment rate of 10.3 per cent is the highest for any State in Australia—

- (1) In how many papers across the State were advertisements placed boasting about the Government's commitment to obtaining investment and creating jobs in the State?
- (2) In how many of these papers were full page advertisements taken?
- (3) What was the overall cost for the placement of advertisements in the newspapers?
- (4) Over what period of time was the advertising campaign undertaken?
- (5) What other forms of advertising did the Government undertake in relation to this matter and what were the costs involved?
- (6) Were any outside public relations companies or consultants used in preparing the advertising campaign; if so, which companies or consultants were utilised and what costs were incurred?

Mrs Sheldon (18/4/97):

- (1) A total of 37 newspapers were used, four of which appeared interstate. Publications are listed below:

*The Courier-Mail, *The Australian, Financial Review, *Sydney Morning Herald, *The Melbourne Age, *Townsville Bulletin, Cairns Post, Mackay Daily Mercury, Rockhampton Bulletin, Gladstone Observer, Fraser Coast Chronicle, Bundaberg News Mail, Gympie Times, Sunshine Coast Daily, Gold Coast Bulletin, Toowoomba Chronicle, Mt Isa North West Star, Warwick Daily News, Ipswich Queensland Times, Business Queensland, Biggenden Weekly, Biloela Central Telegraph, Blackall Leader, Blackwater Herald, Charleville Western Times, Chinchilla News, Dalby Herald, Emerald Central Queensland News, Gatton Star, Gayndah/Monto Central & North Burnett Times, Stanthorpe Border Post, Kingaroy South Burnett Times, Roma Western Star, North Queensland Register, Queensland Country Life, Redland Times, Bayside Star

- (2) 32 of the advertisements were full pages, five of the advertisements * were 38cm x 7 columns.
- (3) The Media Cost (including 7.5 per cent service fee paid to the advertising agency) was \$96,250.48.
- (4) The Major Projects advertisement appeared during the week commencing 16 February, 1997 and appeared once only in each publication during this period.
- (5) There were no other forms of advertising.
- (6) This advertisement was produced by Kelly Gee Advertising at a total cost of \$3262.

146.Q-Build, Phantom of the Opera Tickets

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/3/97)—

With reference to the hosting of guests to the production of the stage show Phantom of the Opera by QBUILD, a business unit from within his department—

- (1) On how many occasions and on what dates did QBUILD host guests to Phantom of the Opera, and does QBUILD intend hosting guests before the conclusion of Phantom of the Opera?
- (2) Did any other business unit or any other section of the Department of Public Works and Housing host guests to the Phantom of the Opera; if so, what business unit or section attended and on what dates did this occur, and will any other business unit or section of his department be hosting guests to the Phantom of the Opera before the show concludes its Brisbane season?
- (3) Will he supply the names of attendees and organisations represented at all performances of Phantom of the Opera?

Mr Connor (18/4/97):

- (1) QBUILD hosted guests to the Phantom of the Opera on one occasion on 16 November 1996.
- (2) Yes. QPM Property Management hosted guests to the Phantom of the Opera on 23 November 1996. No other business unit hosted guests to the show.
- (3) No.

147.Ms D. Maw

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (19/3/97)—

With reference to Press reports during the week ending 15 March that Ronald Campbell Richardson was convicted for the defrauding of Ms Denise Maw—

- (1) Does he now acknowledge that the then Premier Wayne Goss, myself as Lands Minister, and officers of the then Lands Department, were entirely correct in the handling of this matter; if not, will he state how he believes the actions of the previous Government were inconsistent with Queensland and common law?
- (2) Has he authorised, or does he intend to authorise, payment to Ms Maw for compensation in excess of that already paid out by the previous Government?
- (3) If any additional payment has been made, or is proposed, will this be in accordance with existing legislation or is it proposed Cabinet will authorise an ex gratia payment to get the Government off the hook to which it has firmly attached itself?

Mr Hobbs (16/4/97):

- (1) In relation to the matters raised concerning prosecution of Ronald Campbell Richardson on charges of fraud, the actions of the previous Government were not inconsistent with Queensland and common law.
- (2) I have not authorised payment to Ms Maw for compensation in excess of that already paid out by the previous Government.
- (3) I refer to my answer to the previous question.

148. Narangba Railway Station

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/3/97)—

- (1) Will he advise when the planned upgrading of Narangba railway station will occur?
- (2) What will the planned upgrade comprise of?
- (3) Will the planned upgrade include disabled passenger access?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97): At this time there is no funding available to upgrade Narangba station or provide disabled access.

However, Queensland Rail has recently participated in a master planning process with the local community to develop long term strategies for the future development of the Narangba Town Centre.

Queensland Rail future track requirements at this time have been identified together with planning layouts for future car parking and bus interchange works. The ongoing needs of the community will be considered as part of the above process.

149. Acacia Ridge Police Station

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/97)—

With reference to a previous response to community complaints about the number of police cars in the southern suburbs of Brisbane which indicates that local residents and he have a different perception of the need for mobility of police—

Will he consider the need for more cars when the Acacia Ridge Police Station is completed to improve response times?

Mr Cooper (17/4/97): It is recognised that there is a need for an extra vehicle to be assigned to the Acacia Ridge Police Station.

Acacia Ridge Station has been given top priority for the allocation of an additional vehicle for operational duties.

There is currently a Service Vehicle Audit being conducted by the Metropolitan South Region to identify if any vehicle in that Region can be reallocated to the Acacia Ridge Station in the short term.

When the Queensland Police Service's Board of Management approves the provision of any additional vehicles to the Metropolitan South Region, the first of these will be allocated to Acacia Ridge Station.

150. State Government Advertising Campaign

Mr BEATTIE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (19/3/97)—

With reference to plans for a \$250,000 plus media campaign to promote Government law and order policies—

- (1) What role did he or his office play in conceiving or directing this campaign and will he appear in any of the advertising?

- (2) Which advertising/PR/media outlets have been approached about this campaign and will the contract be put out to public tender; if so, when?
- (3) Will departmental funds be used to fund the campaign and will the Government's new Criminal Code be the focus of the campaign?
- (4) When will the campaign go to air and over what time period will it run?

Mr Beanland (16/4/97):

(1) A Standing Offer Arrangement for Communication Services for the Department of Justice has been entered into. My Senior Media Adviser formed part of the panel assessing offers together with the Manager, Communications of the Department and a representative of the Corporate Communications and Information Office of the Premier's Department. I will not be appearing in any of this advertising.

(2) Standing Offer submissions were received as follows:

Public Relations—McLisky Young Communications; Turnbull Fox Phillips; The Rowland Company

Advertising Agencies—DDB Brisbane; Kelly Gee Advertising; Mojo Partners

(3) Any media campaign will invoke the expenditure of departmental funds. Significant departmental initiatives will feature in any media campaign conducted by the Department of Justice.

(4) Media campaigns form part of an ongoing strategy by the Department of Justice to communicate significant initiatives to the people of Queensland. This particular campaign has already commenced.

151. Natural Resources Department, Promotional Advertising

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (19/3/97)—

With reference to the calling of tenders by his department to promote his portfolio's image—

- (1) What funding has been allocated for this work, over what time, on a regional basis and for South East Queensland, and will the funding be drawn from the department's budget?
- (2) Why is this promotional campaign required at this time and will he appear in any of it?
- (3) When is the campaign due to go to air and for how long will it run?
- (4) What role did he or his staff play in conceiving, directing or organising this campaign?
- (5) How will this sort of promotional advertising differ from that employed by the disgraced Bjelke-Petersen regime when taxpayers' funds were used in blatant political advertising for the National Party?

Mr Hobbs (10/4/97):

(1) The tender was called to enhance the Department's integrative role in natural resources management. The project has a regional focus and at

this stage has excluded specific targeting of South-East Queensland. I am advised that any funding for South East Queensland would be considered after the assessment of the effectiveness of this proposed regional project.

An upper limit on expenditure of \$200,000 has been notionally set for the project. A final budget is being developed in consultation with staff, clients and the consultants engaged to undertake the project. Funding will be from within the Department's overall budget.

(2) The project was developed to inform the community of the wide and diverse range of services available from the new Department of Natural Resources. DNR is a new organisation and it is important that the people and organisations with whom the Department does business, know and understand what those services are and where they can be accessed.

Communication material will be developed to match regional/community needs with relevant information sources. The content for the project will be a collaborative process involving DNR management staff, industry and the successful tenderer. The project is a Departmental initiative but I will seriously consider any request to participate based on the merits of the case put to me. To date no specific request has been made.

(3) It is anticipated that the material will be developed in the latter part of 1996/97 with appropriate regional dissemination of relevant communication items during 1996/97 and 1997/98.

(4) I was pleased to endorse this project developed by Departmental staff after it was approved by the Director-General and submitted for my endorsement.

(5) My Department's approach to this type of project is consistent with similar projects by agencies over the last decade.

152. Building Services Authority

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/3/97)—

With reference to the 1995-96 Annual Report of the Building Services Authority and the fact that the authority dealt with 5064 disputes during 1995-96—

- (1) Of the builders who received the most complaints against them to the Building Services Authority during 1995-96, will he list the top 5 companies.
- (2) What was the nature of the disputes against each of these companies?
- (3) How many of these disputes were resolved in favour of the consumer?

Mr Connor (18/4/97):

(1) I am not prepared to specifically name the five(5) companies against whom most complaints were lodged with the Building Services Authority in 1995-96, however I will advise that all five(5) companies have had the contractor's licenses cancelled.

(2) The nature of the disputes against these builders have been categorised as complaints regarding

defective work, incomplete work, or for the loss of a deposit. The nature of disputes by reference to each company was:

Builder	Defective Work	Incomplete Work	Loss of Deposit	Total
Builder A	60	23	1	84
Builder B	33	13	2	48
Builder C	38	1	-	39
Builder D	34	3	-	37
Builder E	28	6	3	37
Total	193	46	6	245

(3) In terms of the total number of complaints, approximately 74% were resolved in favour of the consumer by means of a claim against the Statutory Insurance Scheme or through the rectification of work by the builder. The balance of complaints account for those which:

are continuing;

fall outside the jurisdiction of the Building Services Authority;

were withdrawn by the complainant;

have been rejected by the Building Services Authority.

153. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, VERs

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (19/3/97)—

With reference to the high turnover of staff in his department—

- (1) How many staff accepted VER's in the period March 1996—February 1997?
- (2) At what level were each of these staff employed?
- (3) What was the length of service of each employee at the date of taking the VER?
- (4) What is the total cost of the VER's of these staff?
- (5) What steps is he taking to ensure that the unacceptable drain of senior expertise from his department ceases?

Mr Lingard (9/4/97):

(1) 67.

(2) These staff were employed at various levels as follows:

Level and No. of Staff

OO2—26, OO3—2, OO4—1, OO5—1, AO2—1, AO3—4, AO4—4, AO5—1, AO6—4, AO7—5, AO8—1, SES1—5

Trades Staff—6

TO1—1, TO2—1, PO3—1, SES3—3

TOTAL—67

(Approximately half of the VERs were associated with the anticipated closure of the Challinor Centre and were requested by trades and maintenance staff from that Centre).

(3) The length of service of staff accepting VERs ranges from just under two years to just over 35 years. In some cases, some service had been with other State or Commonwealth public sector entities.

(4) The total cost for VERs for all staff for the period in question was \$2,211,506.

(5) All VERs were approved at the request of the officers concerned and in accordance with the relevant Public Sector Management Standard. The Department has recently implemented the "Working Together Better" strategy which has been designed to improve the Department's service delivery capability, and provide a more modern organisational structure.

The strategy has also provided a substantial benefit in terms of human resource management by providing an organisational environment that has attracted some outstanding professionals to key positions in the department.

154. Railway Stations, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/3/97)—

With reference to rail stations within the electorate of Lytton (Lindum, Wynnum North, Wynnum, Wynnum Central, Manly and Lota)—

- (1) What is the incidence of criminal and/or anti social activity at each station for the last three years?
- (2) Which stations have video security fitted and when were each of these systems fitted?
- (3) Which stations do not have video security systems fitted, and specifically when, if at all, are such systems proposed to be fitted?
- (4) Which stations have secure car parking establishments and when were each of these constructed?
- (5) Which stations do not have secure car parking establishments, and specifically when, if at all, are such establishments proposed to be constructed?
- (6) Over what hours is each station staffed, and how many staff in respect of each station are ordinarily rostered on during each particular staffed hour?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(1) Queensland Rail commenced capturing statistics on incidents around the Citytrain network from 1 February 1995 until the present time—the figures presently available from data (excluding graffiti incidents) are as follows:

Station and No. of Incidents from February 1995 to Present—

Lindum—17, Wynnum North—16, Wynnum—9, Wynnum Central—26, Manly—29, Lota—15

(2) Stations With Closed Circuit TV and Commissioning Date—

Wynnum—28 June 1995, Wynnum North—27 September 1996, Wynnum Central—27 September 1996

(3) Stations Without Closed Circuit TV—

Lindum—Proposed Close Circuit TV Installation, Proposed for Phase 3. Approximate Timeframe, 9 months

Manly—Proposed Close Circuit TV Installation, Proposed for Phase 3. Approximate Timeframe, 9 months

(4) Nil

(5) Manly does not have secure car parking as yet. Tenders close on 26 March 1997 for the establishment of 13 secure car parks, one of which includes secure parking for Manly station. The awarded contract will be for a construction period of 12 weeks.

(6)

Station	Days Staffed	Hours Staffed	No. of Staff
Lindum	School days	5.45am-10.00am	1 staff
		12.00nn-3.45pm	
Lindum	School holidays	5.45am-10.00am	1 staff
		12.00nn-1.45pm	
Wynnum North	Mon-Fri	5.35am-1.35pm	1 staff
Wynnum Central	Mon-Fri	5.45am-1.45pm	1 staff
Wynnum Central	Mon-Fri	5.15am-1.15pm	1 staff
Lota	Mon-Fri	5.45am-1.45pm	1 staff
Manly	Mon-Sun	24 hours	10 staff in total—working through shifts

155. Logan Hospital

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Health (19/3/97)—

With reference to the 1997 Capital Works Program which states \$65.1m will be spent on Stage IV of the Logan Hospital—

- (1) How much of this Budget has been spent and on what?
- (2) What contracts have been let and what is the time frame for the completion of the project?

Mr Horan (21/4/97):

(1) To date, \$596,356 has been expended against the Logan Hospital Redevelopment project. These costs include professional fees for the principal consultant (architects), and associated sub consultants for hospital services such as electrical, mechanical, civil/structural engineering, programming, site surveying and quantity surveying, as well as health planners and recurrent cost studies.

To date, the planning documentation, comprising the Functional Plan, Master Plan and Project Definition Plan (Design Brief), has been completed. The next phase of the project will see the engagement of a Managing Contractor and work commencing on the site.

(2) A number of small packages have been scheduled over the next few months. Tenders have closed for early works on the site to provide carparking, and will be awarded within the next few days. Additional works will take place on the site to ensure that the main project, once commenced, can proceed unimpeded.

Details of the procurement method are currently being finalised with tender documentation for the Managing Contractor in the process of being prepared. It is anticipated that tenders will be called for a Managing Contractor in late July/early August 1997.

The original program provided for a completion date of December 1999, but the current program will see the project completed in October 1999.

156. Aboriginal Welfare Fund; Ms F. Costello

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (19/3/97)—

With reference to the Aboriginal Welfare Fund and, in particular, to a claim on that fund by a Ms Flo Costello—

- (1) Is he aware of the documentary evidence Ms Costello has to support her claim against the fund; if so, does he agree that she has a watertight case supporting her claim?
- (2) If, however, he feels further documentary evidence is needed, what form would this take?
- (3) What are the results of the research undertaken by staff attached to the welfare fund into Ms Costello's claim, and when will Ms Costello be informed of the results of this investigation?
- (4) Will he reaffirm his stated position that if any aboriginal person can substantiate a claim against the fund then payment will be made?

Mr Lingard (3/4/97): (1) The Aborigines Welfare Fund Branch of my Department has researched a number of allegations put forward by Mrs Costelloe regarding the management of her affairs and those of members of her family. I am aware that Mrs Costelloe provided the Branch with extracts from departmental files obtained through a Freedom of Information request and access to her personal file.

(2) Investigation by my Department into the allegations of Mrs Costelloe has involved extensive research into a large number of departmental files, additional to the documents provided by Mrs Costelloe.

(3) Mrs Costelloe has been informed of the results of the investigation.

(4) The Department has set up a records room containing over 5,000 records and files relating to the administration of Aboriginal affairs. This room is open to the public, and officers of the Aborigines Welfare Fund Branch will assist people to access these records. The Aborigines Welfare Fund Branch's investigation into these records is continuing.

157. Canegrowers

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/3/97)—

With reference to the recent Federal Government announcement of a \$3m assistance package for 500 northern New South Wales canegrowers—

What steps has he taken to ensure that 2,500 Queensland canegrowers who have been affected by the Federal Government decision to abolish the sugar tariff receive a similar assistance package of their New South Wales counterparts?

Mr Perrett (16/4/97): As Members would be aware, the Queensland Government endorsed the unanimous report of the Sugar Industry Review Working Party on 16 December 1996.

I welcome the Federal Government's announcement on 4 March 1997 endorsing the recommendations of the Review including the removal of the tariff from 1 July 1997.

The package of recommendations is designed to deliver a domestic structure which will promote a sustainable and internationally competitive industry. A competitive sugar industry will bring with it benefits of economic growth, trade development and employment to regional coastal Queensland and to the wider State and National communities.

I am aware, however, that reforms as prescribed in the sugar package often bring with them adjustment pressures for some sections of the industry. I would suggest that these pressures will be felt in some canegrowing regions of this State as equally as those identified by the New South Wales industry as a result of the loss of the tariff.

I am also aware a Sugar Task Force of Federal Government backbenchers has been established to negotiate future sugar industry arrangements to ensure industry stability and the removal of local impediments to export development.

I note, among other things, the Task Force will investigate how \$2million of the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Program funding is allocated to initiatives for the benefit for the NSW sugar export industry.

I have written to my Federal colleague the Honourable John Anderson, Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, informing him that Queensland being a large and developing State, has a priority need for infrastructure development particularly in the sugar industry to promote economic growth and to enhance international competitiveness.

I have indicated that Queensland will be making strong representation to this Task Force with a view to securing a commitment from the Federal Government to improve industry stability and export opportunities for those regions in Queensland most effected by the Review's recommendations.

The Queensland government has worked closely with the Queensland sugar industry during the development of the Review's recommendations and now during its implementation phase. The Government will continue to consult with industry in relation to this new development of the Sugar Task Force.

158. Leading Schools Program

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Education (19/3/97)—

With reference to the \$150m that has been promised to provide additional resources for leading schools and to the statement in Education News that \$50m will be generated from savings and the balance of \$100m from funds within the current budget—

- (1) Will he outline his departmental estimates as to how the \$50m savings will be generated?
- (2) How can he justify his guarantee that schools other than leading schools will continue to receive the same support as they have done in the past whilst stating that the \$100m for leading schools will be redirected from the current budget?

Mr Quinn (17/4/97): Implementation of the Leading Schools program is an exciting step forward for education in Queensland. It is all about giving schools the resources and the flexibility to promote enhanced learning outcomes for students.

In order to assist schools which are entering the Leading Schools program two major grants will be paid. These are:

as school communities volunteer to participate in the Leading Schools program they receive an increase in their annual school grant of between \$30,000 and \$50,000 in the first instance. This increase will be determined by way of a base allocation of \$30,000 plus \$11.00 per student to a maximum grant increase of \$50,000.

additionally schools that volunteer to participate in the pilot phase (July 1997-June 1998) will receive a one-off payment for implementation and innovation. This will be an amount equal to the annual school grant increase, mentioned above.

The Honourable member would be aware that Treasury provides Education Queensland with a bottom line budget that can be managed flexibly, in order to best meet the needs of priorities. This is a similar concept to that which is proposed for school in the Leading Schools program.

The budget for Education Queensland is in excess of \$3 billion. The \$50 million identified as new funds for schools is a small proportion of this budget. By re-examining priorities and realignment of non-school location services, Education Queensland will be able to redirect this money to schools. A significant amount of this money will be from savings generated through structural changes, such as the amalgamation of 11 regional offices and 45 school support centres into 36 district offices.

The balance of the \$100 million comprises funds currently spent on behalf of schools by Central Office, Regional Offices and School Support Centres. These funds will be redirected to schools. This is part of the process of giving schools greater flexibility to manage their resources locally. This provides an environment in which schools are able to ensure that resources are directed towards achieving improved learning outcomes for students.

A particular example of the funds which will be put in schools are those for discretionary minor works and maintenance. This will enable schools to determine needs and address them in a timely manner. It will

also promote the use of local businesses and boost local economies. Policy for the use of these funds will be provided to schools.

In the case of the 100 pilot schools, an amount of \$5 million has been programmed for allocation in 1997-98. The allocation for an individual school will be based on a needs assessment and will take account of factors such as age and condition of buildings. The funds are untied, thus allowing schools to address needs according to their own priorities, but within Education Queensland policy.

In developing the Leading Schools framework, the needs of small schools have certainly not been forgotten.

The District Office structure will enhance the provision of services to small school. The size of each district (approximately 40 schools per district) means that services will be closer to small schools than was the case under the regional structure.

District office services will have a major focus on schools with teaching principals. These schools will continue to receive a wide range of services from a district office and will not be expected to adopt the array of school based management approaches.

159. Rockhampton TAFE College

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (19/3/97)—

With reference to reports in the Rockhampton media which indicate that there will be job losses at the Rockhampton College of TAFE—

- (1) How many, and what classification of jobs will be shed?
- (2) Why are these jobs being removed?
- (3) Will these employees be granted VER's or will they be relocated to other colleges?
- (4) What process has been used to identify the personnel who are to lose their jobs?

Mr Santoro (18/4/97):

- (1) 11 teaching positions; 2 supply positions; 3 maintenance positions.
- (2) TAFE Institutes operate in an increasingly competitive training market and there is a need to realign the staffing levels and mix to meet demand for courses in the area. These positions have been identified as surplus to the business requirements of the Institute (teaching and supply) or able to be undertaken in a more cost effective manner (maintenance).
- (3) VERs have been offered following considerable consultation with unions and staff. Relocation has been considered by the Institute, however, staff are either unwilling to move or relocation would create surplus positions in the new location.
- (4) The following processes have been used to identify the surplus positions:

Teaching Positions

Surplus positions have been identified by comparing team delivery plans for 1997/98 with current available human resources, eg—

Automotive—Rockhampton

Planned 1997/98 delivery—74340 SCHs

Staff needed to deliver—6.4

Current staff level —9.0

Number of surplus positions—2.0

Supply Positions

Surplus positions have been identified through:

comparison of supply staff numbers across all TAFE Queensland Institutes;

analysis of functions performed and diversity of functions at each site;

analysis of quantum of purchase orders raised at each site;

analysis of dollar value of inventory purchased and managed at each site;

comparison of the total cost of the new supply structure compared to the old structure considering the enterprise bargaining productivity contribution.

Maintenance Positions

comparison of tasks performed at each site;

identification of tasks that are clearly not maintenance eg new construction;

identification of tasks able to be done elsewhere in the Institute eg publications.

160. Waste Treatment Technology

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (19/3/97)—

With reference to a new waste treatment technology that is currently under development locally involving a high temperature water cooled ring burner being carried out by a firm called Bonne Engineering —

- (1) Where is this development work being undertaken and what is the zoning of the location?
- (2) Is the process licensed by the department; if not, why not?
- (3) What consultation has occurred with local residents about this process?
- (4) What discharges does the process produce?
- (5) What Government assistance is this emerging technology receiving?
- (6) What waste streams is it designed or capable of handling?
- (7) What involvement are staff of the Environment Division having in the development of this technology?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97):

The Department of Environment advises:

(1) The proposal to undertake the development of the high temperature incineration of wastes is by a company—K.C.B. Sales Pty Ltd located in Wacol, Brisbane. The Ring Injector technology is the invention of Bonne Engineering Pty Ltd. The proposal is to conduct a pilot scale operation as a

joint venture with Bonne Engineering with technical support from a Ph.D. student of Griffith University. The land is in a noxious, offensive and hazardous industry zone. However, an Order in Council dated 8 September 1988 overrides the zoning status of the land. It states that the intended use for the land is for the purposes of mixing, reforming, blending, stabilisation of paraffinic, naphthenic, aromatic hydrocarbons, oxygenated solvents and filling from bulk into drums, cans, bottles, as well as formulation, mixing, blending of detergents, hand cleaners, automotive products and storage of ancillary raw materials, packaging materials and drum laundering as required for the above products.

(2) K.C.B. has submitted an application to the Department of Environment to amend an existing licence (environmental authority) issued under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to include the incineration of regulated waste and to operate a regulated waste disposal facility. The current licence is for multiple activities including chemical manufacturing, storing, chemical and oil recycling and drum reconditioning only. The application for amendment of the licence has been refused on the grounds that the Integrated Environmental Management System for the company's previous licence application was not amended as required under the provisions of the Act and the information on this new technology was not supported by sufficient information for the administering authority to grant the amendment. This has been conveyed to the company and the company has been asked to reapply with the additional information needed.

(3) The Brisbane City Council did not require an EIS for the development and public consultation with local residents has not occurred.

(4) The company has submitted a number of emission standards as goals or targets for achievement until more information is known about the burner, its characteristics and limitations. The Department will need to determine appropriate standards on receiving a full inventory and characterisation of the wastes to be treated.

(5) I am advised that a submission for assistance for the project, initiated by Bonne Engineering through its consultants, has been prepared under the AusIndustry/National Industry Extension Service (NIES) Program through the Department of Tourism, Small Business & Industry.

(6) The submissions to the Department of Environment from K.C.B. Sales indicate that the waste to be incinerated involves the hydrocarbons which K.C.B. has in storage. The proposal also indicates that in the future K.C.B. will source hydrocarbon wastes from paint, printing and panel beating industries. K.C.B. has also indicated that it wishes to explore the opportunities for the destruction of chlorinated based compounds such as chlorinated solvents and pesticides. More details on present and future waste streams and contaminants has been requested by the Department.

The project summary prepared by consultants for Bonne Engineering infers that the Ring Injector Technology represents a new, novel way of handling pesticides and PCBs and other substances. These

are to be substantiated with appropriate research and development and the proposed testing programs.

(7) Staff of the Department have had no direct involvement with the development of this technology.

161. Housing, Mount Isa/Cloncurry

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (19/3/97)—

Will he provide houses to those people in Mount Isa and Cloncurry whose homes were destroyed during the recent floods similar to the same conditions that applied during the 1990 Charleville floods?

Mr Veivers (17/4/97): In response to the specific question made by Mr McGrady, I can advise as follows: Under the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA), persons who qualify under an income and assets test are provided with a level of assistance towards returning their dwelling to a habitable and secure condition. In 1990, the maximum payment was \$8,000, in 1997, a maximum amount of \$10,000 applies.

Following the 1990 floods a number of homes were demolished. The Queensland Government moved 32 dwellings from Moura to replace demolished residences; 25 of these homes were financed by a range of organisations including Government Agencies, Local Government, Private Welfare Organisations and the Charleville Flood Public Appeal. Following a successful approach to the Commonwealth Government, the maximum NDRA dwelling repair amount of \$8,000 was waived for persons who qualified for NDRA assistance. In the 7 eligible cases, the replacement homes were fully funded by NDRA.

The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care has advised that as at the end of March 1997, no homes of NDRA eligible applicants have been demolished at Mt Isa or Cloncurry. In both locations a number of applicants are being assisted towards making homes habitable and secure. One seriously damaged home at Cloncurry is currently being assessed to ascertain the extent of work required. This dwelling is currently occupied by the owner.

In summary, at this time no persons have been identified at Mt Isa or Cloncurry as being in "similar to the same conditions that applied during the 1990 Charleville floods".

162. Police Resources, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/97)—

With reference to police numbers on the southern Gold Coast—

- (1) What is the recommended strength for the Coolangatta and Burleigh Police Stations?
- (2) What is the current strength at these stations?

- (3) What is the anticipated recommended strength for the proposed Palm Beach Station?
- (4) After the opening of the Palm Beach Station, what is the recommended strength for the Coolangatta and Burleigh Stations?

Mr Cooper (17/4/97):

(1) The allocated strength for 30/6/97 for Coolangatta is 28 and Burleigh Heads 22 officers respectively.

(2) The current strength at Coolangatta is 24 and Burleigh Heads 20 officers respectively. (These vacancies are in the process of being filled.)

(3) The new Palm Beach Police Station will not be completed until late December 1997. (The functional design of the building is similar to other 24 hour police establishment throughout the State.)

The level of service delivery has not yet been determined by the Commissioner of Police. This will be determined early in the new financial year after the receipt of population data to be provided by the Government Statistician. (The population data provided specifically relates to policing boundaries throughout the State.)

(4) The future staffing level of Coolangatta and Burleigh Heads Police Stations will also be determined at this time when a review of all staffing levels of police stations throughout the State is undertaken by the Service.

163. Electoral Commission

Mr PURCELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (19/3/97)—

- (1) Is recruitment action currently under way to appoint a Deputy Electoral Commissioner for Queensland; if so, was that appointment recommended by the Treasury Review of the electoral program in its report presented on 26 July 1996?
- (2) Did the Report of the Treasury Review of the electoral program recommend the abolition of the commission's Research and Education Division and the voluntary early retirement of its manager?
- (3) What specific recommendations were made by the Treasury Review of the electoral program for the Research and Education Division and staff?
- (4) How many of the Treasury Review team's recommendations have been implemented and specifically, what arrangements has the commissioner made to ensure the Electoral Commission's capacity to discharge its statutory obligations under sections 8 (1) (b), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of the Electoral Act 1992?
- (5) What was the cost to the Electoral Commission for the conduct of the Treasury Review of the electoral program from May to July 1996?

Mr Beanland (16/4/97):

- (1) Yes.

No. The Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 1996, which was assented to 16 December 1996, imposes significant additional duties and responsibilities upon the Electoral Commissioner necessitating the appointment of a Deputy Commissioner.

(2) No.

(3) "21. That an internal reallocation of positions from the Administrative and Systems Support subprogram to the Research and Education subprogram and Electoral Operations subprogram consistent with the reallocation of functions be undertaken.

...

23. That additional support for Research and Education should be provided from an internal reallocation of funding to allow the Division to operate as EARC envisaged.

24. That the Commission introduce a user pays regime on organisations seeking the research and education services provided by the Commission.

25. That the Commission enter into service agreements with other government departments, political parties, the AEC and research institutions requesting the research services.

26. That the Electoral Commission of Queensland, if resources permit, work with the AEC to deliver an electoral education program covering both the State and Federal electoral systems and establish an Electoral Education Centre.

27. That the Commission approach the Department of Education with a view to developing an electoral education course for inclusion in the Queensland school curriculum.

...

29. That the Commission enter into an agreement with the Department of Education to provide expertise for the development of electoral education curricula which would be included in the school curriculum developed by the Department of Education."

(4) The evaluation report contains 33 recommendations; 25 of which have either been implemented or will be implemented in the period leading to or during the conduct of the next general election. The Electoral Commission has the capacity to fully discharge its statutory obligations including sections 8 (1) (b), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of the Electoral Act 1992 with existing resources and will, if necessary, engage outside experts for particular projects.

(5) The cost of the "Treasury Review" which was conducted in accordance with Public Finance Standards section 310 (2) (c) was \$17,551.59.

164. Orchid Beach, Fraser Island

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (19/3/97)—

With reference to developments in the Orchid Beach area of Fraser Island—

(1) What responses have been received to the call for tenders for demolition of Keith Leach's ex-resort and when is this demolition likely to take place?

(2) Does he intend to allow concrete from the resort to be crushed and used on roads in and around Orchid Beach; if so, will this include roads in the national park?

(3) Is the current 'shop' that is operating at Orchid Beach, within the boundaries of the Great Sandy National Park; if so, are plans in place to relocate or close it?

(4) Has the department received any expression of interest in building a backpackers lodge at Orchid Beach; if so, from whom and what stage of assessment is this at?

(5) Does he intend to excise the Orchid Beach airstrip from the Great Sandy National Park; if so, when, and does he intend to excise any other land in this location from the park?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97):

(1) It should be remembered that the Labor Government of which you were a Member, paid an extravagant and unjustified \$6 million for this resort. With regard to the question, three conforming tenders were received and a preferred tender has been chosen subject to availability of funding. Demolition will take place when funding is available.

(2) There are conflicting views on the use of pulverised concrete for road hardening. Advice has been sought from members of the Community and Scientific Advisory Committees.

Its use will be restricted to gazetted roads at Orchid Beach.

(3) Yes. It is intended to call for expressions of interest/tender for the operation of a shop when lease arrangements can be finalised.

(4) The department has been approached regarding a low key, lodge type proposal in the Orchid Beach area. This would be inconsistent with the recommendations in the Great Sandy Region Management Plan and the proponent was advised that the concept would not be endorsed.

It is not department policy to announce details of private discussions.

(5) Yes. Excision of the airstrip will be undertaken at the same time as other lands for community facilities and services in the Orchid Beach area. This will be undertaken when leasing arrangements are able to proceed.

165. Valuations, Nudgee Beach

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Natural Resources (19/3/97)—

With reference to the 1997 valuations applicable to the Brisbane suburb of Nudgee Beach, which is situated in my electorate—

- (1) What sales were taken into account to justify an average 72.41 per cent increase in this suburb?
- (2) What other information was used to justify this increase?
- (3) Were any on-site inspections or investigations undertaken during the valuation process?
- (4) What elements of the valuation process protect small communities such as Nudgee Beach from distortions caused by infrequent property sales?
- (5) Will he give a commitment to review the valuation process to ensure that small communities such as Nudgee Beach are not disadvantaged?
- (6) What calculations were used to determine the increases applicable to Nudgee Beach?

Mr Hobbs (10/4/97):

(1) Some 10 sales were looked at, four of which were either vacant land sales or lightly improved land sales and considered relevant to form the basis of valuation for the Nudgee Beach locality.

(2) Other market investigation e.g. asking prices of properties in the locality were ascertained.

(3) Yes. Physical inspections were undertaken in the locality.

(4) There is a comprehensive appeal process which allows objections to valuations to be considered initially within the Department and ultimately through the independent Land Court. Landholders are informed of these appeal processes when formally advised of new valuations. However, I would point out that the reality of the Nudgee Beach valuations is that they reflect current marketplace transactions.

My experience is that most people are more concerned with the rates they will have to pay, rather than the valuation per se. In this regard property owners need to be aware that Local Governments have the option of differential rating for various property groups or localities.

(5) My Department is currently implementing the recommendations of the Evans Report which concerned a review of the State's valuation of land system for rating and taxing purposes. The basic thrust of this Report is to ensure a more open, accountable and understandable valuation process. However I must reiterate that valuers have no control over the marketplace and are required to value land in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act 1944.

(6) Sales were analysed allowing for added value of improvements as per the Valuation of Land Act 1994. Generally the increases reflect the change in value between the existing level of value and the new value for the basic sales. Officers of my Department have advised residents of Nudgee Beach in recent public meetings that adjustments for individual properties may be made by the Departmental valuer, provided evidence affecting valuations is provided.

166.Capital Expenditure on Arts

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/3/97)—

- (1) What was the capital expenditure under the Arts portfolio for the years 1994, 1995, 1996 and budgeted for in 1997 for the regions of Brisbane, South East Queensland, Wide Bay, Central Queensland and North Queensland?
- (2) Have any capital grants been made to Bundaberg from the Arts Department; if so, when and what amount?

Mrs Sheldon (18/4/97):

(1) Capital expenditure under the Arts portfolio was \$1,111,267, \$2,907,146 and \$10,029,399 in 1994, 1995 and 1996 respectively.

In 1997 expenditure of \$32,478,000 was budgeted for the Brisbane region, the majority of which was allocated to the Southbank Playhouse. In the North Queensland region, \$50,000 was allocated for planning on Stage 2 of the Townsville branch of the Queensland Museum. No expenditure was budgeted for arts capital expenditure in South East Queensland, Wide Bay or Central Queensland regions.

Year/Region	1994	1995	1996	1997 (Budget)
Brisbane	1,111,267	2,907,146	10,029,399	32,478,000
S E Qld	-	-	-	-
Wide Bay	-	-	-	-
Central Qld	-	-	-	-
North Qld	-	-	-	50,000

167.Community Corrections Centres

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/97)—

With reference to Community Corrections programs—

- (1) What are the monthly average occupancy and capacity rates for all QCSC and privately contracted community corrections centres for the period January 1994 to December 1996?
- (2) What is the contracted price per bed for each community correction centre funded by QCSC?
- (3) Have internal audit reports been undertaken into any community corrections facilities operated by QCSC; if so, which centres were involved, what were the major recommendations and have they been implemented?

Mr Cooper (16/4/97):

(1) I am advised that the average monthly occupancy and capacity rates for the period January 1994 to December 1996 are:

All Centres—Average Capacity, 147; Average Occupancy, 116

(2) Contracts for community corrections centres are not entered into on a price per bed basis. However, for your information the Queensland Corrective Services Commission advises me that the average

unit cost per offender including overheads as at 31 January 1997 in community corrections centres was \$87.01 per day.

(3) Yes, internal audit reports have been undertaken into all community corrections facilities operated by the QCSC by the Internal Audit Unit.

The centres operated by the QCSC are Helana Jones Community Corrections Centre, Kennigo Street Community Corrections Centre and Dutton Park Community Corrections Centre.

Audit of the Helana Jones Community Corrections Centre raised issues of the Assets register, level of funding, exchange of medical information and workplace health and safety issues. All recommendations which did not have overriding security implications were addressed.

In the Kennigo Community Corrections Audit issues raised related to the amenities account, case management, prisoner numbers and smoking in rooms. These issues were addressed.

The Dutton Park Community Corrections Centre Audit focused on personnel and training arrangements, the assets register, equipment registers, workplace health and safety and security measures. All recommendations were attended to.

168. Queensland Health, Enterprise Bargaining

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (19/3/97)—

- (1) What saving initiatives has he identified for the latest round of Enterprise Bargaining 1?
- (2) Given that the department could not meet its savings from Enterprise Bargaining, how much is Treasury requiring Queensland Health to repay from Enterprise Bargaining 1?
- (3) How much money does his department anticipate will be unfunded from Enterprise Bargaining pay increases?
- (4) What amount will Queensland Health have to pay in Productivity Dividend in 1997-98, estimated?

Mr Horan (21/4/97): The honourable member appears to be confusing Labor's failed Enterprise Bargain 1 with the Coalition's recent and successful Enterprise Bargain 2. If the honourable member wishes to lodge a question which is clear in its meaning, I will be happy to answer it.

169. Queensland Coal Board

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/3/97)—

With reference to his intentions to abolish the Queensland Coal Board, whose functions are to promote the health of coal miners and administer the Coal Industry Employees Health Scheme—

- (1) What consultation has he had with industry and mining unions about this move?
- (2) Who will perform the functions of the Queensland Coal Board and what status will

that body hold within the Department of Mines and Energy and the mining industry?

- (3) How many staff will lose their jobs as a result of this move?
- (4) Is this another step by the Government toward total disregard for the health and safety of Queensland's mining industry employees?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97):

(1) The coalition parties in opposition had as one of their long standing policies for the rationalisation and reform of the Queensland mining sector, the abolition of the Queensland Coal Board. That policy was well known to peak coal industry employee and employer organisations, and was well supported by the coal mining companies. In addition, since 1993 the tripartite membership of Queensland Coal Board has included representation from the CFMEU and the Queensland Mining Council, and the Government's position to abolish the Queensland Coal Board was well known to those representatives.

(2) Simultaneously with the abolition of the Queensland Coal Board the Government intends to amend the Coal Mining Act 1925 to permit the Department of Mines and Energy to continue to perform the essential functions currently undertaken by the Queensland Coal Board, including administration of the Queensland Coal Industry Employees Health Scheme. Consequently, the former Queensland Coal Board health functions will continue to be enshrined in legislation, and will be administered by the Safety and Health Division of the Department.

(3) The Government intends to transfer all employees of the Queensland Coal Board to the Department of Mines and Energy. Those employees will continue to administer the transferred functions and this will ensure the smooth transition of responsibilities and powers from the Queensland Coal Board to the Department of Mines and Energy.

(4) Refer to answer to part 2.

170. Old Government House; DPI Building

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/3/97)—

With reference to the ongoing matter of the National Trust's continuing occupancy of Old Government House in the grounds of QUT—

- (1) When will the National Trust's occupancy of this building be finalised and a long-term lease finalised with them and what is the reason for the delay in doing this?
- (2) Why is his department preparing yet another Conservation Plan for this building, bearing in mind that both QUT and the National Trust have both prepared conservation plans for it?
- (3) Which tenants does he have in mind for the restored old DPI building in William Street?
- (4) Does he believe that the National Trust would be the best tenants of a building

with the heritage significance of Old Government House and does he accept that his Government has given a commitment that they will remain as the tenants as did previous Environment and Heritage Ministers in the Goss Government?

Mr Connor (18/4/97):

- (1) The National Trust of Queensland has shared occupancy of Old Government House since a Cabinet Decision in 1973. No Government since that time has formalised the Trust's occupation with a written agreement.
- (2) As the Minister responsible for Old Government House, I recognise the need for a Conservation Plan to guide all aspects of the Government management of this important place
- (3) Occupants for 91 William Street have not been finalised.
- (4) I intend that the National Trust of Queensland will have a long-term and direct involvement in the operation of Old Government House.

171. Animal Protection Act

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/3/97)—

With reference to his redrafting of the Animal Protection Act—

- (1) Was a solicitor by the name of Cannon originally asked to perform this task?
- (2) Was the draft he produced of such a poor standard that it was rejected and subjected to a major rewrite by senior departmental staff?
- (3) Is Mr Cannon now demanding full payment for his rejected work; if so, what sum of money is involved?
- (4) What role did Allan Callaghan or John Moore play in having Mr Cannon do this work and in supervising his drafting of the Bill?
- (5) When can the people of Queensland expect to see a new draft of this Bill and what public consultation is planned?

Mr Perrett (16/4/97):

1. Mr Cannon was engaged to provide information and assistance to the Department in the process of amendment or replacement of the Animal Protection Act.
2. Mr Cannon was required to produce—and in fact produced—a concept and format to be fleshed out by departmental officers. Mr Cannon consulted with various interested parties, undertook research on relevant legislation in other jurisdictions, and briefed senior officers as well as Members of the Legislative Assembly. The approach I have taken on this matter—ensuring the speedy production of first class legislation is in stark contrast to Labors bumbling failure to produce new Animal Welfare legislation.

Between 1990 and the change of Government last year, three Labor Ministers between them squandered in excess \$1M on more than 40 drafts. Still no Bill reached Parliament or survived Labors cowardice in the face of protest. This Government makes no apology for kick-starting a realistic process to produce a Bill.

3. Mr Cannon was paid the sum of \$6 500 for the work. The Department is unaware of any further outstanding claims by Mr Cannon.

4. As my Senior Policy Adviser, Mr Moore sought the best means of getting the production of new animal welfare legislation back on track. He sought assistance from Mr Cannon after learning that Mr Cannon had prepared a great deal of Primary Industries legislation during his former career as a public servant. As usual, the Opposition is letting its hatred of Mr Allen Callaghan get in the way of fact. He played no role in the engagement of Mr Cannon or in supervision of his work.

5. Depending on the volume of Parliamentary business and the workload facing Parliamentary Counsel, it is hoped to have the new legislation introduced into the Parliament in the Spring Session this year. Appropriate key interest groups will be consulted prior to the legislation being introduced.

172. Arts Queensland

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/3/97)—

- (1) Is she aware of grave concern in the Arts industry over the Government's sacking of Mr Greg Andrews from Arts Queensland and Mr Des Zagami from the Queensland Cultural Centre Trust?
- (2) Will she table all reports relating to the review of arts authorities' corporate services and to the proposed dismantling of Arts Queensland and establishment of the Arts Office?
- (3) Will she give an assurance that her request for the names of 35 arts industry workers attending a recent meeting will not result in recriminations against any of those individuals?

Mrs Sheldon (18/4/97):

(1) I am aware that there is natural concern in the Arts community to ensure Queensland artists and arts organisations receive the best possible benefit from the recent restructure of the State Arts bureaucracy. To that end, there is concern about Messrs Andrews and Zagami and an interest in the future direction of the new structure.

Both Mr Andrews and Mr Zagami were offered a range of options for their future employment. Mr Andrews chose a voluntary redundancy package. Negotiations with Mr Zagami are still under way.

(2) No.

(3) The Honourable Member would be aware that I am keen to ensure Queensland artists and arts groups are fully conversant with the nature of the recent changes and the objectives they address. For that reason, I arranged a series of meetings with Arts practitioners in my Ministerial office and at regional

centres across the State. Five sessions were held in Brisbane and were all well attended.

The 35 people referred to in the question all attended an industry meeting at which a range of issues were raised. It was important that all these people should have their concerns addressed and I instructed my Senior Arts Adviser accordingly.

Anyone in the Arts industry with a query or concern in these matters should feel free to contact my office or the Arts Office. Staff in both areas will be happy to assist where possible.

173. Industry and Enterprise Development, Grant/Subsidy Programs

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (19/3/97)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 1470 dated 5 December 1996 and noting that after 5 months of the current financial year many grant or subsidy programs were significantly underspent—

- (1) Why was only \$176,000 expended out of the Queensland grants for Industrial Research and Development Scheme allocation which had already been halved to \$1,250,000?
- (2) Why had none of the \$440,000 allocated for the Innovation—Queensland program been spent by November?
- (3) Do these alarming results reveal that his Government is following the lead of its Federal counterpart and winding down State involvement in innovation and research?
- (4) What amount has now been expended in 1996-97 on each of the schemes listed in his previous answer?

Mr Davidson (17/4/97):

(1) Under the previous Government, it was decided to phase out the Queensland Grants for Industrial Research and Development Scheme. No further applications for grants were considered after the end of March 1996. The \$179,000 represents the total of monies paid, as at the end of November 1996, on claims made in respect of ongoing projects, approved before March 1996.

(2) The funding for the Innovative Queensland program was announced in the budget brought down in September 1996. No funds had been spent by November 1996 as the operational guidelines and application forms for the Scheme were still being developed, tested and refined.

(3) The Commonwealth Government has maintained a strong commitment for innovation and research. It will continue to support the Cooperative Research Centre program at an annual cost exceeding \$120M per annum. While elements of the tax concession for R&D were changed in the last budget, at the same time, through R&D START, the Commonwealth boosted the funds available for direct assistance for industrial R&D projects by \$340M, over the next four years.

(4) Expenditure as at 31/3/97:

	\$'000s
Queensland Food Project	20
Major Projects Incentive Scheme	2,637
Grants for Regional Economic Development	51
Grants for Information Technology and Telecommunications	1,446
Qld Grants for Industrial Research and Development Scheme	406
Innovative Queensland	0
Management Skills Development Scheme	35
AusIndustry	3,712

174. Capital Works Projects

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (19/3/97)—

With reference to Budget Paper Number 3—Capital Outlays from the Queensland State Budget 1996-97 at pages 70-77 inclusive which outlines capital works projects in the policy area of Education—

Will he provide a detailed progress report, including expenditure to date, on the implementation of each project listed in these budget papers?

Mr Quinn (23/4/97): Preparing a detailed progress report on the implementation of each project, as requested, is not standard practice and would be unduly onerous.

Expenditure to date is enclosed for your information. Please note that, as usual, expenditure in the second half of the financial year will be significantly higher than in the first half.

It should also be noted that expenditure to date does not necessarily equate with project status. For example, projects are almost invariably completed well before the accounts are finalised. In other words, accounting lags well behind actual construction.

175. Firefighters

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (19/3/97)—

(1) Is he aware that many fire fighters, including those in the Brisbane region, have only one set of modern protective clothing; specifically is he aware that they have only one Aramid turnout coat and one pair of modern top boots?

(2) Is he aware that if fire fighters' protective clothing is damaged in an incident, or is merely being dry cleaned they have to resort to wearing their old woollen turnout coats, which provide less protection, and have been superseded precisely because wearing them no longer constitutes best international practice as far as the safety of fire fighters is concerned?

(3) What therefore is his basis for expending large sums of money changing insignia, badges of rank, signage, and calling cards, when funds are said not to be available for the protection of fire fighters?

Mr Veivers (17/4/97):

(1) When the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) changed from a woollen coat to an Aramid coat an initial issue of 2200 coats was made. Any

subsequent issue was on a replacement basis and was devolved as a regional budgetary responsibility. To date 3555 new style coats and 4371 new style overtrousers have been issued to the State's firefighters. This would indicate that the issue of the second coat and overtrousers is progressing well. All new auxiliary firefighters are issued with one set of turnout clothing and all new permanent firefighters are initially issued with two sets of turnout clothing.

QFRA has only recently entered into a contract for the supply of an American boot which is considered to be the best firefighting boot available and is extensively used throughout fire services around the world. \$500,000 was provided for the initial issue of these boots with regional budgets responsible for the issue of a second pair. Prior to this contract, firefighters were issued with a General Purpose (GP) style firefighting boot.

(2) If, for any reason a firefighter's protective clothing is damaged, the provision exists for damaged items to be replaced from regional stores. The facility to clean protective clothing is provided by the QFRA. The management and timing for cleaning is the responsibility of the wearer. Generally, cleaning is carried out whilst the firefighter is on his/her 4 days off. Should a situation arise where cleaning is required whilst on duty days and if that firefighter has not been issued with a second turnout coat, the woollen coat is worn.

The new style coat represents the highest order of protection currently available for turnout coats. The woollen coat is still preferred by some firefighters and is still widely used in NSW and Victorian Fire Services. QFRA is currently undertaking testing of the woollen coat to ensure that it still meets a high standard of protection, as this style of coat is still widely on issue to QFRA auxiliary firefighters.

Given that the QFRA is currently undertaking the exercise of reissuing the new coat, it is believed that the woollen coat will still provide firefighters with a high level of safety during the transition phase to the new style coat.

(3) As the Board of the QFRA has only recently determined the new logo and cap badges there has only been a minor expenditure on some interim letterhead paper (10 reams) and one thousand vehicle decal inserts, at a total cost of less than \$2,000. Expenditure of \$31,375 has been spent on rank markings, however, this cost was to replenish depleted stock which had been allowed to run down in anticipation of the implementation of Workplace Reform prior to the instigation of the Staib Report.

All logos, badges etc were put on hold pending the Board's decision and expenditure to date will have no influence on protective clothing issue.

176. Lake Eacham Nursery

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (19/3/97)—

With reference to his answer to Question No 95 regarding the Lake Eacham Nursery—

(1) Is the \$10,000 allocated from the coastal management program part of the \$80,000 allocated from the department?

(2) What was the original coastal management purpose or project to which this \$10,000 was allocated before it was reallocated to the nursery?

(3) What are the respective amounts and sources of funding which go to make up the \$80,000 department allocation for 1996-97?

(4) Was the allocation from the Wet Tropics Authority \$10,000; if not, what was the amount?

(5) What is the budget source of this WTMA allocation?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97):

(1) Yes.

(2) This funding was allocated for the management of coastal islands which includes revegetation projects.

(3) \$10,000 from coastal management funds and \$70,000 from national parks and wildlife service/conservation strategy funds.

(4) No, the allocation from the Wet Tropics Management Authority was \$20,000, not \$10,000.

(5) The \$20,000 allocated by the Wet Tropics Management Authority is from the threats to world heritage subprogram within the policy and planning program.

177. Transport Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 9.3 per cent of the Transport department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97): Responding to the question regarding capital works expenditure, no projects have been deferred or abandoned.

Historically amounts of \$130-\$180M of capital works expenditure across government have been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the state.

178. Primary Industries Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 25.8 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent,

and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Perrett (16/4/97): No funds have been withdrawn from DPI's capital works program for 1996/97. Therefore no projects have been deferred or abandoned.

The reason that expenditure was less than 50% at the end of December is that the more expensive construction stage of a number of projects was in the second half of the financial year.

179. Environment Department, Capital Works Projects

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Environment (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 28.8 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97): The Coalition Government faces a major challenge in bringing National Park facilities up to a satisfactory standard, because the Labor Government did not match its increased acquisition for the National Park estate with a matching increase in funds for management and facilities for our parks. A specific initiative of the Department in 1996-97 was to increase funding for park management.

No funds have been lost from the Department of Environment capital works program for 1996-97.

In fact, that program has benefited significantly from the \$56m reallocation of funds announced by the Premier. An additional \$2m has been provided to the Department of Environment for projects on, or relating to, the provision of infrastructure on national parks.

180. Police, Corrective Services and Racing Portfolio, Capital Works Projects

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 36.5 per cent of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Cooper (18/4/97): No projects have been deferred or abandoned. Historically, amounts of \$130-180m of capital works expenditure across government have been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the State.

181. Electricity Generating Station, North Queensland

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that while industry and community development organisations are relieved that two gas-fired, peak-load electricity generating stations are to be installed in Townsville—

- (1) Is he concerned that there is still widespread concern about the lack of commitment to a base-load coal-fired station for the region?
- (2) Is he aware that community leaders in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay are collectively calling for the abandonment of parochial considerations in their joint effort to secure a commitment for a base-load station for North Queensland?
- (3) Is the Government giving any serious consideration for a base-load electricity generating station in North Queensland; if so, what is the time table?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97):

1. As you would be aware, on 17 December 1996 I announced a series of reform initiatives aimed at ensuring the delivery of low cost power throughout the State. These reforms will allow investors and industry participants to determine when and where to build new power stations.

- (a) I am not concerned by the alleged lack of commitment to a new base-load power station in the region. The Queensland Government has been approached by a wide range of parties interested in investing in new base-load stations in Queensland (in particular in North Queensland).
- (b) There will be sufficient time for the establishment of base-load capacity once the rules for market participation have been finalised later this year. The announcement of the industry structure, market rules and, the establishment of an interim Queensland market, will provide the commercial environment necessary for companies already considering power station development.

2. I am aware that the community leaders in Cairns, Townsville and, Mackay are cooperating to establish base-load capacity in North Queensland. This political support has focused attention in the region

and could provide a means of facilitating investment for a new base-load project.

- (a) Similarly, the State Government is facilitating and undertaking the development of local infrastructure projects (such as gas, rail and, water) which provides a strong basis for development of large scale projects and assists the economic development of the region.

3. As I have mentioned, the Government is confident that a competitive market will bring forward new generation capacity ahead of requirements. Therefore, the Queensland Government does not intend to conduct another bidding round nor directly finance new base-load capacity in Queensland.

182. Mines and Energy Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 44.9 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Gilmore (11/4/97): The Department's expenditure on capital works at the end of December was consistent with its forecast cash flows. No DME projects have been deferred or abandoned. In fact, the Department has received additional funds to accelerate three projects.

183. Premier's Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 38.1 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that he has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of his decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Borbidge (21/4/97): Responding to the question to each Minister regarding capital works expenditure, no projects have been deferred or abandoned.

Historically amounts of \$130-180M of capital works expenditure across government have been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the state.

184. Connolly/Ryan Inquiry

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (20/3/97)—

With reference to the Commission of Inquiry into the future role, structure, powers and operations of the Criminal Justice Commission—

- (1) As at 20 March, how much money has been allocated by the Queensland Government to the operation of the Commission of Inquiry?
- (2) In addition to the \$3,000 per day earned by both Commissioner Connolly and Commissioner Ryan, what other allowances and benefits do the Commissioners receive while the Commission of Inquiry sits?
- (3) Are Commissioners Connolly and Ryan continuing to receive their retired Judges pension whilst they are engaged by the Queensland Government to inquire into the CJC; if so, how much are retired judges pensions worth each year?
- (4) With respect to the Inquiry Legal Representation Office established late in 1996, how much money has been spent by this office on legal representation up to 20 March and to whom has funding been allocated by this office?

Mr Beanland (16/4/97):

(1) As at 28 February 1997 the Commission of Inquiry's budgeted cashflow for 1996/97 was \$3.672 million of which \$2.795 million was actually spent. At 31 March 1997 the progressive 1996/97 budgeted cashflow will be \$4.433 million of an annual allocation for 1996/97 of \$6.755 million.

(2) Commissioner Connolly QC receives secured off street parking as and when required. Commissioner Ryan QC receives no other allowances or benefits.

(3) Yes. \$103,350.00 per annum each. However, this situation is no different from other Inquiries where a retired Judge is Commissioner.

(4) \$42,500 has been spent up to and including 20 March 1997. This has been for the services of private lawyers. Funding has been allocated to persons who have received a certificate from Counsel Assisting an Inquiry to which the Inquiry Legal Representation Office extends and who come within the entitlement provided by the policy under which the Office operates. That policy has been published in the newspapers. Currently, the inquiries to which the policy applies are the Inquiry being conducted by Commissioners Connolly QC and Ryan QC and the Inquiry being conducted by Commissioner Carter QC. Funding has also been allocated, in accordance with the policy, to persons coming to the attention of either Inquiry and whose legal rights may, in the opinion of the Director of the Office, be affected. Up to and including 20 March 1997, 19 allocations of funding have been made for the provision of legal assistance by private lawyers. The identity of recipients is a confidential matter for the Inquiry Legal Representation Office.

185. Queensland Health, Capital Works Projects

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 24.5 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Horan (21/4/97): No capital funds have been withdrawn by the Government from the Queensland Health Capital Works Program requiring deferment or otherwise of any project listed for redevelopment.

186. Police, Corrective Services and Racing Portfolio, Capital Works Projects

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 37.7 per cent of the Police Department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Cooper (18/4/97): No projects have been deferred or abandoned. Historically, amounts of \$130-180m of capital works expenditure across government have been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the State.

187. Public Works and Housing Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 33.1 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Connor (21/4/97): No projects have been deferred or abandoned from my Department's capital

works program because of any special maintenance program.

188. Main Roads Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 44.5 per cent of the Main Road department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Johnson (21/4/97): The Premier has not withdrawn any Main Roads Capital Works funding in 1996-97.

The Department of Main Roads has not abandoned any projects published in the 1996-97 to 2000-01 Roads Implementation Program although, as would be expected, some project delays have occurred largely due to the extensive flooding throughout Queensland in recent months.

Notwithstanding, as at end of March 1997, Main Roads Capital Works expenditure is tracking \$10.8 million ahead of forecast, with approximately 67% of the Roads Program delivered to this point.

This Parliament should note that when the Coalition Government assumed power following Labor's reign, only 42% of the 1995-96 Roads Capital Works Budget had been spent for the eight-month period to end February 1996.

By comparison, for the same eight-month period to end February 1997, 56% of a significantly increased Roads Capital Works Budget had been delivered, which represents an extra \$136 million in roadworks undertaken throughout Queensland, compared to Labor's 1995-96 effort for the same period.

At this stage, Main Roads is confident that overall program and expenditure targets for the Roads Infrastructure Program, as outlined in the Roads Implementation Program, will be met.

Clearly, Main Roads will report on its performance and outline any major variations to the program in the 1997-98 to 2001-02 Roads Implementation Program which will be tabled in this Parliament in 1997-98 in accordance with established procedures.

189. Redcliffe Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (20/3/97)—

With reference to the closing of Ward 8 at Redcliffe Hospital—

- (1) How many jobs including casual and temporary staff were lost as a result of this decision?
- (2) Will there be further bed closures at this hospital?

Mr Horan (21/4/97):

(1) I am advised that no full time staff have lost their jobs and no temporary staff on contract have had their hours reduced or their contracts terminated. I am also advised that no casual staff have lost their positions, although, in the short term, the use of casuals may vary.

(2) Beds will be used and staffed as required to meet the needs of the people of Redcliffe and surrounding areas.

190. Shorncliffe State School

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Education (20/3/97)—

With reference to his decision made on the 18 September 1996, for the compulsory acquisition of a property adjoining the Shorncliffe State School in Yundah Street, Shorncliffe—

- (1) When will the buildings on that land be removed?
- (2) When will work commence to enhance the land to provide for the needs of the Shorncliffe school community?
- (3) What is the approximate timeframe for the completion of the project?
- (4) What is the approximate cost involved in the acquisition of the land, and what is the cost to modify the land for the use for which it was acquired?

Mr Quinn (17/4/97): (1), (2), (3) & (4) The acquisition of the land in Jundah Street, Shorncliffe, was settled on 11 April 1997. Correspondence from the Department of Public Works and Housing, confirming this settlement, was written on 15 April 1997.

It is my understanding that the purchase price for this property was \$200,000. Given that ownership has now been confirmed, Education Queensland can proceed to arrange for any necessary improvements.

191. Quarry, Glasshouse Mountains

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/3/97)—

With reference to recent media reports of an imminent rock fall from one of the Glasshouse Mountains—

- (1) Has he received reports that blasting from the existing Excel quarry in the area has resulted in minor rock falls from Mt Coonowrin?
- (2) Does he believe that expanding this quarry with the consequent increased blasting could hasten the fall of this prominent feature, and as such, should be considered in any approval of the quarry expansion?
- (3) Could any other of the Glasshouse Mountains peaks be similarly endangered by this increased blasting?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97): (1), (2) and (3) Matters concerning the Excel Quarries Pty Ltd quarry at Glasshouse are currently before the Planning and

Environment Court. I am, therefore, not in a position to offer comment.

192. Currawinya National Park

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (20/3/97)—

With reference to plans by his department to introduce bilbies to Currawinya National Park near Hungerford in south west Queensland—

- (1) Where will these animals be sourced from and will they be wild caught or captive bred?
- (2) What funding has been set aside for this work both capital and recurrent?
- (3) Was this introduction a recommendation of the Bilby Recovery Team?
- (4) Why was Currawinya selected for the introduction and what scientific evidence exists to show that bilbies once inhabited this park?
- (5) How many bilbies will be introduced to the park and in what fashion?
- (6) What feral animal control program is planned to coincide with the release?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97): Currawinya National Park in south-west Queensland has been identified in the national recovery plan for the Bilby as a potential site for future introduction of the species.

(1) Captive bred animals would be used for any such reintroduction with animals to be sourced from a number of breeding populations to be developed under the captive breeding plan currently being formulated for the species. Captive stock currently maintained at the Department's Charleville office would be the founder stock for this breeding program.

(2) No funding has been allocated as a decision to proceed with such a program will rely on information derived from current monitoring and research programs being conducted by the Department on extant Bilby populations at Astrebla Downs National Park. Implementation of such a program would not be expected to proceed until elements of current programs are finalised during 1998.

(3) Yes.

(4) Currawinya National Park was identified as a potential site for future reintroduction of the Bilby for a number of reasons. There are historical records indicating that bilbies previously occurred in the area. The area is a gazetted national park and hence its management is vested in the Department and a permanent ranger staff is based at the park. Feral animal control programs are currently conducted on the park. The site is well situated in relation to the current captive breeding facility at Charleville. Habitat areas thought to be favoured by Bilbies are present at the site and levels of disturbance are relatively low.

(5) As previously indicated, no detailed release strategy exists at this time. The Department is currently engaged in a cooperative research program with the Centre of Conservation Biology at Queensland University to develop population models

for several endangered species including the Bilby. The preliminary results from this program indicate that a single introduction of between 30-50 individual animals stands the greatest chance of success. These models will be refined and further information drawn from similar studies in the Northern Territory and South Australia.

The animals would likely be initially released into a large enclosure which would be developed at the site. Following intensive monitoring of these animals and the levels of predators in the surrounding environment the animals would be released to free range. All released animals would be intensively monitored using telemetry techniques similar to those currently being used in the Department's reintroduction program for the endangered Bridled Naitail Wallaby.

(6) There is already an active feral animal control effort associated with the management of Currawinya National Park. Evidence from other reintroductions has shown that foxes and feral cats can impact severely on small introduced populations and hence additional control programs targeting these species would be put in place well before any release was undertaken.

193. Natural Heritage Trust

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (20/3/97)—

With reference to the Federal Government's recently announced \$106m National Heritage Trust funding for marine issues—

- (1) What portion of this funding will be coming to Queensland and over what time frame?
- (2) Which projects and to where will this funding be directed?
- (3) Who will be determining which projects receive funding?
- (4) Will he give a guarantee that the Environment Department budget will not be cut in the coming budget and then supplemented with funding from this fund?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97):

(1) and (2) The arrangements for funding under the Coasts and Clear Seas components of the Natural Heritage Trust are still being finalised. At this time it is not possible to provide details on the level of funding available to Queensland as no detailed submission for funding will be requested until administrative arrangements are finalised by the Commonwealth. However, I expect that Queensland will share equitably in the funding when it becomes available.

(3) With respect to project funding, I understand that under the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Bill, the Natural Heritage Board will make the final decision on project funding.

(4) The Department of Environment budget will be considered along with the requirements of all Departments in formulating the State's budget. Any funding through the Natural Heritage Trust will be subject to further negotiation and decisions by the Commonwealth Government.

194. Cypress Pine Industry

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (20/3/97)—

Is he planning to privatise the cypress pine forest public log resource, making a gift of millions of dollars to lessees at the expense of the public purse and the sustainability of the cypress timber industry?

Mr Hobbs (10/4/97): In August 1993, following submission by the Queensland Landcare Council, the previous Government approved a review to be undertaken of policy applying to cypress pine resources on leasehold land.

The review involved the preparation of a policy options paper and then a public consultation process which involved direct contact with all stakeholders, newspaper and radio advertisements, media liaison, public displays, some public meetings and a feedback questionnaire. The closing date for submissions was 13 December 1996.

A total of 77 submissions were received from leaseholders (73%), timber processors (8%), community groups, including landcare and conservation groups (9%) and government agencies (10%). The most favoured options involved the transfer of some timber rights from Government to lessees. This is understandable as the majority of responses were from leaseholders.

There is, however, a significant part of the community which did not support the transfer of timber rights particularly in the core timber production areas.

At this stage the Government has not finalised its position on this matter.

The policy development process will take account of all of the viewpoints received and every effort will be made to develop an option which gives the greatest economic benefit for the community while ensuring the sustainable use of the resource.

195. Emergency Services Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 11.9 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Veivers (17/4/97): Responding to the question regarding capital works expenditure: no projects have been deferred or abandoned.

Historically, amounts of \$130-180m of capital works expenditure across government have been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more

effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the State.

196. Justice Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 4.1 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Beanland (16/4/97): I advise that there have been no projects from my department's capital works program for 1996-97 that have been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds.

197. Natural Resources Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 33.1 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Hobbs (10/4/97): No capital projects have been deferred or abandoned.

Historically, capital works expenditure across Government has been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the State.

198. Training and Industrial Relations Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr BRADDY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 39.7 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or

abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Santoro (21/4/97): Responding to the question to each Minister regarding capital works expenditure, no projects have been deferred or abandoned.

Historically amounts of \$130-180M of capital works expenditure across government have been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the state.

199. Woodward Bay Development

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (20/3/97)—

With reference to the Premier's approval for an extension of the November 1996 sunset clause under the agreement for the development of the Woodward Bay tourist resort—

- (1) Was he consulted regarding the decision to extend the permit for development; if not, why not?
- (2) What role has he or his department played in helping secure finance for this project?
- (3) Did he in Parliament in September 1993, raise concerns that the developer Kumagai Gumi "has been reported in the press to have financial difficulties"?
- (4) What steps has he taken to assess the veracity of these claims now that he is the Minister?
- (5) Did he also state in Parliament in 1993 that: "there have been reports of Kumagai Gumi having possible criminal connections—reports that the company may have close connections with the Japanese crime organisations, the Yakuza"?
- (6) Does he still hold these concerns or suspicions; if so, why has the Government granted an extension of time within which to allow the development to proceed?
- (7) Is he has satisfied himself that these alleged "criminal connections" are not true, what investigations has he made to reach such a view?
- (8) Will he table the results of the investigation conducted into his previous claims?
- (9) If no such investigation was undertaken, why not and how is the extension now justified?
- (10) Were his claims in 1993 merely cynical political scare mongering aimed at smearing the previous Labor Government; if not, why did he raise the allegations?
- (11) Does he now resile from these malicious slurs made under parliamentary privilege?

Mr Slack (21/4/97):

- (1) On 12 November 1996, Whitsunday Peninsula Pty Ltd (WPPL) wrote to the Government in accordance

with the provisions of the Land Tenure Deed seeking an Extension to the Commencement Date of Stage I of the project.

At that time, consultation occurred between officers of my Department, Crown Law, the Department of Environment and the Office of the Co-ordinator General.

Subsequently, the Premier announced in Parliament (26 November 1996) (see attached) that he had informed the proposed developers that a further six month extension had been granted.

(2) The Department of Economic Development and Trade regularly received inquiries from overseas and on-shore investors about appropriate investment vehicles in the areas of tourism/development and has referred many inquiries to the Whitsunday area including the Woodward Bay development proposal. The company itself, through its bankers, HongkongBank of Australia, has also attempted to aggressively market the project to equity investors.

(3) As Mrs Bird would be aware from Hansard, I was quoting directly from a press report in the Courier-Mail (see details attached).

(4) I raised these issues in 1993 from intelligence reports as per Parliamentary Hansard (attached) and naturally expected that they would have been investigated by the Government of the day, as a matter of course.

(5) Refer to answer Question 4.

(6) The majority shareholder in the development may not ultimately be Kumagai Gumi. It is the control of these high profile investments which is of importance to Australians. At present, the HongkongBank of Australia owns one third of the shares in WPPL with Kumagai Gumi holding the remaining two thirds.

I am given to understand that the company will begin an aggressive marketing campaign in the press in the near future calling for Expressions of Interest in the project. Given this, it may be that the entire project is sold or a substantial equity partner emerges.

(7) Refer to Answer 4.

(8) Refer to Answer 4.

(9) Refer to Answers 4 and 6.

(10) No—refer to Answer 4.

(11) As per 1993 Hansard (attached), my concerns were based on Criminal Intelligence Reports, genuinely made, and I completely reject your claims that they were malicious slurs made under parliamentary privilege.

200. FitzGerald Audit Report

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (20/3/97)—

With reference to the forthcoming Budget and her references on 20 March to the FitzGerald Audit Report—

(1) Which sections of the FitzGerald Audit Report are under consideration?

(2) Which departments are being required to review their functions with a view to possible statutory corporate or private status?

Mrs Sheldon (18/4/97):

(1) The Government has established the Audit Commission Implementation Office to oversee, prior to 30 June 1998, the consideration of all aspects of the FitzGerald Commission of Audit Report. Already, in the nine months since the Commission reported, the Government has adopted a wide range of its recommendations.

The central agencies are together developing new structures, policies, strategies and information systems designed to implement the leading edge Public Sector Management Framework recommended by the Commission of Audit.

A Red Tape Reduction Task Force has been established to review all regulations and their impact on business, with representation from the private sector and various Government agencies.

With respect to electricity the Government has announced it will split the Government-owned generator, AUSTA Electric, into three independent and competing entities. This will result in substantial savings for Queensland and provide significant scope for further private sector participation in the industry.

On the issue of rationalising the Commonwealth and State Roles and Responsibilities in Health and Community Services, an interdepartmental working group has been established to develop a whole of government approach to the reforms being considered by the Council of Australian Governments.

The Audit Commission Implementation Office has been working with the Department of Families, Youth and Community Services to lay the groundwork for an output based budget for the Department and an associated resource agreement.

The Government is considering the Commission of Audit proposal to sell surplus government land estimated to have a value of at least \$750 million—with the capital proceeds being reinvested in areas of higher need.

Queensland Treasury has worked with the other States to help develop an accounting standard on Financial Reporting by Governments which will apply from 1998-99. This will support the development and implementation of the Charter of Fiscal Responsibility recommended by the Commission of Audit.

The Government is moving its water operations to a more commercial footing and is to introduce tradeable water rights.

Arrangements have been put in place to corporatise all correctional facilities which in time will open them up to competition with the private sector.

Increased resource sharing between fire and ambulance services is under way with the development of joint communications centres and joint facilities in some new stations.

In November 1996, the Government announced that it would exit from ownership of the public abattoir system.

A telecommunications review has been completed and it recommended a framework for the efficient and effective management and delivery of Queensland wide telecommunications infrastructure and services.

The Government is currently assessing future ownership options for the TAB.

(2) The Commission of Audit made a series of recommendations in respect of corporatisation and possible privatisation of a number of Government functions, and the Audit Commission Implementation Office is currently further investigating these options. At this stage, the only decision taken by Government on these matters relates to the Queensland Abattoir Corporation, which is in the process of being privatised. However, no other decisions have been made in respect of these options at this stage, and any such decisions will be based on a comprehensive assessment of the benefits to Queensland.

There is currently only one candidate for corporatisation under the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993—the Golden Casket Lottery Corporation, which is scheduled for corporatisation on 1 July 1997. However, there will be two further candidates nominated shortly. WorkCover Queensland will be nominated as a candidate Government owned Corporation, and this is consistent with the findings of the Kennedy report. Also, a new entity, Queensland Corrections, which will undertake the delivery of corrective services in Queensland from 1st July 1997, will be nominated as a corporatisation candidate.

The TAB Board has commissioned a study by consultants Macquarie Corporate Finance into a range of critical issues relating to both their commercial business and to their relationship with the racing industry.

One issue that was addressed in the Macquarie report was whether existing ownership arrangements were best suited to enable TAB to continue its success in the face of a rapidly changing gaming market. To this extent, the report canvasses various ownership options. However, the Government has made no decision in respect of these options, or the other issues which the report addresses. Any decision will be made only after appropriate assessment of the facts, and consultation with the key stakeholders.

201. Tree-clearing Guidelines

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (20/3/97)—

With reference to last minute changes made to the tree clearing sections of the Federal Government's National Greenhouse Response Strategy—

- (1) What role did he and his department play in having this section altered and on what basis did he justify the changes?

- (2) Which other States requested changes to this section of the strategy?
- (3) Is he aware of the concerns these changes have caused amongst environmental groups and Green political branches statewide?
- (4) Can we now expect Queensland's Provisional Tree Clearing Policy to be similarly watered down and when can we expect finalisation of this policy?

Mr Hobbs (10/4/97):

- (1) The Queensland Government is committed to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD), and in accordance with these, is taking a balanced approach to the development of its Broadscale Tree Clearing Policy.

The document referred to is not the Federal Government's National Greenhouse Response Strategy but rather a draft discussion paper (without the imprimatur of Government at any level) which explores possible future directions for the strategy. I was not directly involved in the drafting of this discussion paper.

Naturally early drafts of such a paper would be expected to go through many editorial changes.

I understand that the reason Queensland Government officers suggested the editorial changes to the draft was because the text called for the introduction of tree clearing controls of the very type government had already agreed to introduce. Therefore the original wording was redundant.

- (2) I understand that officers from all other States agreed with the proposed editorial changes.

- (3) I am aware of some concern amongst environmental groups. However, any concerns that have arisen result from a misrepresentation of the situation by officials of the environmental movement, not by any statement by the Government.

The statements from the environmental movement were an attempt to influence the Commonwealth to limit Queensland's access to funding under the Natural Heritage Trust and need to be considered in that light.

I assure all stakeholders that the change to the text does not represent any change in Government policy. The Government is committed to developing a balanced and widely accepted policy on tree clearing. This policy is being developed in Queensland to recognise local conditions rather than being driven from Canberra.

- (4) The Preliminary Policy on Broadscale Tree Clearing of 18 December 1995 was compiled by representatives of the pastoral industry, the conservation movement, and the Departments of Environment, Natural Resources, and Primary Industries. This Preliminary Policy has subsequently been amended by the State Trees Group to address inconsistencies in the original document.

However, the basic thrust of the Policy towards sustainable land use and sustainable vegetation management has not changed. The approval process has been slowed down by the need for legal clarification of the impact of the Wik decision on the

development of both local tree clearing guidelines and the Broadscale Policy. Nevertheless, it is expected that the final policy document will be approved later this year.

202. Banyo Memorial Hall

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Natural Resources (20/3/97)—

With reference to the Banyo Memorial Hall, a property which is owned by the Department of Natural Resources, and which is the only significant facility of its type available for use by schools and community groups in the Banyo, Nudgee and Virginia East District and given the need for necessary repairs such as re-stumping, repainting, general interior refurbishment and new toilets and the total lack of hall facilities at local State schools—

Will he allocate the necessary funds to undertake this work to enable the facility to continue to serve the needs of these communities?

Mr Hobbs (16/4/97): As a result of a public meeting arranged by yourself and attended by Departmental officers five local community organisations indicated that they may be interested in forming a working group to take control of the hall. As you are aware the Department of Natural Resources is presently acting as trustee, in contradiction of Departmental policy, in order to temporarily fill the administrative black hole facing the property due to the forfeiture of trusteeship by the Nundah and District Youth Club and the lack of appropriate Trustee applications from the time of forfeiture.

It is the Department's intention to continue to support the community's desire to regain trusteeship. In line with this the Department has commissioned a consulting engineer to compile a report determining what is required to restore a building to the local community that is safe and suitable to use. It is my understanding that the Department will convene a meeting with you and interested parties on receipt of this report.

203. Rail Line, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/3/97)—

Will he immediately (a) institute noise monitoring for the residents of Norman Park, Morningside, Cannon Hill, Murarrie and Hemmant to assess if Queensland Rail comply with environmental noise levels, (b) instruct Queensland Rail to build the promised noise barriers on this line, (c) institute dust monitoring to assess the coal dust problem on this line and (d) instruct Queensland Rail to cover coal wagons travelling through residential areas?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(a) There are currently no statutory environmental noise levels that Queensland Rail corridor operations are required to comply with.

Extensive noise monitoring has been undertaken along the Cleveland corridor and includes locations

in Norman Park, Morningside, Cannon Hill, Murarrie and Hemmant. No additional noise monitoring will occur at this stage. Monitoring is planned once the noise barrier construction has been completed and the operation of the line to Fisherman Islands is fully implemented.

(b) As Mr Purcell has been previously advised by Queensland Rail, Queensland Rail is proceeding with the construction of the noise barriers along the standard gauge line from Yeerongpilly to Fisherman Islands. The barrier construction went out to tender in January 1997 and Queensland Rail is currently evaluating the tenders received. The construction program will be determined following the awarding of the contract. The contract is expected to be awarded during April 1997.

(c) Initial study on the coal dust along the corridor was completed by Queensland Rail in 1994/95. Queensland Rail is currently reviewing the appropriateness of a monitoring program along this corridor.

In 1992 to 1993 a group comprising of the Gladstone City Council, Department of Environment, Queensland Electricity Commission, Queensland Rail and Coal Companies engaged a consultant to monitor coal dust in the Gladstone area. This study found that the air in Gladstone is within recognised health standards. 23 million tonnes per year of coal are hauled by Queensland Rail in Gladstone. 3 million tonnes of coal are hauled by Queensland Rail from the West Moreton coal fields.

(d) Queensland Rail will not be covering its coal wagons whilst hauling coal.

Most coal hauling railways around the world do not cover their wagons.

Equipping wagons with covers would result in a significant increase in the tare weight of the wagon as well as a significant increase in the capital, operating and maintenance costs of the wagons. In addition the existing wagon design is not compatible with covering and major capital expenditure would be required to introduce or modify wagons capable of being covered.

The need to stop trains to cover and uncover the wagons would result in a longer turn around time. To meet customer demands this would require more rollingstock to be purchased to haul the same tonnage.

Should any modifications be undertaken or an increase in the rollingstock fleet, the cost of this must be met by the coal companies through increasing the coal hauling rate. The Government directive is to reduce the coal hauling rate.

In addition to increasing the coal hauling rate, such measures will not meet Queensland Rail's customers demand for a cost effective, timely delivery of coal to the Ports as well as having the potential to jeopardise Queensland's international coal market.

Due to the considerable funds involved in covering wagons as well as the results of Gladstone coal dust study, the covering of wagons is not considered appropriate.

204. Education Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 22.8 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that he has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Quinn (17/4/97): With respect to this question, no capital works projects have been deferred or abandoned by Education Queensland.

Historically amounts of \$130-180 million of capital works expenditure across government have been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the state.

205. Woodford Correctional Centre

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (20/3/97)—

With reference to union reports that inmates at the new Woodford prison are likely to riot shortly in opposition to the smoking ban at this prison—

- (1) Is he aware of these warnings; if so, what is he doing to address them?
- (2) As he is on the record as opposing the ban, should we assume that he has little input into decision making by the Corrective Services Commission?
- (3) Was a recent fire at the Sir David Longland gaol at Wacol started by inmates protesting at imminent plans to transfer them to the smoke free Woodford prison?
- (4) Is he satisfied that staff at the Woodford prison are adequately equipped to handle such a riot if it occurs?
- (5) How many professional staff have refused to enter the complex to teach classes out of fear of a possible riot?
- (6) Why couldn't smoking be allowed in open-air areas but prohibited in air conditioned enclosed areas?

Mr Cooper (16/4/97):

- (1) Yes, and they were passed on to the proper authorities, the Queensland Corrective Services Commission.
- (2) The original decision was taken during the time of the previous Labor Government so perhaps the Honourable member may wish to direct this part of his question to his colleague, Mr Braddy. When the

decision came to my attention after being appointed Minister, I asked the Board of the QCSC to re-examine the matter. They did this and on the basis of considerable research, decided to pursue the original decision.

(3) While the unit housed 13 inmates scheduled for transfer to Woodford, there was no hard evidence as opposed to anecdotal speculation to suggest that there was a relationship between the fire at the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre and the smoke free environment at Woodford Correctional Centre.

(4) It was considered, at the time, that the threat of organised prisoner unrest at Woodford Correctional Centre had been substantially reduced with the decision by the QCSC Board to modify the smoking ban and allow smoking in designated outdoor areas.

Since the Honourable member asked his question, a riot has occurred at Woodford Correctional Centre. Independent investigators are now investigating a range of matters including the point raised in this section of the question.

(5) None.

(6) See response to question (4).

206. Counselling Services, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (20/3/97)—

With reference to a report in the Newsmail of 20 March in which a spokesperson for the Bundaberg Area Sexual Assault Service said they received about 200 telephone calls in 1996 from parents wanting help for their sexually abused children and that a mother of a paedophile victim said there were no counselling services available for her daughter—

Will he take immediate action to provide counselling services in Bundaberg for paedophile victims?

Mr Lingard (9/4/97): There are two Family Support Workers located in Bundaberg based with Peirson Memorial Trust and Lifeline. In addition, I have recently approved allocation of a further \$45,455 to Centacare Bundaberg to employ a Family Support Worker to assist in meeting growing demands in the Bundaberg area.

207. Health Facility, Woorabinda

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (20/3/97)—

- (1) What is the Coalition Governments commitment to the construction of a new health facility in the aboriginal community of Woorabinda located west of Rockhampton for the Fitzroy electorate?
- (2) Has a timeframe for the planning and construction of the health facility been finalised; if so, when will construction begin and when is the facility expected to be completed and does the new facility include nursing staff accommodation?

Mr Horan (21/4/97):

(1) The Coalition Government is fully committed to the construction of new health facilities at Woorabinda. An indicative figure of \$5 million has

been allocated to the project. Advice on this project was provided to the Honourable Member in January 1997.

(2) A Project Director has recently been appointed to coordinate and manage all activities associated with the project. Recent visits have been made to Woorabinda by senior officers accompanied by the District Manager. A management team to develop plans is expected to be appointed within the next month. Following assessment of all aspects relating to the redevelopment, I will then be in a position to provide a firm timeframe. Staff accommodation also forms part of the proposed redevelopment.

208. Public Housing, Acacia Ridge/Coopers Plains

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (20/3/97)—

With reference to public housing which was uneconomic to repair and has been demolished in Acacia Ridge and Coopers Plains to be replaced by unit buildings and now present as vacant allotments—

When will these urgently needed residential units be erected?

Mr Connor (21/4/97): The construction of five (5) small lot detached houses (4 x 2br and 1 x 3br) on a site in Coopers Plains is scheduled as part of the 1996/97 Capital Works Program. Other sites in Coopers Plains are being considered for inclusion in a redevelopment plan. In Acacia Ridge, a three-bedroom purpose built detached house was constructed for a disability client as part of the 1996/97 Capital Works Program. It has been tenanted.

Another site in Acacia Ridge has been scheduled in the draft 1997/98 Capital Works Program for the construction of eleven (11) seniors' units.

Several sites in Acacia Ridge are subject to Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) restrictions and the Department is considering alternative uses for the sites.

209. Irvinebank State Treatment Works

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/3/97)—

What is proposed in respect of Irvinebank and when does he expect the issues to be finalised?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97): I assume that Mr De Lacy is referring to the sale of the State Treatment Works at Irvinebank. Even though the Irvinebank State Treatment Works (Sale and Operations) Act was proclaimed on 20 October 1990, my investigations proved that there had been no real progress made in finalising the sale to the prospective purchaser, Mr Frank Hilla under the previous Government. It soon became obvious to me that the sale could not be negotiated to conclusion because of a number of differences that had developed between Departmental Officers and Mr Hilla. I want to see this matter finished with once

and for all. That is why I have taken the initial steps to engage an independent expert to arbitrate a solution.

210. Caboolture Dental Clinic

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (20/3/97)—

- (1) What was the wait time for treatment and the number of people requiring dental treatment at Caboolture Dental Clinic at 28 February?
- (2) How does that compare to the number of people and the wait time for treatment at 31 August 1996?

Mr Horan (21/4/97): As at 28 February 1997, the number of people waiting was 3771. In comparison to the figures as at 31 August 1996, the number of people waiting has also decreased (as has the waiting time) from 4311.

In order to tackle the appalling state of oral health services it found in Caboolture, a state over which the honourable member presided as health minister, the Borbidge Government has added an extra surgery to the Caboolture Dental Clinic. This surgery has been operational since January 1997. This will assist in further reducing waiting time for general dental treatment.

211. Electricity Supply, Daintree Region

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/3/97)—

With reference to letters from the Far North Queensland Electricity Board recently sent to property owners in Thornton Peak Drive, Daintree offering to extend mains power to these properties?

- (1) How many allotments are affected by this offer?
- (2) What is the total construction cost of the extension if all allotment owners apply for power?
- (3) What is the KVA capacity and form of extension contemplated (eg. SWER or aerial bundled conductor) and over what distances?
- (4) What are the terms of the offer of supply?
- (5) Is any access fee in addition to supply charges or is the access fee a minimum guarantee of usage?
- (6) What assessment of environmental impacts has been undertaken in respect of this extension?
- (7) Which of the properties offered supply have an approved dwelling constructed on them?
- (8) How many properties are already connected to mains power in Forest Creek and in Thornton Peak Drive?
- (9) What is the full commercial cost per kw of delivered power to these existing and any new connections?
- (10) What amount of annual CSO payments will the Far North Queensland Electricity Board seek to supply these connections north of the Daintree River?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97): I refer to the Honourable member's question on notice in relation to the Far North Queensland Electricity Board's recent offer to provide power to property owners in Thornton Peak Drive, Daintree.

The Honourable member has sought a range of very specific and even technical information which I am not, at this time, in a position to quickly provide. I have referred the Honourable member's questions to my Department and to the FNQEB for the specific details.

The Honourable member will be aware that as a result of Cyclone Justin, Cairns is now a natural disaster area and the FNQEB's first priority is restoration of power. Accordingly, I cannot say how quickly the FNQEB can provide the specific details sought by the Honourable member.

Nevertheless, I can say that I will provide him with the information he has sought as soon as is practicable.

212. Energy Management Task Force

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/3/97)—

- (1) Is he aware of the work of the Commonwealth Energy Management Task Force of which Queensland was a member?
- (2) What are the functions of the task force?
- (3) Is any aspect of its work likely to be of any benefit to Queensland?
- (4) Is it the case that Queensland has ceased to be a participant in the task force; if so, when did Queensland's involvement cease and for what reason?
- (5) What role does he consider the Government has in energy management other than demand management using off-peak hot water tariffs?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97):

(1) Yes, I am aware of the Commonwealth's Energy Management Task Force (EMTF), an initiative of the Australia and New Zealand Minerals and Energy Council (ANZMEC).

(2) The EMTF was created to assist ANZMEC to achieve its objectives in relation to the National Greenhouse Response Strategy as effectively and economically as possible, and to maximise the benefits to the Australian community from the more efficient use of energy. In discharging this role, EMTF:

provides advice on the most effective national strategy for various energy efficiency programs
investigates, develops and refines energy efficiency programs

considers the relative greenhouse gas and environmental impacts of delivered energy forms

monitors trends in energy efficiency

undertakes investigations and provides advice on ANZMEC directives

(3) There are a number of aspects of the work of EMTF that could be of benefit to Queensland but I would inform the Honourable Member that EMTF itself is planning a review of its activities and modes of program delivery, deriving from concerns in the membership that these are not functioning as well as one would expect, particularly what are deemed to be the long lead times for completion of initiatives, and that there may be better ways to undertake the work of EMTF.

(4) I am able to inform the Honourable Member that Queensland continues to be represented on that Task Force although funding issues are yet to be resolved. Whilst Queensland remains committed to ANZMEC I believe that it is prudent to periodically review the basis of our involvement in initiatives such as EMTF to ensure that the programs and activities are focused, cost-effective and consistent with Queensland's strategic energy policy and initiatives framework.

(5) I would advise that my Department is also an active contributor to the national policy initiatives currently under way in relation to National Sustainable Energy Policy and the revised National Greenhouse Response Strategy. In this regard I would expect that Queensland will soon give formal consideration to the range of revised initiatives suggested as part of Australia's contribution to a more efficient, environmentally benign use of energy in our national lifestyle. In this context Queensland's role in energy management initiatives in the future will be based on a sensible and prudent assessment of the environmental and cost effectiveness of such measures, linked closely to Queensland's ongoing participation in the aforementioned national policy initiatives.

213. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Capital Works Projects

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (20/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that as at the end of December 1996, only 21.5 per cent of his department's capital works budget had been spent, and further that the Premier has now withdrawn \$56m from the Government's capital works program to pay for a special maintenance program—

Which projects on his department's capital works program for 1996-97 have now been deferred or abandoned because of the Premier's decision to reallocate these funds?

Mr Lingard (7/4/97): Responding to the question regarding capital works expenditure, no projects have been deferred or abandoned.

Historically amounts of \$130-180M of capital works expenditure across government have been carried forward to the next financial year due to unavoidable project delays. The Government's initiative in advancing additional projects provides for more effective use of these funds and is consistent with the development of a rolling capital works program for the state.

214. Hospital Facilities, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Health (20/3/97)—

With reference to hospital facilities in the Lytton Electorate and the expansion of the Redland Hospital—

- (1) How many residents of the Lytton Electorate attended the Princess Alexandra Hospital Specialist Outpatient Clinic in the last year?
- (2) What number of residents of the Lytton Electorate are expected to make use of specialist outpatient facilities at the Redland Hospital?
- (3) What actions has his department undertaken or will the Government undertake to improve public transport between Wynnum, Manly and Lota and the Redland Hospital?
- (4) Will he undertake to urgently investigate the provision of a specialist outpatient clinic at the Wynnum hospital so as to provide a convenient local service to Lytton residents?

Mr Horan (21/4/97):

(1 & 2) Queensland Health does not, nor does it intend to, base its information systems on patients' electoral registration—so the information you seek is not available.

(3) My department has provided the relevant agencies with the information they require to address this issue. Queensland Health will continue to assist these agencies in whatever way possible.

(4) The consideration of the role of hospitals such as Wynnum Hospital is part of the Capital Works Program.

215. Queensland Rail, Tender CEC 824

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/3/97)—

With reference to the awarding of tender CEC824 by Queensland Rail, noting that he has received correspondence on this matter from one of the tendering contractors—

- (1) Will he satisfy himself that proper procedures are being adhered to in the awarding of this contract?
- (2) Will he request Queensland Rail to put the awarding of this contract on hold until this matter has been thoroughly investigated?
- (3) Will he make public the circumstances of how and why Queensland Rail accepted a late tender?
- (4) Does he recognise that Queensland businesses could lose confidence in the tendering process of Government departments and agencies when a contract can be awarded to a new \$2 company, without Quality Assurance, with a director having a history of poor payments to the Workers' Compensation Board, while stable, experienced, Quality Assured Queensland firms are losing contracts under what seems to be the sole criterion of "cheapest, under any conditions"?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(1) I have already investigated this matter following receipt of correspondence and am satisfied that proper procedures are being adhered to.

(2) No, as I have already investigated this matter and am satisfied that Queensland Rail acted in good faith in accordance with its Conditions of Tendering and that the tender process was not compromised in any way.

(3) In this instance the tender was received approximately two to three minutes after the official closing time of 2.00pm Tuesday 18 February 1997. None of the tenderers had left the floor where the opening occurred prior to the tender being delivered.

As the tender was in a sealed envelope and in the hands of Queensland Rail personnel less than three minutes after the official closing time and while the tender opening was still in process, it was determined that the tender process would not be compromised in any way if the tender was accepted for consideration. All of the tenderers present at the opening were also present when the price tendered was read out

Queensland Rail's Conditions of Tendering allows it the flexibility to consider a tender which may not have been lodged by the precise closing time but was despatched in sufficient time to reach the address for lodging of tenders within the specified period.

As I previously mentioned, I am satisfied that Queensland Rail acted in good faith and no impropriety took place. Additionally, Queensland Rail has received legal advice to ensure its actions in this case are neither illegal or improper.

(4) All tenderers were pre-registered for this contract having satisfied normal pre-registration criteria. At this stage a contract has not been awarded for Contract No. CE.C824. Queensland Rail is currently undertaking a full evaluation of all tenders received and, as is its practice, will fully appraise itself of all issues involved, before awarding a contract. Never has cheapest, under any conditions been the sole criterion in Queensland Rail's evaluation procedures.

216. Ms D. Maw

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (25/3/97)—

With reference to an article on 23 March in the Sunday Mail wherein it stated in respect to the Ms Maw fraud case that—

"The previous Labor Government eventually accepted blame for the fraud committed on its new paperless title system . . ."

Will he now also acknowledge, for the sake of completeness and the public record, that (a) the compensation payment to Ms Maw was paid by the previous Government as soon as legally possible and could not, in fact, be legally paid prior to the receipt of the police report on the matter and (b) the fraud committed had absolutely nothing to do with the automated titling system introduced by the Goss Government?

Mr Hobbs (16/4/97):

(1) A review of the actions surrounding the fraudulent mortgage that was registered against a home owned by Ms Maw has shown that all actions taken to date have been undertaken in a timely manner and in keeping with the law.

(2) There were initial perceptions in the community that the Automated Titles System had in some way assisted or contributed to this fraud. However, as with other crimes, a level of land title fraud has occurred for many years including before the Automated Titles System when the freehold land register was maintained in a paper format. While the community's perception that the Automated Titles System had in some way contributed to the fraud, this is now known to be incorrect.

217. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (25/3/97)—

With reference to her responsibility for overall budget management—

For each department and agency (a) what proportion of their current (1996-97) budget was expended as at 28 February 1997, (b) what proportion of their capital (1996-97) budget was expended as at 28 February 1997 and (c) what proportion of their total (1996-97) budget was expended as at 28 February 1997?

Mrs Sheldon (23/4/97): Data on Consolidated Fund current and capital budgets expended as at 28 February is provided in the following table:

Department	Capital Exp. % Original Budget	Current Exp. % Original Budget	Total Exp % Original Budget
Education	48.0	68.6	66.8
Electoral Commission	n.a.	65.5	65.5
Environment	38.1	58.1	53.6
Emergency Services	15.1	71.0	69.6
Economic Development & Trade	68.9	59.0	59.1
Families, Youth & Community Care	30.3	63.1	61.9
Office of the Governor	72.7	65.0	65.8
Health	34.5	64.2	61.7
Justice	7.0	63.0	52.9
Legislative Assembly	70.8	64.4	64.6
Local Government & Planning	n.a.	51.0	51.0
Main Roads	61.3	63.6	61.6
Mines & Energy	51.9	67.0	66.6
Natural Resources	40.1	60.7	54.8
Ombudsman	n.a.	62.4	62.4
Police	45.9	68.2	66.8
Premier & Cabinet	38.3	65.8	60.2
Primary Industries, Fisheries & Forestry	37.4	62.0	60.3
Public Works & Housing	42.9	60.4	51.6
Queensland Audit Office	n.a.	65.9	65.9
Queensland Corrective Services Commission	40.3	67.2	58.3
Tourism, Small Business & Industry	n.a.	78.4	78.4
Training & Industrial Relations	48.5	64.9	63.4
Transport	12.5	70.8	68.4
Treasury	87.8	92.4	92.3
TOTAL	48.6	68.6	65.3

218. Toyota Fishing Classic

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (25/3/97)—

With reference to his announcement of the relocation of the Toyota Fishing Classic, from the Eurong Resort in the south of Fraser Island back to Orchid Beach in the north—

- (1) What role did he, his office, or his department play in negotiations with the Toyota company over this move?
- (2) What role did the Minister for the Environment play in these negotiations; if none, why not, considering the area is largely World Heritage listed national park?

- (3) How much was Mr Keith Leach paid to buy out his interest in this event, and were any Government funds involved in this buy out?
- (4) Does he believe a week-long exploitation of an area's natural resources by in excess of 1,000 people conforms with the philosophies embodied in the management of wilderness zoned, World Heritage listed national park, which the northern part of Fraser Island is?
- (5) Is he aware that this fishing classic has in past years taken as many as 129,000 fish in a single year's event totalling as much as 35.5 tonnes?
- (6) Was his only justification in supporting Toyota's move back to Orchid Beach the fact that

Toyota regard the event as its major Australian promotion for its range of 4WDs; if not, why did he back Toyota moving this event back to Orchid Beach?

Mr Borbidge (24/4/97):

- (1) A staff member in my office attended a meeting with representatives of the event organisers, Toyota.
- (2) The Minister for Environment was involved in discussions in respect of this matter.
- (3) No government funds were expended in respect of this matter.
- (4) I am advised by the Department of Environment that the Great Sandy Region Management plan which was released by the Government of which you were a member allows for an intensive recreation zone in the beach area to the northern limit of Eurong Beach, and a natural zone as far as Ngkala Rocks. That zone allows for relative access and a reasonable level of facilities. The Government has insisted, and Toyota has agreed, that the competition will not extend into the semi-remote and remote zones further north.
- (5) You should be aware that the event last year promoted a "catch and release" philosophy which will again be promoted this year. Fishing is a popular sporting and recreational pastime and unlike you, I believe that most anglers act in a responsible manner.
- (6) No. The reasons for the Government agreeing to move this event back to Orchid Beach can be summarised as follows: the event, and its significant economic benefits would have been lost to the State; the event had been held at Orchid Beach for more than a decade prior to your government forcing it to move to Eurong; the Government has reached agreement with Toyota to ensure that the competition will not extend into semi-remote and remote zones; Toyota has agreed to work closely with the officers of the Department of Environment to ensure that the natural values of the area can be protected; and this Government, unlike the previous government, supports fishing.

219. Community Recreation Centre, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

With reference to the high unemployment in the Maryborough district, currently running at 16.5 percent, and with youth unemployment the fourth highest in the country and youth suicide in the Wide Bay one of the highest in the nation —

Will he provide in the 1997-98 Budget \$1m towards a community recreation centre for Maryborough which was previously committed by the former Goss Labor Government and would (a) be geared towards youth activities, (b) be run by a youth committee, (c) help youth actively develop their own themes as part of the community and (d) go a long way to solving some of the youth problems in the area?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Dollin, I can advise as follows:

My Department has no record of any definite commitment of \$1 million to Maryborough for funding under the previous Government's Community Recreation Centres Program.

This Program, under the former Government, had no formal guidelines or application processes and was controlled by Mr Clem Jones who was appointed by the former Premier as the Chairperson of an Advisory Council reporting directly to Government. There was no formal call for expressions of interest in this Program, and it was completely controlled by Mr Clem Jones and the Advisory Council.

The Office of Sport and Recreation was not advised or provided with copies of many requests received by Mr Jones' office and commitments made by Mr Jones are unknown by my Department in relation to a Maryborough Recreation Centre.

No commitment has been made by this Government at this time for a Recreation Centre in Maryborough.

I have recently announced the release of the National Standard Sport Facilities Program which will fund major sport and recreation facilities development throughout Queensland. Guidelines and assistance is available to all applicants for this Program through the Office of Sport and Recreation.

220. State School Caretakers

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education (25/3/97)—

With reference to the on-going arson attacks on State schools around Queensland, including the recent attack on Algester State School, which still occur despite the best electronic devices being in use—

Will he give further consideration to the provision of housing on site for a staff member, who would fulfill the role of honorary caretaker?

Mr Quinn (17/4/97): The incidence of successful arson attacks in schools fitted with official electronic security systems has reduced since the introduction of such systems. State Government Security officers have prevented a total of 53 arson attempts to date, and have achieved an estimated \$10.8 million of resource and building savings. In many instances the early warning provided by the electronic devices in use was instrumental in the arson attempt being prevented.

The use of on-site caretakers in state schools has been given careful consideration by Education Queensland. On balance, the potential savings associated with such a proposal is outweighed by the potential costs. These costs include not only capital, but also the possibility of litigation. Consequently, at this time there is no intention to provide housing on site for caretakers.

221. Irvinebank State Treatment Works

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (25/3/97)—

- (1) What does the Government intend to do with the old State Treatment Works at Irvinebank?

- (2) Has Mr Hilla paid any money for this mill; if not, under what circumstances does he occupy the mill and buildings?
- (3) Who owns the Ibis Dam and is he aware that Mr Hilla creates the impression that he also owns the town water supply?
- (4) If the lease still belongs to the Department of Mines, why has Mr Hilla been able, for the last 13 years, to continue to collect rent from four houses?
- (5) Will this lease be made into a historic reserve for the benefit of all Queenslanders?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97):

1. As I recently explained to Mr De Lacy, I intend to finalise the sale of the Irvinebank State Treatment Works. Mr Hilla is the proposed purchaser and once agreement is reached with him, I will appoint an arbitrator to investigate and make recommendations to resolve all outstanding matters.
2. Mr Hilla has paid \$12,000 as deposit and \$860 as special lease fees.
3. The Ibis Dam is listed as one of the assets in the Sale Agreement. Under the Irvinebank State Treatment Works (Sale and Operations) Agreement, the State retains ownership of the assets until the sale is finalised. Also, at this point in time, the Department of Mines and Energy holds the Water Works Licence that covers the dam. As the proposed purchaser, Mr Hilla is exercising rights of occupation and may well be giving the impression that he owns the town water supply. However, I am certain that the people of Irvinebank and the Mareeba Shire Council are aware of the current situation that the sale has not been finalised.
4. No mining lease or special lease has been granted to date. However, as I explained for the previous question, Mr Hilla is in occupation of the Treatment works. The Schedule to the Sale Agreement lists a number of buildings and residences that are included within the Treatment Works area. It is appropriate then that any persons occupying those residences should pay rent.
5. The future of the Treatment Work's area depends on whether or not the sale agreement with Mr Hilla is successfully resolved. And, as I have already stated, I intend to do all in my power to resolve outstanding matters.

222. Firefighters

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that it is the present practice within the fire service that firemen are not kept at the one station for an extended period of time, but tend to be transferred from one station to another with comparatively short periods of service at each station—

- (1) Is he aware that this practice has significant consequences in terms of morale of the fire officers, as well as creating a situation in which the store of local knowledge in each fire unit is diminished, as well as creating a situation in

which fire officers are not necessarily completely familiar with the non-standard equipment which still remains in many fire stations?

- (2) Will he explain the reasons for this practice?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97):

(1) Morale within firefighter ranks of the QFRA has been significantly enhanced as a result of recent changes to the QFRA. Temporary or frequent transfers occur due to annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, compassionate leave and frequent movements for staff development and training.

I am aware that some movements occur to maintain experience and skill level with crews. The new QFRA partnership approach with the relevant industrial bodies will permit extensive consultation and negotiations in these areas.

(2) Firefighter movements to other fire stations, as much as possible include neighbouring fire stations. This has the added advantage of ensuring firefighters remain familiar with risks in these neighbouring areas. This is particularly useful since fire stations support mutual aid programs for emergency incidents.

223. Penalties and Sentences

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (25/3/97)—

- (1) How many offenders have been given 10 year or more sentences in Queensland in the last three years?
- (2) How many such sentences were handed out in Rockhampton Courts?
- (3) What percentage of overall sentences handed down in the Supreme and District Courts of Queensland in the last three years carried a 10 year or more penalty?

Mr Beanland (29/4/97):

(1) Data is not available for the 1993-94 financial year. However, figures are available for the 1994-95 and 1995-96 financial years as follows:

Year	Number Defendants Convicted	Sentence > 10 years
1994-95	5,421	90
1995-96	6,004	73

(2) From July 1994 to June 1996, four 10 year or more sentences were handed down by the Rockhampton Supreme and District Courts. One 10 year sentence was handed down for Armed Robbery, one life sentence for murder, one 13 year sentence for rape and one 12 year sentence for rape.

- (3) Refer to (1).

224. Genetically Altered Foods

Ms SPENCE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (25/3/97)—

With reference to the introduction of genetically altered foods into Australia—

- (1) What foodstuffs are currently on sale in Queensland that have been genetically altered and in what way have they been altered?
- (2) Which of these foods are labelled indicating they have been genetically altered and in which way are they labelled?
- (3) Will a second shipment of genetically engineered soya beans arrive in Queensland later this month, and in which foods will this shipment be used?
- (4) Which foodstuffs were manufactured from the shipment of genetically engineered soya beans that arrived in Queensland in December 1996 and in which parts of Queensland were these foodstuffs sold?
- (5) Is he satisfied that sufficient safeguards are in place regarding health risks these foods may pose to consumers?

Mr Beanland (16/4/97): (1-5) The introduction of genetically altered foods is a matter of considerable interest to me given my responsibility for consumer affairs and I recognise that this issue is a matter of growing interest in the wider community.

It is essential that sufficient safeguards are in place regarding health risks that these foods may pose to consumers and it is also essential that consumers have adequate information about such foods.

However, while I intend to maintain an interest in this issue to ensure that the interests of consumers are protected, the details sought by the Honourable Member can best be provided by my colleague the Honourable Trevor Perrett MLA, Minister for Primary Industries.

I would therefore suggest that the questions be referred to the Minister for Primary Industries.

225. Firefighting Equipment, Insurance Coverage

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

Under a brigade operation authorised by the brigade, is the personal equipment of that member (tractors/firefighting equipment etc.) covered by insurance whilst engaged in the fighting of that fire on his own freehold/leased property?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97): The management of fire within a person's property boundaries is the responsibility of that person and not of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority.

However, there may be times when coverage would be extended: for example, if the equipment in question was being used under the direction of the First Officer of the brigade. Any decision regarding coverage would be made by the Commissioner (Rural Operations) after an examination of all the circumstances of the incident.

226. Firefighting Equipment; Firefighters

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

Now that the name of the Queensland Fire Service has been changed to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, what additional dedicated rescue equipment has been purchased to enable fire fighters to undertake their newly emphasised rescue role; if none, what additional dedicated rescue equipment is it intended to obtain, and what additional training is to be made available to fire fighters?

Mr Veivers (18/4/97): The name change from Queensland Fire Service to Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority occurred mainly in recognition of the vastly increased role of the Queensland Fire Service, particularly in recent times, in road accident rescue. In this respect, Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is particularly well equipped across the whole of Queensland with Queensland Fire and Rescue staff operating at or above contemporary national fire service benchmarks.

In addition, a number of Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority officers are receiving training in 'Urban Search and Rescue' techniques and equipment. This will enable Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority to determine the most effective direction for the future introduction of Urban Search and Rescue capabilities to the service.

227. Firefighting Equipment, Subsidy

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

With reference to the termination of the subsidy to the rural fire services for equipment, appliances etc—

- (1) When was the subsidy terminated?
- (2) Is the termination intended to be permanent, or will subsidised equipment once more become available?
- (3) What were the reasons for terminating the subsidy?
- (4) Has he received complaints from rural fire brigades about their inability to purchase equipment without the subsidy?
- (5) What alternative plans does he have for ensuring fire safety in rural areas now that the rural fire service is unable to obtain the equipment and appliances that it needs?

Mr Veivers (18/4/97):

(1) No subsidies have been terminated and I am unsure as to what the Member is referring. I am advised that rural fire brigades have always requested equipment in quantities that are beyond the financial capability of the Rural Fire Division, or its predecessor the Rural Fire Board, to supply. This is an annual occurrence stretching back several decades.

(2) I refer the Member's attention to my previous answer.

(3) I refer the Member's attention to my previous answer.

(4) Many brigades have drawn my attention to their own lack of financial support and it is pleasing to note that local Councils now have the ability to strike a rural fire levy on behalf of their brigades. My

Government will continue to ensure that substantial amounts of equipment are able to be purchased at subsidised prices.

It is relevant to note that the recently introduced rural fire brigade classification system has seen a more equitable distribution of subsidised equipment throughout Queensland. Previously, most equipment was purchased by brigades in the south-east of the State. Now, all brigades throughout Queensland have equal access to equipment subsidies.

(5) As I have mentioned in my previous responses, no equipment subsidies have been cut. However, Queensland has always adopted pro-active fire management policies, specifically in regard to hazard reduction burning under the permit to burn system.

228. Ambulance Response Times

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

What was the average response time for ambulance in respect of (a) code 1 emergencies and (b) other call outs as at (i) March 1996 and (ii) March 1997 expressed in terms of the greater Brisbane region and the rest of Queensland separately as well as in terms of the overall Queensland figure if available?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97): The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) has introduced a Management information system known as Ambulance Integrated Management System (AIMS) as of 1 July 1995. The system stores a number of factors including the average response times for the three ambulance case codes. The data in the AIMS system derives from ambulance case records and the most up to date data held on the system is to December 1996 and therefore, average response times are not yet available for March 1997.

When this information is updated, I will make it available to the Honourable Member.

Average Response Times for the Month of MARCH 1996 (Minutes)

Grouping	Code 1	Code 2	Code 3
Whole of State	8.72	15.14	41.80
Brisbane Region Only	7.72	12.61	20.96
Whole of State excluding Brisbane Region	9.23	16.11	50.25

229. Rural Fire Service Fleet

Mr DE LACY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

Will he confirm that the rural fire service fleet includes 73 vehicles which are over 40 years old and 24 vehicles which are over 50 years old, while the vehicle replacement program for the rural fire service is being wound down by his department?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97): The Rural Fire Division has advised that there exist 24 vehicles aged at 50 years or older and a further 49 vehicles aged at 40 years or older.

The funds for a vehicle construction five year program were supplied by the former Government as part of the implementation of the recommendations of the Bush Fire Audit. I can confirm that the former Government scheduled that no funds were to be provided after 30 June 1999. The matter of funding for 1997/98 rural fire brigades is being examined as part of the budget process.

230. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

- (1) What advice has his department received concerning the legal position of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority as distinct from the legal position of the former Queensland Fire Service?
- (2) Specifically, has he received legal advice that the change from 'Service' to 'Authority', enables the Government to wash its hands of any, or some responsibility in the case of a legal action for negligence brought against him or the authority?

Mr Veivers (18/4/97):

(1) I, or my department have not received legal advice from the Crown Solicitor concerning the legal position of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority as distinct from the legal position of the former Queensland Fire Service. Specifically, I have not received legal advice that the change from 'Service' to 'Authority', enables the Government to wash its hands of any, or some responsibility in a case of a legal action for negligence brought against me or the Authority. Section 159 (1) of the Fire and Rescue Authority Act states:

"A legal proceeding that could have been started or continued by or against the commissioner or the fire service before the commencement may be started or continued by or against the authority."

This section allows any person with a claim against the former Queensland Fire Service or the Commissioner to bring or to continue that claim against the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority.

231. Ambulance Service

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

How many clients of the Queensland Ambulance Service were listed as dead on arrival during the current year and for any other year for which his department has statistics?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97): The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) does not keep statistics on the number of cases attended where the patient is dead on arrival (DOA) prior to arrival at a hospital or medical facility. This is because it is not the role of an ambulance officer to pronounce any patient DOA. In the case of obvious death the QAS does not render any pre-hospital care treatment but all other patients are treated as salvageable patients and transported

to the closest medical facility equipped to manage the patient.

Patients who are subsequently pronounced dead in hospital are recorded as part of the DOA hospital statistics.

Statistical information concerning the number of DOA patients in accident and emergency wards may be obtained from the Department of Health.

232. Leading Schools Program, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (25/3/97)—

With reference to the Governments Leading Schools Program—

- (1) What is the band designation for each State school within the Lytton Electorate?
- (2) Which State schools in the Lytton Electorate are eligible, for inclusion in the Leading Schools Program under the Government's guidelines?
- (3) Which schools in the Lytton Electorate have so far elected to join the Leading Schools Program?
- (4) What additional resources will each of those schools referred to in part (3) who joined the Leading Schools Program, receive and what conditions will apply to those resources?
- (5) What penalties (including lack of additional resources) will those schools who do not elect to join the Leading Schools Program suffer?
- (6) Which schools in the Lytton Electorate are ineligible to join the Leading Schools Program?
- (7) Will those schools who are ineligible to join be discriminated against in not receiving additional resources, or will they receive additional resources and under what conditions?

Mr Quinn (17/4/97):

- (1) The following schools are located in the Lytton electorate:

Band 10: Wynnum SHS

Band 9: Wynnum North SHS

Band 8: Darling Point Special School, Manly West SS, Wondall Heights SS, Wynnum North SS, Wynnum West SS

Band 7: Lota SS, Manly SS, Wynnum Central SS

Band 6: Lindum SS, Moreton Bay Environmental Centre

- (2) Those schools in the bands 8 to 11, above, will be eligible to enter the Leading Schools program.

(3) Up to 100 volunteer schools will be part of a pilot of the program. Special schools have been precluded from entering the pilot program due to their complex nature, but will be eligible to enter on the second intake.

Eligible schools interested in entering the pilot phase of this program were invited to submit expressions of interest. Principals of these schools will attend a

conference in late April, and a list of schools that will participate in the pilot will then be finalised. Schools will not make their final election to join the program until later this month.

- (4) In order to assist schools that enter the Leading School program, two major grants will be paid. These are:

as school communities volunteer to participate in the Leading Schools program they receive an increase in their annual school grant of between \$30,000 and \$50,000 in the first instance. This increase will be determined by way of a base allocation of \$30,000 plus \$11.00 per student to a maximum grant increase of \$50,000.

additionally schools that volunteer to participate in the pilot phase (July 1997-June 1998) will receive a one-off payment for implementation and innovation. This will be an amount equal to the annual school grant increase, mentioned above.

These funds are untied and it will be up to schools to decide how these funds will be used. However, some schools may receive an administrative assistant from a regional office in lieu of part of the additional funding. The ongoing increase recognises the additional workload for schools in the Leading School program and the one-off grant recognises the innovative role that pilot schools will undertake.

- (5), (6) & (7) All schools in Bands 8 to 11 will join the Leading Schools program over the next three years.

Those schools in Bands 7 and below, will not join this program. Nevertheless, in developing the Leading Schools framework, the needs of small schools have not been forgotten.

The District Office structure will enhance the provision of services to small schools. The size of each district (approximately 40 schools per district) means that services will be closer to small schools than was the case under the regional structure.

District office services will have a major focus on schools with teaching principals. These schools will continue to receive a wide range of services from a district office and will not be expected to adopt the array of school based management approaches.

233. Ambulance Service

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

- (1) How many ambulance stations in Queensland have, since he received his commission, been reduced from a seven line roster to a six line roster or a six line roster to a five line roster etc?
- (2) How many ambulance stations in Queensland have been reduced in terms of the number of ambulance officers stationed there?

Mr Veivers (18/4/97): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Milliner, I can advise as follows: The Queensland Ambulance Service does not keep statistics on roster changes across the State. All roster changes are implemented in an

effort to enhance service delivery and a decision to modify a station's roster is not taken lightly.

In conjunction with the University of Queensland—Social and Preventative Medicine Department, the QAS has developed a model to critically evaluate the work patterns of individual stations where a need to modify rosters is evident.

This model looks at the catchment areas for each station and using the Geographic Information for Public Safety (GIPS) system is able to determine which station responded to each case in a station's catchment area. This then allows the QAS to determine the staffing levels for the station and to modify the rosters accordingly. Prior to any roster modification there is extensive consultation with key stakeholders, staff and the Local Ambulance Committee. As a result some stations have decreased staffing levels and transferred those officers to neighbouring stations. In some instances, new stations have resulted from this process. The aim is to ensure the QAS resources are best placed to meet the needs of the community.

234. Firefighters

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that a plan is being floated in the fire service in the Brisbane region to have only one crew at Brisbane fire stations rostered on through the night?
- (2) Is he aware that this plan would reduce the number of first attack pumpers from 2 to one at inner city fire stations?
- (3) Will he assure the House that he will not countenance such a plan, and that the numbers of rostered fire fighters in Queensland fire stations will not be reduced under his administration?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97):

(1) With the exception of the inner city and three outer suburbs, all fire stations in the Brisbane Region are staffed by one fire crew. Those fire stations which have multiple fire appliances and thus multiple fire crews will retain present staffing levels.

There are no immediate plans to roster only one crew through the night at multiple pump stations.

(2) In consideration of the above, question (2) is irrelevant.

(3) The operational responsibility for rostered staff of fire stations lies with the Chief Commissioner of the QFRA.

235. Fire Service Response Times

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

What was the average response time for the fire service at (a) March 1996 and (b) March 1997,

expressed in terms of the greater Brisbane region and the rest of Queensland separately, as well as in terms of the overall Queensland figure, if available?

Mr Veivers (18/4/97):

(a) March 1996

Greater Brisbane Region 6.3 minutes

Rest of Queensland 7.7 minutes

Whole of Queensland 7.2 minutes

(b) March 1997

Not yet available

Calculations were based on calls within the Urban District Boundary.

236. Public Housing, Redcliffe Electorate

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (25/3/97)—

With reference to his statement in the Peninsula Post on 27 February where he stated that I could access correct information from himself—

- (1) How many units of public housing have been commenced and completed since February 1996 in the Redcliffe Electorate?
- (2) Will he now release the addresses of these new units of public housing?

Mr Connor (24/4/97):

(1) Since February 1996 in the Redcliffe Electorate, a total of 5 dwellings have been purchased and settled. In addition, construction of 13 dwellings has commenced (1 detached house and 12 seniors' units) with forecast completion this calendar year.

(2) Spot purchases will continue in areas of longest wait lists. The Community Housing Grants Board will also consider submissions from organisations based in the community for funds to meet housing needs.

237. Karawatha Forest

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Environment (25/3/97)—

With reference to the parcel of land situated immediately to the west of the Southern Brisbane Bypass at Stretton, owned by Nev Pask Developments and to his answer to Question No. 729 in October 1996—

Will he provide an update on the status of negotiations to purchase this land and what are the Government's future intentions with respect to this land?

Mr Littleproud (16/4/97): I am advised by the Honourable the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that the transaction to purchase the parcel of land from Nev Pask Developments has been completed and the land is now in the Government's ownership.

The intention to add this land to Karawatha Forest remains unchanged provided that an agreement can be reached with Brisbane City Council.

238. Challinor Centre

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (25/3/97)—

With reference to the planning process for the closure of the Challinor Centre—

- (1) Will assessments by aged care assessment team (ACAT) officers be made prior to any resident being transferred to nursing home care?
- (2) Will ACAT assessments be limited to residents who are aged and frail?
- (3) On what basis is he or his officers conducting discussions with Tricare to provide centre-based care for Challinor residents?
- (4) Will the funding for relocating residents whether to centres or the community, be provided directly to those individuals or will the funds be allocated to organisations such as Tricare?

Mr Lingard (9/4/97):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Preliminary discussions were held with Tricare to examine the possibility of placing selected Challinor residents in their nursing home facilities. No decisions have yet been made as to which organisations will provide this care.
- (4) Funding is paid to non government agencies which provide the accommodation support and community access support to the person(s) concerned. However, if at any stage, the person utilises an alternative service provider, funding is transferred to that organisation.

239. Industrial Relations Laws, Advertising Campaign

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (25/3/97)—

With reference to a massive advertising campaign the Government has undertaken to inform the workers of Queensland just how better off they are supposedly going to be under the State's new industrial relations laws—

- (1) What forms of advertising were undertaken?
- (2) In which newspapers were advertisements taken out?
- (3) In which of these newspapers were full advertisements taken out?
- (4) How much air time was purchased on both commercial television and commercial radio to promote him and his new industrial relations legislation?
- (5) What was the cost?
- (6) Did he engage an image consultant to assist him in his preparations for the cameras; if so, (a) who was engaged, (b) what were the costs involved and (c) who picked up the bill?
- (7) What period of time has been allocated for the advertising campaign?

- (8) What other forms of advertising or promotion of the new industrial relations legislation are being planned or proposed by either him or his department?
- (9) What other forms of advertising or promotion has the Government undertaken in relation to the new industrial relations legislation and what were the costs involved?
- (10) Were any outside public relations companies or consultants used in preparing the advertising campaign; if so, which companies or consultants were utilised and what costs were incurred?
- (11) What was the total budget allocated for the advertising campaign?
- (12) How much of the total budget has been spent on advertising in the media?
- (13) How much money was allocated in the budget for public relations consultations and image consultants?
- (14) Does he expect further advertising campaigns to be undertaken on these legislative changes; if so, when and what budget has been set?

Mr Santoro (24/4/97):

- (1) Advertising was undertaken through both print and electronic media to inform the public of the Government's changes to the IR laws in this State which provide a fair go all round and remove the bias shown to trade unions under the old Act.
- (2) Business Queensland, Biloela Central Telegraph, Bundaberg News Mail, Cairns Post, Charters Towers Northern Miner, Charleville West Times, Courier-Mail, Dalby Herald, Emerald Central Queensland News, Gladstone Observer, Gold Coast Bulletin, Gympie Times, Innisfail Advocate, Ipswich Queensland Times, Longreach Leader, Mackay Daily Mercury, Maryborough Chronicle, Mackay Miners Midweek, Mt Isa North West Star, Port Douglas/Mossman Gazette, Proserpine Guardian, Rockhampton Morning Bulletin, Roma Western Star, Sunday Mail, Sunshine Coast Daily, Toowoomba Chronicle, Townsville Bulletin, Warwick Daily News.
- (3) Sunday Mail.
- (4) No commercial air time was purchased to promote me. A total of 311 television and 1410 radio spots of 30 seconds each were purchased to promote the Government's long awaited and much needed reforms to Labor's biased IR laws.
- (5) \$251,743
- (6) No.
- (7) 2 February 1997 to 24 March 1997.
- (8) Further promotion of the legislation is the responsibility of the Department of Training and Industrial Relations. The Workplace Information Unit conducts public seminars and provides advice and assistance in the form of telephone contact, workplace visits and the supply of various publications on aspects of the legislation and workplace and enterprise bargaining. It is envisaged that occasional advertising will occur.

(9) Print media advertising has been undertaken and information kits and the like have been produced by the Department of Training and Industrial Relations. \$65,950 has been expended as at the end of March 1997.

(10) Two advertising companies were involved during the campaign—Kelly Gee Advertising and Carroll Delaney Advertising. Total costs incurred were \$115,145.

(11) \$446,103.

(12) \$323,970.

(13) \$120,406.

(14) Yes. Details will be determined based on experience and need. Funding in 1997/98 will be subject to the State Budget.

240. Clairview Developments Pty Ltd; Mr D. Nilsson

Mr PEARCE asked the Premier (25/3/97)—

With reference to marketing documents used by David Nilsson of Clairview Developments Pty Ltd (previously Nilsson Corporation now in liquidation) in Malaysia during February of this year after an article was written by Paul Whittaker in The Courier-Mail on 22 February, "Top public servant rues link to developer"—

- (1) Has the Government any knowledge of this "endorsed" project?
- (2) Has the Queensland Government through its Co-ordinator General and other Government Agencies, Police and Emergency Services, given written support to the project outlined in the document; if so, will he table the documents in the Parliament and give reasons for such support; if not, what action is the Government going to take to prevent Clairview Developments and David Nilsson from using the endorsement of the Queensland Government to market rural land off-shore?

Mr Borbidge (24/4/97):

(1) Departmental records indicate that the then Office of the Co-ordinator General in the Department of the Premier, Economic and Trade Development had discussions with representatives of Nilsson Corporation between 1993 and 1995 regarding the proposed Clairview Newtown Development Proposal. Apart from this material I am not aware what knowledge the previous Government had of this development.

(2) The only material which would disclose any suggestion of support for this project is a letter dated 10 May 1995 from Mr K J Down, the then Head of the Office of the Co-ordinator General. In this letter, which was directed to Mr T Knobel, General Manager of Nilsson Corporation, Mr Down said, inter alia: "I would like to wish you success with your project and ask that you keep us informed of progress".

As such the letter does not constitute an endorsement. I attach a copy of this letter.

It should also be noted that in the advertising material that you have provided, which apparently has been circulated by Clairview Developments Pty Ltd, there is no statement that the project has been endorsed. The author of the document claims that the company has "letters of acknowledgment". Acknowledgment is not endorsement.

With respect to the other Government agencies referred to in the Question, approaches should be made to the various agencies or Ministers for comment.

Finally, the Deputy Director General of my Department wrote to the Department of Justice on 18 March, 1997 requesting that that Department investigate your complaints with a view to determining whether Nilsson Corporation Pty Ltd may have committed breaches of the Land Sales Act 1984. The Department of Justice is investigating the matter both with respect to provisions in the Lands Sales Act 1984 and the Fair Trading Act 1989.

241. South Coast Motorway

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/3/97)—

With reference to the advertising campaign being undertaken by his department to justify the upgrading of the South Coast Motorway—

What is the Budget allocation of his department for this advertising?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97): The South Coast Motorway is no longer an option being pursued by the Department of Main Roads. The present project is known as the Pacific Motorway.

The Pacific Motorway project has just completed newspaper insertions of a community information report.

This report was inserted into seven newspapers—the Gold Coast Bulletin dated 21 March 1997, the Sunday Mail dated 23 March 1997, the Albert and Logan News, the Southern Star and the South East Advertiser, all of which were dated 26 March 1997, the Southern News and the Hinterland Sun, both dated 27 March 1997.

These newspapers were selected as providing the most comprehensive coverage of the people most likely to be affected by the Pacific Motorway project—both users and nearby residents.

Main Roads has developed good channels of communication with people on the project; this report is another tool for maintaining that dialogue and its purpose is to tell people exactly what will be happening with the project.

In the past year, many people provided comments on the Pacific Motorway project, especially during the public consultation phase of its impact management plan. However, Main Roads is aware that there is a silent majority of people who have not joined this process, but will be affected as the motorway is built and afterwards, in its operation.

Main Roads has used this community information report as a means of reaching these people and informing them of what the project is about, how it

evolved, how it will be built and operated and, most importantly, how they will use it.

The costs of the community information report consist of:

Artwork, design, film, corrections—\$33,565
 Insertion & printing in seven papers—\$80,288
 Extras (like proofs, run-ons)—\$2,372
 Total —\$116,225

These costs were met by the project's communications budget, which is aimed squarely at keeping people in touch with what is going on. Already, there are indications that the community information report has hit its mark.

The project's information hotline has noted an upturn in the number of callers since the report appeared, with callers seeking further information on issues such as access, economic effects, noise and property, as well as asking general information questions.

Main Roads is committed to keeping the community informed about its actions in building and operating the Pacific Motorway.

242. Ambulance Officers, Incentive Allowance

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

With reference to the fact that there are a number of married couples or couples living in de facto relationships who are ambulance officers at the same station and also that these ambulance officers are receiving incentive allowances appropriate only to one party rather than to both parties—

What is the Government's policy basis for paying only one incentive allowance to couples, and has he received any advice as to whether this is a breach of the Anti-Discrimination Act?

Mr Veivers (18/4/97): Isolation bonus (which is based on the public sector locality allowance) is designed to offset the disadvantages associated with residence in a centre, and is intended to offset residential factors. It is the intention of QAS that it be applied as per the public service regulations.

Public Service Management and Employment Regulation 1988 Regulation 67.(2) specifies that one half of the rate of locality allowance shall be paid to an officer who does not have a dependent spouse, or has a spouse who receives a similar allowance. The QAS varied this to provide a slightly more generous entitlement, in that it was prepared to apply the full allowance to single officers. However given that it is to offset residential costs, it is considered fair that only one entitlement is received by a couple/household.

As the allowance is payable in accordance with the Public Service Management and Employment Regulations, the QAS has not investigated any possible breach of the Anti-Discrimination Act, but believes that the payment is acceptable as QAS exceeds the public service regulations entitlement.

243. Tenders for Robina and Noosa Hospitals

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (25/3/97)—

- (1) Will he assure the people of Queensland that all the information relating to the corporate conduct of Columbia/HCA in the United States of America will be made available to selection committees for assessment of tenders for Robina and Noosa Hospitals?
- (2) Will he assure the people of Queensland that the New South Wales Auditor-General's report with regard to Mayne-Nickless hospital operations will be made available to selection committees assessing tenders for Robina and Noosa Hospitals?
- (3) Has Mayne-Nickless been assessed as a fit and proper organisation to hold hospital licences in light of objections and information supplied to the Director-General?

Mr Horan (28/4/97):

- (1) Yes, if Columbia/HCA submit a tender for Robina and Noosa Hospitals.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) HCoA currently have five (5) private hospital licences in Queensland. I am advised by the Chief Health Officer (who alone exercises the statutory power to license hospitals) that she has had no information to date that would suggest that HCoA are operating these hospitals in other than an effective and high quality manner.

244. Yeronga Military Hospital Site

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Environment (25/3/97)—

- (1) What action is the Government taking to protect the heritage value of the Yeronga Military Hospital site recently sold by the Commonwealth Government?
- (2) Is he aware of serious concerns within the Yeronga community over the lack of effective consultation by the Commonwealth Government over planning for the future of the site?
- (3) Will he ensure that any deliberations by his department over the heritage value of the site will entail proper consultation with the Yeronga community?

Mr Littleproud (9/4/97):

- (1) The property is entered in the Queensland Heritage Register and is therefore subject to the provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.
- (2) I am advised by the Queensland Heritage Council that there has been concern in the community over the level of consultation carried out by the Commonwealth Government.
- (3) I am confident the Queensland Heritage Council, with the support of the Department's Cultural Heritage Branch, will undertake any appropriate action necessary, including consultation, with regard to the future of the site.

245. Ambulance Transport Officers

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (25/3/97)—

In the ambulance service, how many ambulance transport officers were employed by the ambulance service in (a) March 1996 and (b) March 1997?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97):

- (a) In March 1996 the Queensland Ambulance Service employed 17 ambulance transport officers.
- (b) As of March 1997 the QAS employed 50 ambulance transport officers.

246. State Government Departments, Enterprise Bargaining Agreements

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (25/3/97)—

With reference to Enterprise Bargaining which is now the accepted method of wages and conditions negotiation—

- (1) How many Government departments or statutory bodies are overdue for negotiation of a new agreement?
- (2) How many agreements are in the process but yet to be finalised?
- (3) How many entities do not currently have an agreement in force?
- (4) What impediments are there for departmental managers and for statutory body CEOs to negotiate and finalise agreements?

Mr Borbidge (24/4/97):

- (1) As of 2 April 1997, 36 of the 75 enterprise agreements covering Queensland public sector employees have expired and are due for renewal. All existing enterprise agreements continue to apply until withdrawn from by the parties or replaced.
- (2) An agreement for core government departments (replacing 16 expired agreements) has been filed with the QIRC. In addition, three first agreements are currently filed and awaiting certification. The remaining expired agreements due for renewal are in various stages of renegotiation.
- (3) The 75 enterprise agreements cover employees of all government departments, business units, large statutory authorities and government owned corporations. The only major statutory authority without an agreement is the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, where a first agreement has been filed awaiting certification. Of the approximately 350 statutory authorities in Queensland (excluding government owned corporations), at least 50% of these have no employees and the majority have fewer than 10 employees. Fourteen statutory authorities are covered by enterprise agreements.
- (4) For the non-Budget dependent areas of the public sector, Cabinet approved arrangements for the negotiation and implementation of enterprise bargaining in July 1996. These areas have been able to negotiate their own agreements since that time.

There are no policy or legislative impediments for managers and CEOs to negotiate agreements, except that agencies with tied clients and where agreements may impact on the Budget need to have agreements approved by the Cabinet Standing Committee on Industrial Relations.

For the Budget dependent areas, Cabinet approved arrangements in November 1996. A new framework agreement for core government departments was filed with the QIRC in March 1997. Other agencies are also free to negotiate agreements. All agreements must be approved by the Cabinet Standing Committee on Industrial Relations. An agreement for Queensland Health was certified on 26 March 1997. Similarly, an agreement for Main Roads was certified on 11 March 1997.

247. Education Queensland; Suspended Students

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (25/3/97)—

With reference to his answer to a Question in Parliament on Wednesday, 19 March, in which he stated Education Queensland would implement alternative arrangements for students who are suspended from schools under amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act in 1996, and that these alternatives would include private providers—

- (1) Will he provide a list of all organisations, other than Education Queensland, who have been contracted to or who have offered to provide such services to Education Queensland?
- (2) What contractual arrangements have been entered into, including financial arrangements with each of these providers?
- (3) What checks have been undertaken to ensure the suitability and reliability of each provider?
- (4) Will he provide details of the programs which will be operated by each provider?

Mr Quinn (17/4/97):

- (1) Education Queensland is in the process of advertising statewide for Private Providers of Alternative Education Programs. A preferred list of providers will be selected for use by Principals in schools for the support of 6-20 day suspended students and students at risk of suspension.
- (2) & (4) To date, Education Queensland has not entered into any contractual arrangements with Private Providers of Alternative Education Programs.
- (3) All conforming offers received from an Invitation to Offer will be evaluated against set selection criteria. This evaluation will be used to select the successful applicants.

248. Queensland Rail Board

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (25/3/97)—

- (1) Does he consider that it is improper to appoint to the board of Queensland Rail a representative of merchant banker, Macquarie Bank, Mr James Cutts, while Mr Cutts and the

company are also leading partners in Mr Roger Dublet's Airtrain Citylink Pty Ltd?

- (2) Why has he actively encouraged a position of conflict of interest within Queensland Rail over the proposed rail link to Brisbane airport?
- (3) Isn't he at all concerned that the appointment of a Macquarie Bank representative to the board of Queensland Rail will create the public perception that the company will have insider information on projects and other commercial opportunities ahead of other commercial organisations?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(1) The corporatisation of Queensland Rail and the introduction of national competition policy reforms has increased the pressures on QR to produce commercially acceptable results. The new board comprises a dynamic group of business and industry leaders, chosen to provide the blend of expertise in finance, employment and infrastructure required to meet these challenges and take QR into the 21st Century.

The government adhered to the Government Owned Corporations Act, (Schedule 1 Part 3—"Appointment of Directors") when selecting Queensland Rail Board members. Under the Act, Directors' duties largely reflect the roles and responsibilities of Board members as outlined in Common Law and the Corporations Law. These laws impose fiduciary duties on each Director to ensure that the best interest of the company are upheld. Section 231 of the Corporations Law outlines that all Directors' interests should be declared at a meeting of Directors so as to avoid a conflict of interest.

Mr Cutts' extensive professional experience in providing advice to both corporate and government clients on mergers, acquisitions, corporate reconstructions, public listings, valuations and fundraising will greatly assist Queensland Rail to meet the challenges of the future. While Macquarie Bank has been involved with the Brisbane Airport rail link proposal this is a project being progressed by the Government and while Queensland Rail is clearly interested in the interaction between the Airport railway and the Citytrain network, the Airport link is but one consideration of Queensland Rail—an organisation enjoying a total revenue base of \$1.8 billion.

The Directors of the Board are required to advise the board when a conflict of interest arises and abstain from discussion on that issue.

(2) The new Board comprises active members of the business community with diverse talent and experience in finance, employment and infrastructure which will allow QR to meet the commercial challenges facing the organisation. It is imperative that a Board have Directors who are active in the business community and have a working knowledge of the industry. Queensland Rail Board members are selected for the considerable contributions they are able to provide to the whole organisation. Airtrain is a government driven project with Queensland Transport and Treasury as Project Mangers.

(3) The Queensland public can be assured that the Board of Queensland Rail will act in a commercial manner and be held accountable for its actions. One of the underlying principles of Queensland Rail's corporatisation on 1 July 1995 was to change the conditions under which it operates, so that it competes with others with no special advantages or disadvantages. The appointment of a Macquarie Bank representative to the Board contributes to Queensland Rail being able to meet the challenges which will arise in the future in the same manner as any other commercial business in Queensland.

249. Environmental Management Plans, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Environment (25/3/97)—

With reference to environmental management plans (EMPs) provided for under the Environmental Protection Act and with reference to the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) Which companies/organisations currently have EMPs with the department?
- (2) What are the environmental issues covered in each of these EMPs respectively?
- (3) What is the objective stated for each issue?
- (4) What was the commencement date for each of these EMPs?
- (5) What monitoring process does the department have to ensure the terms of these EMPs are being complied with?

Mr Littleproud (16/4/97):

- (1) 1. Brisbane City Council—Sewerage Operations Branch
 2. Golden Circle Ltd
 3. Cutting Edges (Austcast Foundry, Northgate)
 4. Golden Circle Ltd (a) Northgate
 5. Golden Circle Ltd (b) Northgate
 6. Golden Circle Ltd (c) Northgate
- (2) 1. Contamination to land and water via sewage overflow
 2. Contamination of stormwater from spillage of effluent
 3. Odour emissions from resin burn-out of moulds receiving molten metal
 4. Contamination of sump from various sources
 5. Contamination of air from existing coal fired boilers
 6. Contamination of stormwater from seepage of sewage from the existing toilet block
- (3) 1. To comply with the licence condition that all pump stations be fitted with alarms.
 2. To prevent effluent discharge to the stormwater during maintenance of the treatment plant.

3. To establish and implement Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) by reducing odour emissions arising from resin burn-out of moulds receiving molten metal.

4. To determine the origin of inflow to a sump, review means for segregation of process wastes and stormwater drainages, design and document remedial/diversion works and construct works and develop an appropriate monitoring and management reporting program.

5. To conform to licence conditions for boiler house emissions by replacing the existing coal fired boilers.

6. To prevent seepage of sewage into the stormwater drainage system by constructing a new toilet block and decommissioning the existing facility.

- (4) 1. 28 August 1995
2. 8 December 1995
3. 12 July 1996
4. 8 August 1996
5. 30 December 1996
6. 15 March 1997

(5) 1 to 6 inclusive. All parties had started action before formal acceptance of the EMPs.

All the companies listed have to submit reports to the Department to indicate progress with the implementation of the undertakings in the EMPs. These reports include monitoring information for assessment by the Department and will include site visits by officers of the Department to confirm action taken is in compliance with the EMPs.

250. Cross-examination of Young Witnesses in Courts

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (25/3/97)—

With reference to incidents, referred to in Parliament by members, which have occurred in courts in which young witnesses are reduced to tears under tough cross examination—

- (1) Is he concerned that our legal (court) system allows such harassment of young witnesses?
- (2) Do many parents of young children who have suffered sexual abuse or inappropriate behaviour by paedophiles, not allow these children to make statements to police because of the traumatic impact of the court situation on these children?
- (3) Are many paedophiles therefore not coming to trial because of this present legal (court) system?
- (4) What action will he take to ensure the legal system is changed to allow a better clean-up rate of paedophiles?
- (5) Will he take action to re-educate those judges who allow excessive badgering of young witnesses especially those who have suffered physical or sexual abuse?

Mr Beanland (16/4/97):

(1) Our legal system is an adversarial one. It has the aim of balancing the interests of the community (in criminal cases, represented by the Crown) and the citizen.

Thus, whilst children under 12 years are given protection by allowing, in certain circumstances, their statement to be used as evidence (s.93A Evidence Act 1977) it is fundamental to our system of justice that persons accused of crimes be allowed to cross-examine their accuser.

Independent judicial officers, judges and magistrates, are the persons who have the power and authority to ensure that a correct balance between these competing interests is applied in the courtroom.

(2) Not to my knowledge.

(3) There is no basis for this question.

(4) The recent amendments to the Criminal Code have introduced stronger and heavier penalties for offences involving the sexual abuse of children.

(5) As mentioned earlier, not only is it the role of the judicial officer to ensure fairness, but there is no evidence to demonstrate that such officers are not properly exercising the discretion entrusted to them.

251. Ms L. Staib

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/3/97)—

- (1) What payments have been made directly by the Department of Emergency Services and Sport to Ms Lyn Staib, including salary, expenses and other entitlements, since 19 February 1996?
- (2) What are the details of all other costs related to the Fire Services Review and the Ambulance Service evaluation, separate to Ms Staib's direct consultancy payments listed in (1), since 19 February including (a) accommodation, (b) telephones, (c) establishment and operational costs of the review office at Milton, (d) use of official cars and (e) payment of salaries and on-costs of departmental officers placed off-line for the duration of each and both exercises?

Mr Veivers (28/4/97):

(1) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) paid a total of \$52,265.00 in consultancy fees to Ms Lyn Staib between 19 February 1996 and 31 March 1997 in respect of the review of the then Queensland Fire Service and the implementation of the review recommendations.

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) paid a total of \$40,237.00 in consultancy fees to Ms Staib in the same period in respect of her evaluation of that Service.

The total fee of Ms Staib's consultancy to 31 March 1997 is therefore \$92,502.00.

(2) There are two parts to the review of the former Queensland Fire Service.

The first part involved the preparation of a report. The report writing team operated out of Departmental accommodation on the second floor of Quay Central, 95 North Quay, Brisbane.

The second part involved the implementation of the QFS review recommendations. An implementation team was established in early July 1996 in rented accommodation at 19 Finchley Street, Milton.

The QAS evaluation team also operated out of the accommodation at 19 Finchley Street, Milton.

The Fire Service review costs, excluding consultancy fees, were:

- (a) \$2,769.00—accommodation (rental)
- (b) \$1,370.00—telephones
- (c) \$106,493.00—establishment & operational costs of the review office at Milton (e.g. travel, furniture & equipment, temporary staff, printing, computer expenses and miscellaneous expenses)
- (d) \$4,280.00—official cars
- (e) \$13,354.00—salaries & on-costs for Departmental officers (including superannuation, payroll tax, overtime and allowances)

Total: \$128,266.00

The Fire Service implementation costs to date, excluding consultancy fees, are:

- (a) \$30,035.00—accommodation (rental)
- (b) \$10,300.00—telephones
- (c) \$179,543.00—establishment and operational costs of the office at Milton (e.g. travel, furniture & equipment, temporary staff, printing, computer expenses and miscellaneous expenses)
- (d) \$5,569.00—official cars
- (e) \$163,801.00—salaries & on-costs for Departmental officers (including superannuation, payroll tax, overtime and allowances)

Total: \$389,248.00

The QAS evaluation costs to date, excluding consultancy fees, are:

- (a) \$30,448.00—accommodation (rental)
- (b) \$3,809.00—telephones
- (c) \$122,104.00—Milton office (e.g. travel, furniture & equipment, temporary staff, printing and miscellaneous expenses)
- (d) \$4,764.00—official cars
- (e) \$26,277.00—salaries & on-costs

Total: \$187,402.00

Some salaries and on-costs have been charged to the review and evaluation, but a number of officers from the QFRA and the QAS and some public service staff of my department were taken off-line for varying periods. Their salaries and on-costs have not been identified as part of these processes and it would not be possible for me to give an accurate figure for these costs.

252. Pacific Motorway

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

With reference to the four-page supplement in the Sunday Mail of 23 March regarding the Pacific Motorway—

- (1) Has this four page supplement appeared in any newspapers, other than the Sunday Mail on 23 March 1995?
- (2) What other advertising is being proposed or planned in relation to the upgrade of the Pacific Highway and in what form will that advertising be undertaken?
- (3) What was the cost for the four-page supplement in the Sunday Mail on 23 March?
- (4) (a) Who was responsible for the decision to undertake this advertising campaign, (b) was this person also involved in authorising the final copy which went to print and (c) where is this person employed and what is their position?
- (5) Were any outside public relations companies or consultants used in preparing the advertising campaign; if so, which companies or consultants were utilised and what costs were incurred?
- (6) What is the total budget allocated for the advertising campaign?
- (7) Who works in the Pacific Motorway Project Office, and what is each person's position?
- (8) Has there been any outlays in setting up the Pacific Motorway Project Office; if so, what were the costs?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

- (1) The four page supplement appeared in:
 - the Gold Coast Bulletin—21 March 1997
 - the Sunday Mail—23 March 1997
 - the Albert and Logan News—26 March 1997
 - the Southern Star—26 March 1997
 - the South East Advertiser—27 March 1997
 - the Hinterland Sun—27 March 1997
- (2) Main Roads is committed to keeping the community informed about its actions in building and operating the Pacific Motorway. This community information report has been used to inform people of what the motorway project is about, how it evolved and how it will be built and operated.

At this time, future advertising is likely to be traffic updates and progress reports as part of the construction phase.

The department is committed to continuing its good relations with the community and would, from time to time, elect to conduct further public information sessions.

- (3) & (6) The cost of the community information report consists of:

- Artwork, design, film, corrections—\$33,565
- Newspaper and printing, inserts and booking fees—\$80,288

Extras including dummy proofs and 2,000 spot colour run-ons—\$2,372

Total—\$116,225

(4) & (5) Turnbull Fox Phillips prepared the supplement under the direction of the Director (Major Projects) South East.

Turnbull Fox Phillips won a contract in 1996 as the Pacific Motorway's communication consultants. They employed Concept Australia to assist in the preparation of the community report.

Costs of both Turnbull Fox Phillips and Concept Australia are included in the costs outlined in the answer to Question 3.

(4a) Director (Major Projects) South East, approved the preparation of the community

(b) information report. This decision was endorsed by the Pacific Motorway Board of Review

(c) and the Director-General of Main Roads.

Director (Major Projects) South East, is a public servant employed at Beenleigh to manage the Pacific Motorway project.

(7) The Major Projects Unit is situated at Beenleigh. It is a small unit of five public servants employed to manage the \$630 million Pacific Motorway project.

The public servants include:

Mr R Higgins, Director (Major Projects) South East

Mr R Campbell, Acting Project Manager (Preconstruction)

Mr A Costin, Financial Co-ordinator

Mrs B Bennelli, Office Manager

Mrs K Cangelosi, Receptionist

Mrs M Harris, Administrative Assistant

They are assisted by external consultants to deliver the project.

(8) The outlays in establishing the Major Projects Unit office at Beenleigh consists of:

Site establishment

computer network/telephone system—\$73,800

computer hardware and software—\$123,946

Office fit-out—\$17,142

Furniture and office equipment—\$57,682

Total—\$272,570

253. Criminal Justice Commission, Fees Paid to Barristers and Solicitors

Mr CARROLL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (26/3/97)—

For each financial year since 1989-90 (a) which (i) barristers and (ii) solicitors have received fees from the Criminal Justice Commission and (b) what amounts were paid in each case?

Mr Beanland (23/4/97): Full details of the individual barristers and solicitors to whom fees were

paid by the Criminal Justice Commission from the time it became fully operational on 22 April 1990 until 30 June 1994 have not been kept by the Commission and could not be extracted in the time available. Total fees paid to barristers and solicitors during that period are contained in Appendix 1 which will be Tabled. Full details of the individual barristers and solicitors to whom fees were paid by the Criminal Justice Commission during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 financial years are contained in Appendix 2 which will be Tabled. Details of such payments in the 1996-97 financial year are not yet available.

254. Airtrain Citylink Ltd

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

With reference to the AirTrain CityLink proposal—

(1) Will he guarantee that any Government or Queensland Rail assistance, such as the provision of land for developments associated with the rail link, will be fully charged at market rates to AirTrain CityLink?

(2) Other than access as a third party to existing track and possible provision of Government land for the laying of new track, what consideration has been given to providing other forms of assistance to AirTrain CityLink?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(1) As part of the Government's approval of the single mandate for Airtrain Citylink Limited, there are specific conditions which require that Airtrain bear all costs associated with the development such that there are to be no net costs to government and that there is no contingent liability by the State at any stage of the project's development and hand over to the State at the end of the 35 year Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) period. Responsibility for negotiating tenure arrangements of the rail corridor rests with Airtrain, who will be required to meet the full costs associated with land acquisition. Corridor tenure will be consistent with the Transport Infrastructure Act (1994).

(2) Government assistance to Airtrain is provided only by way of project facilitation.

255. Ambulance Service, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/3/97)—

(1) Will 21 senior ambulance officers in Queensland lose their jobs as a result of the planned restructure of the Queensland Ambulance Service?

(2) Will he inform the citizens of Maryborough how this loss of senior staff will affect the operation of the ambulance service in Maryborough and how many officers will lose their jobs as a result in this city?

Mr Veivers (18/4/97):

(1) The Program Evaluation Report (Staib Report) recommends the restructure of QAS management.

The net effect of the proposal is that the number of lower and middle management positions will decline from 70 to 56. These positions fall mainly within the level of Superintendent and Sector Coordinator.

It is possible some officers will not be appointed to a new position.

Officers who fail to obtain positions within new management positions will be redeployed to a position for which they are appropriately qualified.

Whilst there will be no compulsory redundancies some officers may choose to accept Voluntary Early Retirement.

(2) No positions at Maryborough will be affected by these proposals.

The reason for the proposals is to confirm the process of devolution of decision making to the local levels. Thus, Maryborough Ambulance Service will continue to operate unchanged.

256. Tourism Marketing Contract

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (26/3/97)—

With reference to new tourism marketing campaigns for Queensland—

- (1) Who was the local company this contract was awarded to and of what value was it?
- (2) Did the local company find it was marginally cheaper to give the contract to a Sydney-based company?
- (3) Which company is now actually handling this contract and who is responsible for supervision of the contract?
- (4) Is he satisfied that the letting of this contract conforms to all State Government internal audit requirements?

Mr Davidson (28/4/97):

(1) Mojo Partners was the advertising agency selected to develop creative elements of marketing campaigns for Queensland destinations. Mojo subsequently appointed production houses to produce the television commercials. The value of the contract with Mojo is a matter of commercial confidence.

(2) Mojo appointed the Baby Lemonade production house to produce the Tropical North Queensland commercial. Baby Lemonade was selected from a number of candidates who were all issued with a creative brief with which to provide an estimate of costs. Baby Lemonade was selected after an evaluation of logistics and creative interpretation. It offered a special camera technique at a competitive cost. At the time, Baby Lemonade was based in Sydney, but Mojo elected to overlook geographical boundaries in favour of quality. Baby Lemonade has since opened an office in Brisbane.

Baby Lemonade is just one of a number of production houses appointed to produce commercials for Queensland's developed destinations. The other production houses, also appointed by Mojo, are based in Brisbane.

(3) Mojo retains the contract for the creative elements of the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation's marketing campaigns, under the supervision of the QTTC's Director of Marketing. The involvement of Baby Lemonade effectively ended when the Tropical North Queensland commercial was produced. This commercial was launched in Cairns on 11 February 1997.

(4) The Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation's appointment of Mojo complied with State Government Purchasing Council Guidelines and was made after a proper tender process. Mojo's appointment of Baby Lemonade is not subject to such guidelines.

257. Firefighters

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/3/97)—

Under a brigade operation authorised by the brigade, is a member of a rural brigade covered by Workers' Compensation when fighting a fire on his own property?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97): The management of fire within a person's property boundaries is the responsibility of that person and not of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority.

However, there may be times when coverage would be extended: for example, if the injured person was acting at the direction of the First Officer of the brigade. Any decision regarding coverage would be made by the Commissioner (Rural Operations) after examining all the circumstances of the incident.

258. Railway Stations, Crime Rates

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

- (1) How many rapes, bashings, assaults or similar crimes have occurred on or near suburban rail stations this year?
- (2) How many property crimes including motor vehicle thefts have occurred on or near suburban rail stations this year?
- (3) What were the figures for these categories for the last 3 years?
- (4) What are the worst stations?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(1) Attached is a report detailing Citytrain's suburban stations in alphabetical order listing offences committed at that station (police codes in brackets following the description of the offence).

This listing is of known illegal activities and criminal offences committed on Queensland Rail property since 1 January 1997 to 31 March 1997.

Figures and statistics for criminal offences committed near Queensland Rail property would need to be requested from the Queensland Police Department and are usually sorted by area of police jurisdiction; which could cover any number of Citytrain rail stations within the one area.

(2) The Queensland Police Rail Squad have provided the following figures for theft of motor vehicles and theft from motor vehicles:

Table 1

Offence	Year to Date (1/1/97- 31/3/97)	Total for 1996	Total for 1995	1995-1997 TOTAL
Unlawful use of/ stealing motor vehicles	151	759	1159	2069
Stealing from motor vehicle	138	525	744	1407
Total Offences— (Motor Vehicles)	289	1284	1903	3476

(3) The previous table (Table 1) includes the figures for the last 3 years of car related offences. Figures for the last 3 years on criminal offences committed at suburban Citytrain stations are not available. The database held by Queensland Rail's Protective Services Unit was commissioned in July 1996.

(4) Listing of stations, with corresponding total figures in descending numerical order of criminal offences committed at that station; 1997 year to date (these figures include Qld Police statistics of car theft, attempted theft, and theft from cars).

Petrie, 26; Caboolture, 23; Altandi, 22; Loganlea, 18; Sunnybank, 18; Woodridge, 18; Nundah, 17; Trinder Park, 17; Keperra, 16; Coopers Plains, 16; Narangba, 15; Beenleigh, 15; Wacol, 13; Kuraby, 13; Darra, 12; Wynnum Central, 11; Burpengary, 11; Bald Hills, 10; Lawnton, 10; Eden's Landing, 10; Ipswich, 10; Runcorn, 10; Ferny Grove, 9; Kingston, 9; East Ipswich, 9; Strathpine, 9; Redbank, 9; South Brisbane, 8; Morayfield, 8; Thorneside, 8; Eagle Junction, 7; Bray Park, 7; Fruitgrove, 7; Corinda, 7; Banoon, 7; Manly, 6; Brisbane Central, 6; Lindum, 6; Morningside, 6; Zillmere, 6; Deagon, 5; Riverview, 5; Albion, 5; Booval, 5; Salisbury, 5; Bethania, 5; Carseldine, 5; Coorparoo, 5; Birkdale, 5; Cannon Hill, 5; Yeerongpilly, 5; Bundamba, 4; Dakabin, 4; Murarrie, 4; Goodna, 4; Northgate, 4; Alderley, 3; Bindha, 3; Ebbw Vale, 3; Holmview, 3; Nudgee, 3; Oxley, 3; Rocklea, 3; Rocklea, 3; Strathpine, 3; Auchenflower, 3; Buranda, 3; Norman Park, 3; Wooloowin, 3; Toombul, 3; Banyo, 2; Boondall, 2; Brunswick Street, 2; Cleveland, 2; Fairfield, 2; Hemmant, 2; Lota, 2; Mitchelton, 2; Moorooka, 2; Newmarket, 2; Park Road, 2; Sherwood, 2; Shorncliffe, 2; Wynnum, 2; Gaythorne, 2; Grovely, 2; North Boondall, 2; Roma Street, 2; Wilston, 2; Bowen Hills, 1; Dinmore, 1; Eagle Farm, 1; Enoggera, 1; Gailes, 1; Geebung, 1; Indooroopilly, 1; Nambour, 1; Palmwoods, 1; Rosewood, 1; Sandgate, 1; Thagoona, 1; Toowong, 1; Virginia, 1; Vulture Street, 1; Wellington Point, 1; Wynnum North, 1; Yeronga, 1

There has been a substantial reduction in the incidence of motor vehicle theft, vandalism and graffiti on Queensland Rail property during the past 12 months.

The risk of assault for a regular rail user is extremely low.

Queensland Police statistics indicate that the level of assaults in the general community are consistently up

to 2.5 times higher than that on the Queensland Rail network.

259. Industrial Commission; Mr C. Thatcher

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (26/3/97)—

With reference to the strong and well informed speculation surrounding the future of a number of current members of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and to the belief of many industrial practitioners that his Director-General, Mr Col Thatcher, only agreed to return to Queensland from his well paid, secure job in Western Australia after receiving assurances that he would be appointed to the Industrial Commission before any election was held—

What assurances will he provide that Mr Thatcher will not be a contender as positions come up for renewal on the Industrial Commission this year, or will he provide proof that no such sleazy deal was entered into?

Mr Santoro (24/4/97): Mr Thatcher's qualifications and experience would qualify him for consideration as a contender for an appointment to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Mr Thatcher, who was educated at the University of Queensland, has a thorough understanding of industrial relations. His wealth of experience includes his active participation in the development/implementation of industrial relations reforms in the Queensland, New South Wales, Western Australian and Federal systems. Earlier in his career Mr Thatcher represented the Crown in significant cases before the Queensland Commission.

Mr Thatcher applied for, and was appointed to, the position of Director-General, Department of Training and Industrial Relations on the basis of merit, following a competitive selection process. Previously he held the position of Chief Executive of the Western Australian Department of Productivity and Labour Relations, being appointed to the position on the basis of merit after being approached to apply for the position by an executive search consultant engaged by the WA State Government. Prior to that he occupied a position of Assistant Director-General with the NSW Department of Industrial Relations, Training and Further Education, which he also won through a competitive selection process.

In a media release dated 28 March 1996 the Western Australian Minister for Labour Relations stated—

"... the State Government supported Mr Thatcher's resignation on compassionate grounds and was sorry to have lost his considerable talent."

I have sighted documentation from the Trades and Labour Council of Western Australia which expresses appreciation of the professional manner and personal contribution of Mr Thatcher.

It is an unwarranted slur on the integrity of a professional public servant of Mr Thatcher's standing to suggest that he would require an assurance as

suggested by the Opposition spokesperson on Training and Industrial Relations. For purely party political reasons the Honourable Member is seeking to smear the good reputation of an independent career public servant who has no opportunity to defend himself from the innuendo.

It is not appropriate for me to speculate on Mr Thatcher's future career aspirations. That is a matter solely for him. I can say that Mr Thatcher has not submitted an expression of interest for the recently advertised position of Enterprise Commissioner.

I challenge the Honourable Member to produce any evidence that would lead a reasonable person to believe that an assurance of the nature contained in the Question was sought or given.

He will not, because he can not. It is a total fabrication. There is no evidence to support such an absolute falsehood.

Therefore the only sleaze involved in respect of the Question is the Labor Member for Kedron.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

260.Consolidated Fund

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (26/3/97)—

With reference to receipts of the Consolidated Fund and, in particular, the Budget estimate that "Miscellaneous Receipts" would total \$324m in 1996-97—

Why was there an outflow of \$170.5m in "Miscellaneous Receipts" in January, and what was the composition of this net flow?

Mrs Sheldon (2/5/97): The net outflow resulted from the rectification of a coding error against this category which had occurred in December. An amount of \$197.353M was transferred out of the Miscellaneous Receipts category and into the correct category of "Property Income". The transaction related to the receipt of Queensland Rail dividends.

261.Airtrain Citylink Ltd

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

- (1) What advice is being provided to him by his department and Queensland Rail in relation to the passenger projection figures being used by AirTrain CityLink as the basis for their plans for the airport rail link?
- (2) Have the department and Queensland Rail changed their views at any point about the modal share likely to be achieved by any rail link to the airport?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(1) In accordance with the conditions of the Government mandate provided to Airtrain Citylink Ltd (Airtrain), Airtrain is required to present a fully bankable proposal, at no net cost to Government and with no contingent liability, by 30 June 1997. It is Airtrain's responsibility to prepare patronage estimates which, in part, are input to their financial model. This material is Commercial in Confidence and will be considered as part of Government's overall assessment of Airtrain's proposal.

(2) No—refer answer to Part 1 of Question.

262.Townsville Railway Workshops

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

With reference to his promises and plans for the Townsville Rail Workshops—

- (1) Is the heritage project currently five weeks behind?
- (2) Will work on the six carriages due to be completed by September be finished on time?
- (3) What resources from other areas such as wagon work are being diverted to the heritage project because Queensland Rail is unwilling to

take on sufficient extra staff to complete the project on time?

- (4) What extra work has been provided for the workshops other than the heritage project over the last six months?
- (5) What further work remains to be completed on the WHO Wagons?
- (6) What consultancies have been let in relation to the workshops, at what cost, and what progress has been made towards the implementation of the recommendations of any such consultancies?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(1 & 2) The Heritage Project is not five weeks behind. There have been some delays to design and manufacturing arising from the need to refine the design to achieve the required level of design excellence for what will be the worlds best Heritage Train.

The first carriage, the State Car, was delivered in November 1996 as promised on schedule and as you are aware an announcement was made on 6 December that Venice Simplon Orient Express, the operators of the Orient Express had entered into an agreement with Queensland Rail to create a joint venture company to operate the Great Southern Pacific Express across Australia.

The next major milestone for delivery of carriages is a requirement for six carriages to be presented at Ausrail 1997 in Melbourne in October, The completion of these carriages is scheduled for September 1997, to allow time for commissioning tests for interstate working. The completion of six carriages will be achieved as planned.

(3) Since July 1996 an additional 33 staff have been employed in Townsville Workshops, increasing the total number from 235 to 268 in six months. Staff have been employed in the North Yard for wagon works and in the South Yard for carriages, including heritage works. At this moment Queensland Rail is endeavouring to employ additional staff through the CES to support the Heritage project.

In addition a process of internal recruitment is being implemented in an effort to source required skills from North Yard, where, at this stage, workload for wagon repairs and overhauls is anticipated to drop off significantly after June this year. This is a natural process of balancing resources to meet the demands placed on the Workshops, remembering that most North Yard staff will be transferred to South Yard by early 1997 as the \$7.9 million development of South Yard is completed. Further opportunities for internal recruitment to the Heritage project will involve transfers and the like to the Heritage project from within the available pool of staff in Townsville Workshops, and may include secondment, on a temporary basis from other areas of Queensland Rail.

The dilemma for Workshops management is of course that large users of staff, such as the Heritage Train project come to an end and, in the case of the Heritage project, this will occur at the end of 1998,

therefore the balancing of available staff must occur in the short term if in the longer term the creation of a large number of surplus staff is to be avoided.

(4) In the last six months, additional work in the form of accident repairs have been undertaken in the South Yard and the North Yard has recently been awarded a contract to manufacture a large number of cattle container gates.

General repairs to wagons have continued to be directed to both yards, however it must be understood that the wagon work available to Townsville Workshops will be effected by the capacity provided by the new Stuart Wagon depot, new wagon maintenance practices, the capacity provided by the investment in Rockhampton Workshops, and the continued rationalisation of the fleet which includes the acquisition of a large number of new wagons, many of which are of course manufactured in the workshops at Redbank.

(5) The WHO wagon major overhaul project is planned to cease at the end of June this year. This program has seen a considerable increase in the number of wagons which have been overhauled, with the overhaul/repair program being a precursor to the acquisition of new wagons.

(6) There are a number of consultants employed on the project for a limited period to provide specialist expertise which was not readily available to the Queensland Rail project team. Current consultants and their roles are listed below however their function is limited to providing support to Queensland Rail line managers and staff and as such they do not run the project, which is managed by senior Queensland Rail staff. Queensland Rail is the designer and manufacturer of the train.

Bennett Design Group

Design and specialist advice in respect of catering for the train.

To date have designed a number of options for the galley cars and is currently preparing specifications to allow purchase of kitchen equipment.

Cost to date \$12,278

Corcoran & Associates

Denise Corcoran is the designer of interior layouts, finishes and furniture.

Has completed the design of all carriages, with a number of revisions in progress.

Cost to date \$176,080.

Mingara Services

Design and specialist advice in respect of internal and external communications, including video, for the train passengers and crew.

Completed a number of proposals with design now finalised.

Cost to date \$12,580.

Conner & Associates

Specialist advice in respect of management of purchasing, inventory, storage and workstation design

Completed inventory management system including store and procedures.

Cost to date \$79,000

Hinds Hurst Pty Ltd

Project development of detail, Master Plan and status reporting.

Completed Master Plan to detail level.

Cost to date \$52,950.

Tito Cueva Consulting

Purchasing of materials and expediting of orders for delivery to ensure manufacturing activities proceed to schedule.

Ongoing support for workshop staff.

Cost to date \$67,000.

TMG International

Project management coordination reporting and auditing.

Ongoing coordinating role and providing monthly reports and progress update.

Cost to date \$71,677.

263. Train Derailments

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

- (1) How many train derailments have occurred in Queensland this year?
- (2) What types of trains have been involved and where have they occurred?
- (3) How many derailments occurred in each of the last 12 years?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

- (1) 1st January 1997—31st March 1997

Running Move Derailments 22

Shunting Derailments 88

- (2) Running Move Derailments

Type of Trains	No.	Location
Passenger (Suburban)	1	Cleveland Line, Murarrie
Freight	11	Main Line, Holmes Gatton-Forrest Hill Southern Line, Clifton- Hendon Western Line, Maclister-Warra Dirranbandi Line, Inglewood-Whestone Bungunya Wandoan Branch, Burunga Millmerran Branch, Yarranlea Moura Short Line, Dumgree North Coast Line, Townsville Ravenshoe Line, Redlynch-Stoney Creek North Coast Line, Partington Mackay Coalfields, Braeside, Broadlea, Coppabella, Yukon Central Line, Tunnel-Grantleigh Moura Short Lin, Earlsfield-Beldeen, Beldeen-Earlsfield
Coal & Minerals	8	
Other (Departmental—mtce, etc)	2	Monto Branch, Thinoomba-Biggenden Main Line, Wulkuraka

(3) Year	Running Move Derailments	Shunting Derailments
1986	125	#
1987	76	#
1988	84	#
1989	* 70	#
1990	* 58	#
1991	58	#
1992	61	340
1993	80	424
1994	67	430
1995	66	400
1996	70	400

Note: * Archive records indicate that derailment statistics for 1989 and 1990 are incomplete

Shunting derailment statistics were not kept until the introduction of the Rail Safety Database in late 1991.

Definitions:

Running Move Derailment—Those derailments which occur on the operation running line.

Shunting Derailment—Those minor derailments which occur in sidings during train marshalling activities.

264. Ms L. Staib

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/3/97)—

How much did the department pay, in total, to consultant Lyn Staib in respect of (a) her report into the Queensland Fire Service (b) her report into the Queensland Ambulance Service and (c) all and any other services provided by her to his department or his office since the change of Government?

Mr Veivers (28/4/97):

(a) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has paid a total of \$52,265.00 in consultancy fees to Ms Lyn Staib to date. This amount includes \$37,410 for the review and \$14,855 for the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the review.

(b) The Queensland Ambulance Service has paid a total of \$40,237.00 in consultancy fees to Ms Staib to date for the review.

(c) There have been no payments made by or on behalf of my office to Ms Staib and no payments made by my department which were not associated with Ms Staib's consultancy work.

265. John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/3/97)—

With reference to reports of an escapee from the John Oxley Detention Centre offering himself for recapture at the centre but being refused due to the danger he represented to centre staff—

(1) Has the commission now studied the video of the incident more closely and what are the results of this further viewing?

(2) Have relevant staff of the centre been interviewed about this matter and what were the results of these interviews?

(3) Was the 'surrender' offer genuine; if so, why wasn't it acted upon?

(4) Is he satisfied that the police reaction time to this surrender offer was satisfactory?

Mr Cooper (30/4/97):

(1) Yes. The video has been studied and it is not absolutely clear that the person who appeared at the gate is the absconder. It should be noted that this person absconded from escorted leave of absence from the Ipswich General Hospital on 10 February 1997, not the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

(2) Relevant staff have been interviewed and further interviews are to be conducted in order to finalise the investigation. To date, the interviews reveal proper practices and procedures were followed and that there was no breach of security or procedures.

(3) This cannot be confirmed. See item (1). Upon the recapture of the absconder, I would propose that this can be confirmed at that time.

(4) Yes.

266. Prawn Industry

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (26/3/97)—

With reference to his Federal Coalition counterparts who intend to allow some 40 Gulf of Carpentaria prawn fishing trawlers on to the Queensland east coast given that these trawlers will add pressure to an already fragile fishery and, further, the industry's opposition to the move —

What does he intend to do to stop his Federal mates from ruining the Queensland prawn industry by this move?

Mr Perrett (16/4/97): There are presently thirty-eight trawlers operating in the Commonwealth managed Northern Prawn Fishery (NPF) which have endorsements entitling them to trawl in Queensland's east coast trawl fishery managed by the State.

During the last five years these vessels have been devoted almost entirely to the NPF.

Any major across the board cut back in effort is likely to result in a number of the dual-endorsed vessels seeking to sell some or all of their entitlement in the NPF and move their operations to the east coast.

The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) is well advanced in the development in consultation with industry of a management plan for the East Coast Trawl fishery which is to address the issues of resource sustainability and effort reduction.

The QFMA is presently reviewing its existing policy on NPF vessels returning to the Queensland east coast. Presently if a NPF vessel wishes to commence operations in the east coast it must buy out a corresponding level of fishing effort already on the east coast.

I have asked the QFMA to keep a close watch on this situation and keep me informed so I can raise the matter with my Federal counterpart if required.

267. Ambulance Service Vehicles

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/3/97)—

How many response vehicles not equipped to undertake code one emergencies (for example vehicles not equipped with defibrillators or staffed with officers trained and qualified to administer pain relief) were in service at (a) March 1996 and (b) March 1997?

Mr Veivers (24/4/97): Every emergency unit responding to a code 1 call is fully equipped to provide pre-hospital emergency care. The QAS does not provide defibrillators for every response vehicle as this would be a waste of valuable resources. Each ambulance unit responding to Code 1 on every shift is staffed by an officer trained and qualified in the provision of defibrillation and pain relief. All on duty ambulance units are equipped with pain relief drugs and carry a defibrillator. The QAS currently has 486 defibrillators. In comparing the figures for emergency vehicles for March 1996 to those of March 1997, it is important to remember the QAS has changed the methodology by which it classes emergency units. In March 1996, only two stretcher large units were classified as Code 1 emergency units, eg Ford F250. With the introduction of the single stretcher emergency vehicles, it was necessary to change the classification of ambulance units to include other vehicles, eg Commodore and Falcon units.

In March 1996, there were 554 class one ambulance vehicles and in March 1997 there are currently 602.

268. Child Protection Legislation

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (26/3/97)—

With reference to the urgent need for more staff and resources in the child protection activities of his department—

- (1) When will updated and comprehensive child protection legislation be introduced in the Parliament?
- (2) When will the much-needed 15 senior practitioners, funded by Treasury as part of the child protection strategy, be allocated to and employed in area offices?

Mr Lingard (9/4/97):

(1) Work on legislation to replace the Children's Services Act 1965 is continuing. Consultation with other Government Departments, the Children's Commission, key interest groups and relevant peak bodies is occurring during this process.

(2) Recently appointed Regional Directors are in the process of developing plans to maximise the effectiveness of all child protection personnel in their individual regions.

269. Hospital Waiting Lists

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Health (26/3/97)—

With reference to the unacceptable position in which a constituent of mine, to whom I shall refer to as Patient X (I will reveal the identity of Patient X in confidence upon request by his office or the Health Department) has been placed, including being first referred to the Royal Brisbane Hospital (RBH) in 1991 for a procedure for a condition of his ear which impedes his normal hearing and after being required to attend RBH on at least two occasions, one of which occurred as a result of an administrative error, he was referred back to Townsville General Hospital (TGH) after an ENT specialist was appointed to the TGH and in spite of waiting several years for the procedure to be carried out at RBH, when he was transferred back to TGH it appears he was placed on the end of the surgery waiting list—

In view of his claim of having reduced waiting list times, how does he rationalise his statement against the experience of my constituent who had to wait and suffer pain and disruption of his social life because of his department's inability to carry out the necessary procedure on his ear over a period in excess of six years.

Mr Horan (28/4/97): I cannot speak for the five year wait that Patient X experienced under the Goss Government, but I can provide the following information about his current situation.

Townsville Hospital had referred Patient X to RBH in 1991 due to the lack of an ENT specialist at Townsville. In 1995, Patient X was booked on the Townsville ENT waiting list after the appointment of an ENT specialist at Townsville Hospital. The specialist assessed Patient X as a Category 3 patient in December 1995. Patient categorisation is a purely clinical decision, and is not one in which I, or any of the administrative staff of Queensland Health, become involved.

Sometimes, these decisions are difficult decisions for the patient to understand, but in fairness to more urgent cases, they are decisions which must be made. Pain and quality of life are carefully assessed when the decision is made, and I am advised that Patient X's level of pain and the effect of his quality of life were taken into account. When he was again assessed in April 1996, the specialist still considered him to be a category 3 patient.

Patient X was not put onto the end of the surgery waiting list at Townsville General Hospital as suggested by the honourable member, but rather assessed on clinical need as a category 3 patient.

The lengthy wait by category 3 ENT patients is partially due to the delayed establishment by the Goss Government of the service at Townsville. The list was established based on the clinical need of those patients that had previously been referred to Brisbane. The commencement of radiation oncology services also added demand to the waiting list.

Should the patient consider that his condition is deteriorating, he should contact his doctor for further assessment. If necessary, his doctor could then request the ENT specialist to upgrade him to a higher priority on the waiting list. The Elective Surgery Coordinator at Townsville General Hospital

can also provide Patient X with ongoing information about the length of the ENT waiting list.

Surgery on Time has focused on the more urgent Category 1 patients in its first 6 months (to December 1996) and the percentage of Category 1 patients waiting longer than clinically desirable has been reduced from 49% to the long term target of less than 5%.

Patient X's case relates to the demand for the relatively new ENT speciality at Townsville, and he is still clinically assessed as a Category 3 patient. However, on the basis of advice from Townsville Hospital, I am hopeful that his operation will be performed before the end of the year.

270. Ms P. Hanson

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (26/3/97)—

With reference to claims that the Federal Member for Oxley, Pauline Hanson, underpaid the staff of her fish and chip shop in Ipswich—

- (1) Did she pay her staff of five full-time and casual employees a total of \$32,333 in 1995-96?
- (2) How much of this figure was made up of Federal Government grants?
- (3) Does he believe Ms Hanson has underpaid her employees; if so, what action does he intend to take to have the matter corrected?
- (4) Has Ms Hanson paid, in full, the Workers' Compensation payments due under Queensland law?

Mr Santoro (28/4/97):

(1) To my knowledge there has never been a complaint lodged with the Department of Training and Industrial Relations against Ms Hansen for underpayment of wages for employees of the business in question.

(2) I do not have access to such information.

(3) Again, I can only reiterate that I am not aware of any claim for underpayment of wages having been lodged with the Department of Training and Industrial Relations against Ms Hanson as the proprietor of a fish and chip shop at Ipswich.

(4) The workers' compensation policy held by Ms Hanson was paid in full and is current to 30 June 1997.

271. Electricity Supply, Daintree Region

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (26/3/97)—

- (1) What was the total number of approvals granted under the combined HRAPS and DRAPS rebate schemes and do these figures represent well over half of the eligible residents?
- (2) Is he aware of the fact that the Daintree River-Cape Tribulation region is now the largest alternative energy community in Australia, and is a focus of National and International attention in regard to renewable energy systems?

(3) Will he confirm that the FNQEB proposal to extend mains power to the Daintree has been amended to include Thornton's Beach, i.e. go beyond the previously declared limit of Cooper Creek; if so, what additional costs are involved in the amended proposal and what number of residents will be serviced in Thornton's Beach?

(4) Will he outline the schedule for determination of the Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIAS), and for the completion of the EIAS itself?

(5) What Government departments and agencies, at Commonwealth, State and local level, have been requested to participate in the EIAS and what non-government organisations and community groups have been invited to participate in the EIAS?

(6) In the FNQEB document titled "Preliminary Powerline Proposal Only, Daintree River-Cooper Creek, The Questions and answers" dated 4 October 1996, it is stated "Once the level of State Government's subsidy is determined, FNQEB will then provide options for customers wishing to take grid based electricity supply.", has the Government determined a level of subsidy; if so, what is that level of subsidy?

(7) Is he aware that under the Draft Wet Tropics Management Plan, sections of the proposed transmission route traverse Core Natural and Future Core Natural Zones and that under the associated management plans, no new activity is permitted in these zones?

(8) If the zoning of these areas and the associated management plans are retained under the final Wet Tropics Management Plan, will he, and hence FNQEB, abandon the proposal to extend mains power to the Daintree?

(9) Should Douglas Shire Council elect not to implement vegetation controls, will he encourage or support the State Government to override the Douglas Shire Council?

(10) Should a freehold land owner decline FNQEB permission to traverse his/her land as part of the proposed transmission route, will he, on behalf of FNQEB, override the land owner's decision and compulsorily acquire the required section of private property?

(11) Is he aware that over 500 freehold blocks of land within the Daintree have been offered for sale to the Wet Tropics Management Authority/Daintree Rescue Program?

(12) Is he aware of a proposal for the Commonwealth Government to purchase at least 400 blocks of land within the Daintree, financed by the Australian Heritage Fund/Trust?

Mr Gilmore (10/4/97):

(1) In the Daintree region a total of 137 approvals were granted under the combined HRAPS and DRAPS rebate schemes and an extra 26 approvals were granted for the DRAPS rebate scheme only. As accurate data on the total number of resident landowners occupying approved dwellings in the

Daintree region is not readily available from the Douglas Shire Council, I am unable to determine whether these figures represent a sizeable proportion of eligible residents. However, it is known that there are around 620 to 935 blocks of land in the Daintree area which potentially will require electricity in the future.

It should also be noted that as part of the Daintree Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIAS) process, FNQEB will be conducting a market survey of all landowners in the region to ascertain the market potential for grid and non-grid options to supply electricity to the area.

(2) No. However, it is my understanding that Tasmania which sources approximately 99% of its electricity from renewable energy, namely hydro, would probably best qualify as the largest renewable energy community in Australia.

(3) The FNQEB proposal to extend mains power to the Daintree region does include an extension to Thornton's Beach. The number of prospective residents and the additional costs involved in extending power to Thornton's Beach are two issues which will be addressed in the EIAS process.

(4) The revised draft Terms of Reference for the Daintree EIAS is currently being reviewed by a steering committee of key State, Commonwealth and, Local Government agencies. I envisage that an agreed draft Terms of Reference will be made available to all stakeholders for discussion via a public meeting/workshop in early May 1997.

In relation to the timeframe for completion of the EIAS, both myself and the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Senator Hill, are committed to a speedy timetable and would like to receive a copy of the preliminary EIAS report by December 1997. This would then mean the final EIAS report could be completed in February 1998 and, subject to a satisfactory outcome in the EIAS report, final approval for the Daintree proposal could be given in March/April 1998.

(5) The State, Commonwealth and, Local Government agencies which will be consulted during the preparation of the EIAS include the following:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (Cairns);

Commonwealth Department of Public Works and Housing (Townsville);

Department of Economic Development and Trade (Brisbane);

Department of Environment (Brisbane and Cairns);

Department of Environment—Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service (Brisbane);

Department of Families, Youth and Community Care—CSD (Townsville);

Department of Local Government and Planning (Brisbane, Cairns);

Department of Mines and Energy (Brisbane, Mareeba);

Department of Natural Resources (Brisbane, Far North, Mareeba);

Department of Natural Resources—Resources Management (Brisbane);

Department of Primary Industries—Fisheries (Cairns);

Department of Primary Industries—Fisheries (Habitat Management) (Brisbane);

Department of Primary Industries—Queensland Forest Service (Brisbane, Atherton);

Department of Public Works and Housing (Cairns, Cape York);

QBUILD (Brisbane);

Department of Premier (Cairns);

Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry (Brisbane, Cairns);

Department of Transport (Cairns);

Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation (Brisbane);

Douglas Shire Council (Mossman);

Environment Australia—World Heritage and Wilderness (Canberra);

Far North Queensland 2010 RPAG;

Far North Queensland Promotions Bureau (Cairns);

Telecom Australia—TELSTRA (Mossman); and

Wet Tropics Management Authority.

The non-Government organisations and community groups which will be consulted during the preparation of the EIAS include the following:

Cairns and Far North Queensland Environment Centre;

Cape York Land Council (Cairns);

Community Information Liaison Committee CILC (Mossman);

Douglas Shire Tourism Association (Port Douglas);

Goobidi Bamangu—Traditional Owner Representatives (Mossman);

Landowners and residents in the Daintree region;

North Queensland Land Council;

Queensland Conservation Council (Brisbane); and

Any other relevant Groups.

(6) The Government has not determined the level of Community Service Obligation to be payable to FNQEB to partially reduce the costs faced by customers in the Daintree region. This issue will be determined on completion of the EIAS where such details as the extent of the powerline to be placed underground and the alignment of the powerline will be finalised.

(7) Yes I am aware that the Draft Wet Tropics Management Plan establishes a zoning scheme which provides a guide to appropriate activities in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and that Core Natural and Future Core Natural Zones do not permit any new activity. However, the Wet Tropics

Management Authority advise that new activity will still be allowed in Core Natural and Future Core Natural Zones if a permit is granted by the Authority or the activity is, inter alia, undertaken less than 500 metres from all roads, cableways, pipelines, towers, mines, quarries and, other such structures.

It should also be noted that the Wet Tropics Management Authority has advised that the final Wet Tropics Management Plan will specifically address the issue of infrastructure development in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

(8) As indicated above, there is no reason why the gazetting of the Wet Tropics Management Plan will mean the Government has to abandon its proposal to extend power to the Daintree. The final alignment of the proposed powerline will be determined through the EIAS process and the Wet Tropics Management Authority, as a key advisory body to the EIAS, will provide detailed comment on alignment options for the powerline where it traverses World Heritage Areas (in particular, those World Heritage Areas defined as Core Natural and Future Core Natural Zones in the Wet Tropics Management Plan).

(9) It is not envisaged the Government will need to use any 'strong arm' tactics on the issue of vegetation clearance controls with the Douglas Shire Council. The Council has previously indicated its willingness to proceed with a vegetation clearance local law in the Daintree region through the passing of a number resolutions to this effect at Council.

(10) Under the Electricity Act 1994, FNQEB can resume land for proposed electricity works. However, in practice FNQEB advise that a negotiated solution is usually sought for an acceptable line route through the EIAS process. Alternative routes are explored to avoid areas of contention where it is economically feasible to do so and compulsory acquisition is only used as a last resort.

(11) The Wet Tropics Management Authority has advised that approximately 430 blocks of land have been offered for sale to the Wet Tropics Management Authority/Daintree Rescue Program.

(12) No. However, if by the Australian Heritage Fund/Trust you mean the Natural Heritage Trust, I am aware that the Commonwealth Government has recently released guidelines for community groups to apply for grants from the Trust, ahead of the passage of the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Bill 1996. Environment Australia has advised that community groups can now submit project proposals which address a range of environmental and natural resource issues in an integrated way for possible Trust funding in the next financial year. It is understood that no decision has yet been made on the allocation of the funds in the Trust for the 1997-98 financial year.

Under the Trust guidelines, it may be possible for a community group to apply for Trust funding to purchase blocks of land in the Daintree region, although Environment Australia has advised that is not aware of any such proposal.

272. Emergency Services Minister, Overseas Visits

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/3/97)—

- (1) What overseas trips have been taken by him, and what overseas trips have been taken by departmental officers since the change of Government?
- (2) How much did each overseas trip cost?
- (3) What international delegations visiting Queensland have had all or part of their expenses paid for by the Department of Emergency Services or by the Queensland Government?
- (4) What was the total sum expended in respect of (3) above?

Mr Veivers (28/4/97):

- (1) Overseas trips undertaken by the Minister and the costings of those trips are reported to Parliament on a regular basis.
- (2) Details of overseas trips undertaken by departmental officers are presented in the Departmental Annual Report.
- (3) The attached table details all international delegations who have visited Queensland and have had all or part of their expenses paid for by the Department of Emergency Services.
- (4) Detailed costings for each visit are also listed on the attached table.

273. Coorparoo TAFE College; Queen Alexandra Home

Mr RADKE asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (26/3/97)—

- (1) Will he outline the Government's facility and asset management plans for the future of the Coorparoo Campus of TAFE?
- (2) Will he specifically outline his department's plan for the Queen Alexandra Home?

Mr Santoro (28/4/97):

(1) The Southbank Institute, of which the Coorparoo Campus of TAFE is part, has initiated a formal process to develop a strategic facilities and asset management plan. I endorsed this plan. Under the previous Labor Government there existed only ad hoc measures. Such measures only exposed the system to political pressures. The planning process for the utilisation of the Queen Alexandra Home (QAH) is a good case in point. Correspondence records reveal that the previous Member for Greenslopes (Garry Fenlon) wrote to the then Deputy Premier (Tom Burns) on 24 May 1993, in a crude attempt to ensure that the Building Committee of Queensland Police Welfare Association was favoured over an existing option (the Spina Bifida Association of Queensland) when it came to the utilisation of QAH assets. I can assure you that under the new arrangements being put in place by my Department, asset management planning will be

made apolitical and will be done in accordance with the needs of the entire community.

(2) The disposal of the QAH was considered under the previous Labor administration as the minutes from the QAH Advisory Council of 28 March 1996 clearly reflect. Agenda item 3.1- states that there was a recommendation arising out of the Development Plan to sell the QAH. According to the minutes of preceding QAH meetings the Development Plan had been formulated as far back as November 1995. The meeting of 28 March 1996 was duly informed that since there were two separate titles for the Coorparoo Campus and QAH, each could be sold separately. I would add that your Labor predecessor in the electorate of Greenslopes, Mr Gary Fenlon, was present at this meeting, in his capacity as a member of the QAH council. He was conspicuously quiet on the subject of the sale of the QAH, although the minutes reflect that another member of the council was strongly against any sale because it would disadvantage community groups. When I was appointed the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations on 26 February 1996 one of my first actions was to freeze the decisions formulated by the previous Labor government. This included any proposal to sell the QAH. As mentioned I endorsed arrangements for an apolitical assets management plan at the Southbank Institute. This plan is currently being finalised but I am advised that the disposal of the Queen Alexandra Home is not, and has never been, considered by my department during my time as Minister.

274. Police Station, Gladstone

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/3/97)—

- (1) What progress is being made on the construction of a new police station in Gladstone?
- (2) What options are in place to progress the construction of the police station if Justice Department decisions are delayed?
- (3) Will the necessary capital works funding be allocated in the forthcoming budget?

Mr Cooper (24/4/97):

(1) The Project Team has completed a study of the facilities implications for the new Gladstone District Headquarters and Watchhouse. An Accommodation Schedule listing design requirements has been sent to the Department of Public Works and Housing.

A number of other issues need to be resolved prior to the design of any new or replacement facility at Gladstone.

The Queensland Police Service has commissioned the Department of Public Works and Housing to undertake a pre-design options study with the Department of Justice to examine these issues. The final report due by 9 May 1997.

The study will provide recommendations on the following issues:

Is the current site suitable for redevelopment to meet both Police and Justice needs?

Are any of the existing buildings suitable for retention in such redevelopment?

Do alternative sites offer greater benefit with new construction?

What are the heritage implications of the existing courthouse on the progress of this joint project?

- (2) The pre-design study will include consideration of contingencies for development of Police facilities independent of Justice requirements, should the latter be subject to any delays.

It should be noted that the watchhouse must be collocated with any new courthouse. This is a major limiting factor upon proceeding without certainty of Justice intentions.

Collocation of the watchhouse and courthouse is fundamental to considerations of security, public safety, treatment of prisoners and economies in prisoner escorts and transfers.

- (3) Funding for this project of \$7.750M has been allocated over the 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99 financial years. Most of this has been provided from the Government's Infrastructure Rejuvenation Package. It includes a provisional amount to fund purchase of land if necessary.

275. Mental Health Services; Barrett Centre

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (26/3/97)—

With reference to Queensland Health's Mental Health Strategy in which there is acknowledged a need for 48 adolescent mental beds across Queensland and that there are only 15 functioning adolescent mental health beds at the Barrett Adolescent Unit; and also noting that over 13 months later, the 12 adolescent beds at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, built and funded by the Labor Government to be opened early in 1996 are still not open and functioning and also given that proposed adolescent health beds at Logan will not be finished until at the earliest, late 1999—

- (1) Will he reassure parents of the deeply disturbed and often suicidal children at the Barrett Centre that he will not close the centre this year as his senior staff have informed these parents?
- (2) Will he guarantee that no moves to further reduce the adolescent mental health beds will be made until such time as alternative proposals have been implemented and trialled successfully?
- (3) Will he assure the affected patients and their parents that there will remain a range of facilities to deal with those deeply disturbed patients who have already repeatedly been through acute care facilities and private psychiatrists and have a recognised need for a stable, caring medium term centre and rehabilitation?

Mr Horan (28/4/97):

- (1) I am able to reassure parents that the relocation of Barrett Adolescent Centre services, (in perhaps

late 1999) to a purpose built facility at Logan, will be effected without temporary loss of service and with full consultation throughout the process. As the Coalition has funded and staffed the Royal Brisbane Hospital Adolescent Unit, this initiative will provide two first class facilities in Brisbane.

(2) There have been no reductions in adolescent mental health beds, nor are any planned. This contrasts with the previous Labor Government, of which the Member for Mount Coot-tha was a member, which did not fund or staff the Royal Brisbane Hospital Adolescent Unit. All she and the rest of her Government left was a multi-million dollar budget over-run. By contrast, the Borbidge Government has funded the Unit and recruited its Director and staff.

(3) Yes. The Coalition in Government is committed to pursuing improved access, early intervention, and improved treatment responses, increased community services, day treatment services, and partial hospitalisation services, in addition to longer term inpatient services, such as the Barrett Adolescent Unit.

276. Indigenous Women Within the Criminal Justice System Report

Ms SPENCE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (26/3/97)—

With reference to the report "Indigenous Women Within the Criminal Justice System"—

- (1) Which of the 20 recommendations have been implemented?
- (2) What is the timeframe for the implementation of the remaining recommendations?
- (3) How much has been allocated in this years budget to the implementation of these recommendations?

Mr Beanland (1/5/97):

(1) All of the report's recommendations are being acted upon. The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is presently examining the feasibility of implementing a community outreach program which, subject to the outcome of that study, could involve incorporated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations in the provision of victim support services under contract to DPP to indigenous complainants and prosecution witnesses in remote regions of Queensland.

In addition, DPP is in the process of recruiting two victim support workers to its Far North Queensland regional offices where the demand from indigenous witnesses is highest. One of these positions will have a community liaison role and will provide local support to those indigenous communities which may be involved in the proposed community outreach program.

DPP is also continuing to develop its networks with other non-government community groups throughout Queensland in the provision of victim support services and its referral directory is an essential means of ensuring that indigenous persons receive appropriate support from such organisations.

DPP considers that the community outreach strategy is likely to be much more cost-effective than the report's recommendations for the appointment of at least ten indigenous liaison officers in DPP's Brisbane and regional offices to deliver victim support services directly.

DPP is also giving attention to cross-cultural training for staff in June 1997 and indigenous people will be involved in the provision of this program at Brisbane and Townsville.

Information in the form of "user friendly" video and print material describing DPP's role in the criminal justice system is being prepared from the standpoints of both indigenous and non-indigenous communities.

(2) All of the report's recommendations that are within DPP's jurisdiction are being addressed in 1997. Recommendations 11 and 18, however, raise other considerations.

Crown Prosecutors are aware of the need and regularly make applications to judges for screens and the presence of a support person in court.

However, the Law Reform Commission's current reference on the evidence of children (to be reported on by 31 March 1998) would include, of course, the needs of indigenous children.

Recommendation 18's reference to the need to review remote area magistrates court circuit environments to make them more "user friendly" to indigenous women has been examined by my Department's Courts Division.

A pilot project will be conducted at Kowanyama and Thursday Island in 1997-98 which will involve the magistrates courts there being constituted by indigenous justices of the peace and this is expected to facilitate a court environment that is more attuned to the needs of indigenous women.

Subject to the outcome of the project, this strategy could be extended to other magistrates courts on a needs basis. DPP's Victim Support Service will monitor the project's results.

(3) Expenditure in 1996-97 is estimated at \$105,000.

277. Cyclone Justin; Teachers Strike

Mr HAYWARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (26/3/97)—

With reference to the clear needs of North Queenslanders for assistance as a result of damage caused by Cyclone Justin—

Will he support the resolution passed by 200 teachers meeting at Caboolture on Tuesday to re-allocate the wages saved as a result of the teachers' strike as a direct contribution to disaster relief in North Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon (2/5/97): While I note the resolution, the allocation of wage savings from the strike action of teachers is a matter for the Government to consider.

The Government does however share their concerns for the victims of natural disasters. Accordingly, a number of relief measures were activated in February

and March of this year under the State/Commonwealth Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements to assist those in North Queensland districts affected by flooding and Cyclone Justin.

These measures include:

grants to individuals to assist in the provision of food, clothing, and shelter;

means tested grants to individuals for essential household contents and emergency repairs;

means tested concessional loans to primary producers, small businesses and non profit community associations; and

the provision of funding to restore essential local and State Government assets.

At this stage, it is estimated that the total cost of Government relief measures associated with North Queensland flooding and Cyclone Justin may amount to \$34 million.

1997 already has proven a bad year for natural disasters in Queensland with parts of Western and Central Queensland also suffering the impact of severe floods. It is estimated that total expenditure on Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements in Queensland will amount to approximately \$69 million in 1996-97 and \$70 million in 1997-98.

278. Rail Line, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

With reference to the section of the railway corridor on Galloways Hill just east of the Norman Park Railway Station which continues to have tight curves creating intolerable wheel squeal for residents within a kilometre radius of that section—

- (1) What engineering work would need to be undertaken to accommodate a straighter section of track which would eliminate or significantly reduce the wheel squeal?
- (2) What would be the cost of any such engineering work?
- (3) How long would it take to construct?
- (4) What land would be required to construct a straighter section of track and do Queensland rail already own, or have access to, that land?
- (5) What impact would the straightening of the track have upon the need to install tall noise barriers which will do little to address the other noise issue of locomotives which emit noise from the top of the vehicle?
- (6) What disruption to current traffic on the line would be created by any such construction work?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97):

(1) Planning was undertaken in the early 1950s to partially straighten the railway on Galloways Hill. This provided for the existing 200 metre radius curves to be eased to 280 metre radius over a 1.5km length east of Norman Park station. Some land was acquired at the time but the project did not proceed due to lack of funding.

To realign the current railway to that standard now, would entail:-

further resumptions of private property and closure of road reserve

realigning of the existing roads (eg Railway Parade)

earthworks (cuttings, embankment), retaining walls to suit the new alignment

realigned track and overhead wiring, and replacement signalling and telecommunication link.

Construction would be extremely disruptive to rail traffic because the previous concept required a number of crossings of the existing alignment. These could be accommodated in pre-electrified and power signalling days, applicable in the 1950s but not so easily today.

This realignment would improve the rail squeal noise, but the curves are still tight by modern railway standards, and the other train noises (loco under full power etc) would still exist. Further straightening on the this 1.5km section adversely impacts on grading and was not feasible for either passenger or freight train operations.

This limited realigning scheme is not considered practical today, and the noise barriers to be constructed shortly as part of the standard gauge project should greatly reduce the impact of the rail squeal problem.

An alternative to improve both the grading and the alignment was investigated in the early 1980s with a concept developed to reduce the grade (and realign/straighten) between Stanley Street, Coorparoo and Morningside (from approximately Gary Street).

Briefly this would have entailed:-

Realign approx. 3km of track.

Lowering under Richmond Road (the previous level crossing would become an overpass at the previous road level).

Major impacts on Waminda Street and Bennetts Road and adjoining properties.

Reconstruction of bridges at Crown Street and Agnew Street.

Encroachment on Bottomley Park and major resumption of residential property on the south east side of the railway.

New stations at Norman Park and Morningside.

A major construction/operational restraint imposed on any scheme is to retain rail services (Citytrain and Freight) during the construction period. Ideally this requires no crossing of the existing alignment, particularly where the level differences are significant. The above realignment thus involved restricting a new straightened alignment to the south-east side of the existing railway, with resultant high impact on existing land uses and high resumption costs.

To build to this alignment now would entail abandonment/demolition of major structures recently completed for the standard gauge link.

(2) No costing has been undertaken in recent times on the original limited realignment since it is now impractical to build this scheme.

No detailed scoping or cost estimate of the major regrade/realigning option has been undertaken, but the capital cost is conservatively estimated in the order of \$40-\$50m excluding resumptions, which would be substantial

(3) The implementation period for the major regrade/realigning would be:-

Impact Study, detailed design, property acquisition—18 months

Construction—30 months

(4) Either option requires acquisition of additional land with the major regrading/realigning option having a very significant impact.

No detailed planning of the major regrading/realigning option has been carried out. This option also involves significant impact on existing roads (Waminda Street, Bennetts Road) and would require additional land to cater for their realigning.

(5) Proposed major regrade/realigning option lowers the railway substantially with reduced grade and improved curvature. Train noise emissions would be expected to reduce slightly overall, but rail squeal would reduce significantly. (The improved grading would improve the transit time of freight trains at the top throttle setting, rather than result in operating at lower throttle setting). The extent of noise barriers would also reduce because more of the railway would be in cutting. Height of noise barriers would depend on location. It would be expected that these would not change in the Bennetts Road to Stanley Street area, where the railway would still be substantially on embankment.

(6) The only practical design to allow rail services to continue during the long construction period is one where the new alignment is substantially clear of the existing alignment. Multiple cross-overs of new and old alignments are not feasible to construct in the urban environment, given restrictions on shut down periods (for new track cut-ins) and on working hours (for safety reasons). This precludes undertaking the limited signal realigning proposal.

The impacts of the major regrading/realigning option on existing rail operations would be restricted to works at each end adjacent to the existing track, and on the change-over from the old to the new alignments (expected to require 2 or 3 separate changeovers for track, signalling and overhead wiring on each track each involving 2-3 day shutdowns).

There would be major construction impacts from both on the local community (traffic, noise, dust, access etc).

279. Calicivirus

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (26/3/97)—

With reference to reports that the rabbit calicivirus is not achieving its projected kill rates in wetter, more mountainous areas—

(1) Is this true; if so, in what areas of Queensland are these low kill rates being recorded?

(2) Are additional measures such as baiting on carrots or oats being taken to maximise the effectiveness of RCD in these areas; if not, why not?

(3) In arid areas of the State where up to 80 per cent kill rates have been achieved, what additional measures such as warren ripping, shooting or baiting are occurring to maximise the impact of the virus?

(4) What resources and funding is the Natural Resources Department directing to these RCD support measures in both arid and mountainous areas?

Mr Hobbs (16/4/97):

(1) Indications are that rabbit calicivirus has not achieved as great a kill rate in the wetter, more mountainous areas, as has been recorded in the arid and semi-arid areas.

(2) The Department of Natural Resources is encouraging landholders in all areas to continue or increase the use of traditional control methods such as baiting and harbour destruction in order to maximise the benefits gained from the RCV release. An additional Land Protection Officer has been appointed specifically to encourage and advise landholders on traditional methods of control to maximise the reduction of the rabbit population provided by RCV.

Carrots are the only bait material currently used with 1080 and Pindone poisons. Oats are no longer used.

(3) Landholders in arid areas are also being encouraged to adopt best practice management of rabbits (to build on the initial population reduction provided by RCV). My Department is aware of landholders in these regions who are planning warren ripping campaigns to complement RCV. Myxoma inoculation campaigns will also be carried out as part of the integrated rabbit control program. The RCV monitoring program will provide information to determine how best to integrate the various control options.

Shooting is not considered to be an appropriate broadscale control method as it is labour intensive and has not produced significant results.

(4) As well as the recently appointed specialist Land Protection Officer, other Land Protection Officers around the State are providing advice and practical assistance ie baiting. Funding for rabbit control will continue to be provided from the Rural Lands Protection Trust Fund.

280. Whitsunday Women's Service

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (26/3/97)—

With reference to expressed concerns by Whitsunday Women's Service that (a) Mackay office of his department are so overworked that it is almost impossible for them to attend to child protection investigations in Whitsunday, (b) follow-up visits are almost too much to expect, (c) Whitsunday Women's

Service have been forced to take on the role of child protection in some instances and (d) reports are underestimated because of the lack of reporting by those who come into contact with children at risk because Mackay cannot service the area—

When will he protect the children of Whitsunday by supplying sufficient staff to the region?

Mr Lingard (14/4/97): The area referred to by the Honourable member is presently serviced by all Mackay Family Services Officers on an as needs basis with regards to child protection investigations and follow ups.

The Regional Directors from North and Central Queensland are in the process of developing an arrangement which enhances service provision within that area.

The new model for servicing will aim to better manage the workload of individual offices whilst also raising the quality of protective services throughout the region.

281. Crime Rates, Ashgrove/The Gap

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/3/97)—

With reference to gangs of youths responsible for a trail of destruction along Waterworks Road at The Gap and Ashgrove—

- (1) Is he aware of the damage caused to businesses, such as Chandlers Corner Auto Centre and the shopping centre of the same name across the road, as well as the Ashgrove Bowls Club and The Gap National Service Station?
- (2) Will he now admit that his closure of police stations at Red Hill and The Gap has led to an explosion of youth crime in the area?
- (3) What does he intend to do to address this matter?
- (4) Is he aware that even the Liberal candidate for The Gap in the recent council elections has called on him to look at crime figures at The Gap and to prioritise the opening of a 24-hour staffed police station in the area?

Mr Cooper (24/4/97):

(1) There is no record of any incidents of wilful damage being caused to either Chandlers Corner Auto Centre or The Gap National Service Station. Between 11.00 pm on the 11 January 1997 and 7.00 am on 12 January 1997 rocks were thrown at shop windows of Seven Heaven Chinese Takeaway and Streakers Hair Design situated in the Chandlers Corner Shopping Centre. No other acts of malicious damage have been reported relative to this location. Four incidents relate to allegations of wilful damage committed on the Ashgrove Bowls Club which is situated in Yoku Road, Ashgrove, two where greens were damaged and two resulting from rocks being thrown at windows.

For the fifteen month period from 1/1/96 to 31/3/97, a total of 36 offences of malicious damage were

reported as having been committed on Waterworks Road, The Gap. For this same period a total of 20 offences of malicious damage were reported as having been committed on Waterworks Road, Ashgrove.

(2) The Gap and Red Hill Police Stations are not closed and provide a counter service from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday. The cessation of the Red Hill Division resulted in the Ashgrove/Gap area being served by patrol units from the 24 hour Divisional Headquarters at Alderley and from the 24 hour Divisional Headquarters at Toowong. The result of this "divisionalisation" has been a substantial increase in the number of vehicles available to respond to community calls for assistance. There is no evidence to indicate an explosion of youth crime in the area.

(3) Alderley Divisional Police are working in close liaison with Ms Vanessa Fabre, a Brisbane City Council Project Officer, to identify the problems associated with youth in The Gap area and suggest alternative proactive strategies to address the issues.

Furthermore, instructions have been issued for plain clothes units to work until 2.00 am on Saturday and Sunday mornings to assist in monitoring anti-social behaviour by youth in The Gap area.

Senior police from Alderley Division have liaised with The Gap Community Association in an effort to address the perception of the juvenile problem.

(4) The Alderley Police Division provides a 24 hour police response to persons residing in The Gap area. The Toowong Police Division provides a 24 hour police response to persons residing in the Ashgrove area. The Ferny Grove Divisional Headquarters will be situated at Samford Road and Tramway Street, Ferny Grove. It will provide an enhanced police response to The Gap area. This construction is due for occupancy in September 1997.

282. Northgate Railway Station

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

With reference to Northgate Railway Station and the problems created by an increase in the number of commuters parking in neighbouring streets and given that on most week days, up to 130 vehicles are parked in streets adjacent to the station due to the early morning occupation of the existing 230 parking spaces—

Will he allocate the necessary funds to provide additional and appropriate off-street parking at this station?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97): Additional commuter car parking at Northgate is not included in an approved Capital Works program and therefore unfunded.

There is no unused Queensland Rail land in the vicinity of the existing car parking areas on the western side of the station.

Action is in hand to review the demand for Queensland Rail dwellings at Northgate which may make a small parcel of land at the corner of Gympie

and Toombul Streets available for car parking in due course

A strip of Queensland Rail land to the east of the station between Holland Street and Melton Road is being considered to provide parking for up to 25 vehicles, however the land is quite narrow and access limited.

283. Leading Schools Program, Archerfield Electorate

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education (26/3/97)—

- (1) Which schools in Archerfield Electorate are eligible to become a "Leading School" in the system being promoted by him?
- (2) Which schools are being actively considered for inclusion?
- (3) What disadvantages will other schools, not being considered suffer?
- (4) Will he guarantee that the expert services now being provided by the Southern Vale District Support Centre, will be available to schools throughout Archerfield Electorate?

Mr Quinn (29/4/97):

- (1) The following schools in the Archerfield electorate are eligible to become Leading Schools:

Band 10: Algester SS

Band 8: Acacia Ridge SHS, Acacia Ridge SS, Calamvale Special School, Calamvale SS, Salisbury SHS

- (2) All schools in bands 8 to 11 will enter the Leading Schools program over the next three years.

- (3) Those schools in Bands 7, and below, will not join this program. Nevertheless, in developing the Leading Schools framework, the needs of small schools have not been forgotten.

The District Office structure will enhance the provision of services to small schools. The size of each district (approximately 40 schools per district) means that services will be closer to small schools than was the case under the regional structure.

District office services will have a major focus on schools with teaching principals. These schools will continue to receive a wide range of services from a district office and will not be expected to adopt the array of school based management approaches.

- (4) The services provided by the Southern Vale School Support Centre will be provided by school-based staff and through the District Office.

284. Small Claims Tribunal

Mr LUCAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (26/3/97)—

With reference to the Small Claims Tribunal and in particular the evaluation of the Residential Tenancies Act conducted by the Board of the Residential Tenancies Authority—

- (1) When did both he and his department first become aware of serious community concerns

with respect to the operations of the Small Claims Tribunal?

- (2) When did he receive a copy of the review of the Residential Tenancies Act conducted by the Board of the Residential Tenancies Authority?
- (3) Specifically, is he aware that the review report stated that over 65 per cent of all submissions with respect to the Act discussed dispute resolution and 97 per cent of those submissions in particular dealt with the Small Claims Tribunal?
- (4) Is he aware that the Residential Tenancies Authority report notes (page 259) that "Comment was made on the tribunal by lessors, agents and tenants as well as being a clear focus in the submissions of all major peak organisations representing the interests of these groups. The criticisms made by all these groups and individuals are remarkably similar" and bearing in mind the extraordinarily wide criticisms from such groups which ordinarily have such divergent views, does he not agree that the Small Claims Tribunal is an inappropriate forum for the adjudication of tenancy disputes?
- (5) What proposals does he have for addressing the problems identified with the Small Claims Tribunal and does he support the recommendation of the Board of the Residential Tenancies Authority (page 277) that a separate adjudicatory body be set up to deal with residential tenancy matters?
- (6) How many complaints has he and his department received (in all areas, not just tenancy disputes) over the last year with respect to the Small Claims Tribunal?
- (7) What person(s) are conducting the review into the Small Claims Tribunal as announced in The Courier-Mail of 15 March and what are the terms of their appointment and their terms of reference?
- (8) Does he not agree that, with wages for magistrates at \$115,000 per year, (not including on-costs), that it would be more efficient for the administration of both the Magistrates Courts and the Small Claims Tribunal for a small number of referees to be appointed in major centres (on more modest salaries) drawn from the ranks of Government or private solicitors with "shop front" type legal experience?
- (9) Does he acknowledge that it is possible to appoint referees to the Small Claims Tribunal who are not also Stipendiary Magistrates without the necessity of amending the Small Claims Tribunal Act in any way?
- (10) Will he give a commitment to substantially extending the jurisdiction of the Small Claims Tribunal to deal with the much broader range of civil disputes under \$5000, many of which disputes are currently incapable of being dealt with in the magistrates court due to their cost inefficiency for both the public and the legal profession.

Mr Beanland (23/4/97):

(1) Members of the public periodically raise concerns or make complaints arising from their experiences with these tribunals. This is why I have asked my department to examine the operation and jurisdiction of Small Claims Tribunals and Small Debts Courts, which examination was brought to public attention through media advertising on 15 March 1997. It should also be pointed out that I do not necessarily concur with the view that there are "serious community concerns". Concerns raised constitute a small percentage of matters processed through the Small Claims Tribunals and Small Debts Courts.

(2) I am advised that my department received the final version of the report on 27 March 1997.

(3) Yes.

(4) As the question of specifying an appropriate forum for determining matters arising under the Residential Tenancies Act 1994 raises issues within the portfolio of the Minister for Public Works and Housing, it should be directed to him. However I would make clear that I do not share or support the comments made by the Residential Tenancies Authority in its report. The Authority is well known for its long term campaign against an independent adjudicatory body and in favour of a special purpose tribunal. This stand reflects the views of those who campaigned for the establishment of the Residential Tenancies Authority.

(5) The report is under consideration by officers of my department. The part of the question about a separate adjudicatory body should be directed to the Minister for Public Works and Housing.

(6) I have received 72 complaints pertaining to the Small Claims Tribunal for the calendar year 1996. The Small Claims Tribunal itself has to hand statistics for the Brisbane area only. Seven complaints were sent to the Tribunal during 1996. Normally concerns are expressed to the Registrar and are directly attended to and in the main resolved.

(7) There is no "review" as such and, in fact, that word does not appear in the announcement of 15 March 1997. Rather, I have asked my department to look into the operation and jurisdiction of both small claims tribunals and small debts courts. A working party of departmental officers has been assigned to do this work as part of their regular duties. For this reason, it is not appropriate to name these officers.

(8) This option will be considered as part of the departmental project previously mentioned. The member's question however betrays his concern about disputes being resolved by independent judicial officers.

(9) Yes.

(10) No. The jurisdiction of Small Debts Courts and Small Claims Tribunals will be adjusted from time to time in conjunction with consideration of the jurisdiction of all courts.

285.Cooloolool Coast

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (26/3/97)—

With reference to coastal development on the Cooloolool Coast between Hervey Bay and Tin Can Bay—

(1) Is she aware that a recent University of Queensland study linked the decline of 1400 dugongs from waters adjacent to the Cooloolool Coast to the impacts of this development?

(2) What action is she taking to address this and other impacts of unsustainable development of the region?

(3) What action is being taken to protect the 14 threatened terrestrial vertebrate fauna identified by a recent EIA undertaken by consultants WBM Oceanics as "expected to be negatively affected" by further water mining of the Noosa River system?

(4) Will the Government require comprehensive environmental impact studies into the loss of dugongs and further water extraction from the Cooloolool National Park before any further development of the region?

(5) Will the Government review regional planning schemes for development of the Cooloolool Coast in light of the weight of scientific evidence relating to this matter?

(6) Is it true that she has advised community representatives that she and her department are not responsible for protecting the environment and that the environmental impacts of planning decisions are not her concern?

Mrs McCauley (22/4/97):

(1) I am not aware of this study.

(2) The Member's question assumes some development in the region is unsustainable. I consider much of the development that has occurred in this region has been done in an environmentally responsible manner. Areas such as Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach have a low environmental impact and people are attracted to them because of their environmental qualities. My Department works very closely with local governments in this area and relevant government agencies to ensure issues such as sustainable development are incorporated into the development assessment process.

(3) The report to which Mr Welford refers was prepared for the Cooloolool Shire Council as part of its investigations into water supply options for the Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay areas. I understand Council will respond to the issues raised in the report.

(4) I understand the Department of Environment is assessing these matters. The Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 requires Environmental Impact Studies for significant development proposals.

(5) There are no "regional" planning schemes in this area. The local governments of Cooloolool, Tiaro, Maryborough and Hervey Bay administer local planning schemes in this area. The Department of Environment is currently preparing development control plans in collaboration with local governments and my Department as part of the implementation program for the Great Sandy Region Management

Plan. My Department is also responsible for the Wide Bay 2020 Growth Management Project which, among other matters, is developing regional principles and actions for coastal development.

(6) No. My Department coordinates a whole of government approach, including environmental protection, to land use issues of State or regional significance. Local Government is responsible for administering planning schemes including consideration of environmental impacts when making land use decisions. The Department of Environment is part of these processes and it is also responsible for detailed technical advice on environmental protection matters.

286.South East Freeway

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/3/97)—

With reference to costings provided by the Department of Transport that demonstrate that his preferred option to construct high occupancy vehicle lanes along the South East Freeway and extend the dedicated busways along this section of freeway at a later date will cost Queensland taxpayers an extra \$150m in today's terms—

How can he justify this gross waste of money which has been identified by his department and will he now scrap this ill conceived plan to build high occupancy vehicle lanes along this section of freeway which his department admits that they have not yet found a solution on how to police?

Mr Johnson (18/4/97): The high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes planned for the Pacific Highway corridor between Klumpp Road and the Logan Motorway are one key element of the overall transport strategy for the Brisbane to Gold Coast corridor. The aim is to manage the expected growth in travel demands by maximising the people moving capacity of the corridor and making better use of road space.

Queensland Transport is currently considering the best operating plan for the lanes. Options for enforcing the lanes are being fully investigated with the Police and a detailed plan will be developed well before the lanes open to traffic in 2001. Discussions to date indicate that a workable and effective enforcement strategy can be developed for the HOV lanes.

The investment in the HOV lanes represents an effective use of funds as it provides a balanced way of giving priority to public transport and high occupancy vehicles, while also providing some support for general traffic and the high volumes of freight traffic using this section of the highway.

A possible extension of the busway south of the Gateway will be considered in the longer term as part of the planning for the Regional Busway Network. The priority for this busway will be considered alongside other priorities for the busway network.

Any busway extension is unlikely to be justified until the number of buses using the HOV lanes is high enough to warrant investment in a separate busway facility. Use of the HOV lanes by cars will be planned

and managed in a way that guarantees a high level of service for public transport. This will maximise the lifetime of the investment.

287.Airconditioning of Schools

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Education (26/3/97)—

With reference to the decision by the Premier to spend \$300,000 to fund the air-conditioning of three schools in Moranbah—

- (1) Has the Government changed its policy on where schools will be air-conditioned?
- (2) Will all schools in Queensland who have been fund-raising to pay for air-conditioning be given the same special treatment as the Premier gave the three Moranbah schools?

Mr Quinn (29/4/97):

- (1) No.
- (2) The introduction of a program for air-conditioning schools in North Queensland was an initiative of the Coalition Government. More than \$65 million has been earmarked for the air-conditioning of state schools in the Cool Schools zone, with a further \$8 million for non-state schools.

When the Cool Schools zone was determined, consideration was given to extending it south to the 22nd parallel. For budgetary reasons the Government could only extend the zone to the 20th parallel. The decision to support Moranbah schools in their quest for air-conditioning is primarily to set a benchmark for a future stage of this program.

288.Police Resources

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/3/97)—

With reference to his interstate recruiting of experienced police to bolster this State's police numbers—

- (1) When did he target Victoria's police force with this recruitment drive, what form did the drive take and what funds were expended on it?
- (2) Why weren't these funds directed to the two existing police academies in Queensland to allow unemployed Queenslanders to avail themselves of these employment opportunities?
- (3) How many Victorian police have been recruited into the Queensland police force since this recruitment drive began and what levels of experience do they have?
- (4) Does this extreme move to recruit interstate police vindicate the Opposition's position that he is unable to meet his promised police numbers and when will he admit this?

Mr Cooper (24/4/97):

- (1) Interstate police officers have been coming to Queensland for many years. The current program, involving interstate advertising and targeted recruitment in all States, began in 1994 with the

support of the then Minister, the Honourable Paul Braddy, MLA.

(2) The interstate recruits represent less than a quarter of the overall recruit numbers each year (approximately 120 out of 550-600 recruits). There has been a huge increase in the recruitment of local applicants as well as the interstate recruits; both academies are full.

(3) A total of 49 serving officers have been recruited from Victoria since 1994. They have an average of 10 years experience.

(4) There is nothing "extreme" about this initiative. It is one of the few good ideas actually implemented by the Goss Government. Police recruitment is on target, with 139 officers to be on the beat by June 30 as the first stage of a three-year, \$76 million police staffing plan which will boost numbers by 800 sworn officers and 400 civilians by 1999. The Coalition has a 10-year plan to provide an extra 2780 new officers—double that promised by Labor over the same period. By June 30 this year, 385 new police will be pounding the beat. Over 1996-97 and 1997-98, 351 civilian positions will have been created.

289. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/3/97)—

With reference to the recommendation in the Staib Report into the Fire Service, that the name of the service be changed from Queensland Fire Service to Queensland Fire and Rescue Service—

- (1) What sums of money have been spent so far to change the words, on, or to deliver or to produce new versions of (a) hat badges, (b) belt buckles, (c) shoulder patches, (d) rank badges, (e) building signs, (f) logos on vehicles, (g) signage on the side of buildings, (h) street signs, (i) brochures, (j) stationery, (k) promotional items such as plaques and certificates, (l) commercial artist consultancies, (m) computer time, (n) the time of public servants involved in the changeover and (o) any other expenditure?
- (2) How much will it cost to complete this process?
- (3) How much has so far been spent on changing the name of the department to the Department of Emergency Services, including money spent on or money spent to produce new versions of (a) signs on helicopters, (b) signs on other vehicles, (c) programs to promote the new logo, (d) programs to promote recognition of the new logo, (e) programs to promote the corporate image of the department, (f) compliments slips, (g) stationery, (h) business cards, (i) the time of public servants, (j) consultants, (k) computer time and (l) any other expenditure?
- (4) How much more will need to be spent to complete the process in part (3) above?

Mr Veivers (28/4/97):

(1) The Board of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has only recently determined the new logo and cap badge at their meeting of 24 March 1997. Therefore, to date only minor expenditure has been incurred. The new logo design reflects the same design as the previous logo, with only minor alterations. These alterations consist of the word 'service' being deleted and the inclusion of 'and Rescue Authority'. This provides for the utilisation of existing stocks. All new replacement items ordered to cover depleted stock will reflect the new design.

Expenditure to date equates to the following:

- (a) Hat badge—Nil
All existing stock will be utilised and future replacement stock will reflect the new wording.
- (b) Belt Buckles—Nil
All existing stock will be utilised and future replacement stock will reflect the new wording.
- (c) Shoulder Patches—Nil
All uniforms with patches attached will be issued only as stock is depleted and stocks were run down in anticipation of the name change. Any new items of uniform ordered will reflect the new wording.
- (d) Rank Badges—\$31,375.00
This expenditure was incurred to the replenish depleted stock which was allowed to run down in anticipation of the implementation of Workplace Reform prior to the instigation of the Staib Report.
- (e) Building Signs—Nil
Some Regional Centres have replaced the logo on doors and information signs with the logos used on Fire Appliance doors.
- (f) Logos on Vehicles—\$1,322.00
2000 decal inserts were purchased. These inserts reflect the name change without necessitating replacement of the entire decal.
- (g) Signage on Sides of Buildings—Nil
No expenditure has been authorised and will occur as funding becomes available. This is not a priority in 1997/98.
- (h) Street Signs—Nil
No expenditure has been authorised.
- (i) Brochures—Nil
Several brochures reflect the new logo, however, these are ongoing incentives for the Fire Safety and Community Education programs.
- (j) Stationery—\$240.00
10 reams of letterhead printed with an interim design.
- (k) Promotional items, plaques and certificates—Nil
These are computer generated as required and reflect no additional costing above normal expenditure.
- (l) Commercial artist consultancies—Nil

- Some expenditure with a commercial artist associated with changing artwork (\$300) and internal skills exist within the Department of Emergency Services for any further development.
- (m) Computer time—Nil
- (n) Public Servant time involved in changeover
No one person has been specifically allocated to address this change. Any tasks associated with the changeover were allocated to staff as part of their regular duties.
- (o) Any other expenditure—Nil
- (2) A letterhead change has occurred but this is normal when Department portfolios change. Existing letterheads will be used internally.
At an appropriate time an initial issue of shoulder patches is proposed for urban firefighters. All other changes will be progressive.
The total anticipated expenditure over two years is approximately \$85,000.00.
- (3) The costs associated with the change of name from Queensland Emergency Services to the Department of Emergency Services are as follows:
- (a) Signs on helicopters have not been changed. When routine maintenance requires a helicopter to be repainted, then its signage will be altered at no additional cost over and above the normal maintenance cost.
- (b) The only departmental vehicles which have signs are those used by the operational divisions. These signs identify the service or unit to which the vehicle belongs—Fire, Ambulance, State Emergency Service or CHEM Unit—and not the department. The name change of my department did not require any expenditure on vehicle signage.
- (c) I am not aware of any programs to promote the new logo, other than internal advices to staff that the logo was changing and that new materials using the logo were available. The cost of such advices is negligible.
- (d) I am not aware of any program to promote recognition of the new logo, nor of why it should be considered necessary to have such a program.
- (e) I am not aware of any program to promote my department's corporate image. Any programs promoting the department's services to the public of Queensland—which the Honourable Member may wish to interpret as image-promoting exercises—would have been run regardless of whether my department had changed its name or not.
- (f-h) Old stocks of stationery, business cards and compliments slips were allowed to run down through internal use. When new stock was required it was printed with the new logo.
- (i) It is not possible to cost the time of staff who were involved in the development or introduction of the new logo. These activities were carried out as part of their normal duties.
- (j) Nouveau Design Pty Ltd was paid a total of \$12,013.00 to develop a new logo and accompanying visual standards material for my department.
- (k) Computer time required for the new logo cannot be identified. It would have been part of the normal duties and normal computer use of the officers involved.
- (l) The cost of changing signs at Forbes House, Quay Central and the building used by Logistics Services at Bowen Hills was \$5,050.00. Changes to signs on regional office buildings was arranged locally at an estimated cost of \$5,000.00.
- (4) As mentioned in my response to part 3(a) the only outstanding expenditure is signage on helicopters and other appliances when they are replaced.
Apart from this no further expenditure in relation to the change of the department's name is expected.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

211. Electricity Supply, Daintree Region

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/3/97)—

With reference to letters from the Far North Queensland Electricity Board recently sent to property owners in Thornton Peak Drive, Daintree offering to extend mains power to these properties?

- (1) How many allotments are affected by this offer?
- (2) What is the total construction cost of the extension if all allotment owners apply for power?
- (3) What is the kVa capacity and form of extension contemplated (eg. SWER or aerial bundled conductor) and over what distances?
- (4) What are the terms of the offer of supply?
- (5) Is any access fee in addition to supply charges or is the access fee a minimum guarantee of usage?
- (6) What assessment of environmental impacts has been undertaken in respect of this extension?
- (7) Which of the properties offered supply have an approved dwelling constructed on them?
- (8) How many properties are already connected to mains power in Forest Creek and in Thornton Peak Drive?
- (9) What is the full commercial cost per kw of delivered power to these existing and any new connections?
- (10) What amount of annual CSO payments will the Far North Queensland Electricity Board seek to supply these connections north of the Daintree River?

Mr Gilmore (Revised Answer 26/5/97—see p. 984):

1. The Far North Queensland Electricity Board (FNQEB) advise it has provided four offers to supply mains power to properties in the Thornton Peak Drive area and that the offers were made in response to four applications by the respective landowners. FNQEB advise that under the Electricity Act it was required to make the offers in order to comply with its obligation to supply electricity in an area already serviced by grid construction.

(a) It should be noted that there are an additional 13 properties that could be serviced by mains power in the Thornton Peak Drive area. In a number of cases the distribution system already passes through or adjacent to these properties.

2. The estimated cost to extend the existing distribution system to supply the current four applicants is \$10,600. However, if all 17 properties applied for mains power connection, the total estimated cost would be \$46,000.

3. To supply the four applicants, FNQEB is proposing to erect two insulated overhead services off the existing distribution system (in one case the service will come from a line that already traverses an applicant's property), three spans of overhead low

voltage aerial bundled conductor and a further two insulated overhead services.

(a) FNQEB advise that if all 17 properties were to be serviced, the overall design would include an overhead powerline incorporating 10 spans of low voltage aerial bundled conductor, two spans of single phase two wire 22,000 volt bare conductor and a single phase 25kVa 22,000 volt/240 volt transformer. This design is subject to wayleave agreements being obtained through privately owned property where required.

(b) FNQEB also advise that the capacity of the distribution system will be determined by the end customer requirements. Additional transformer capacity can be added to the 22kV system should customer growth requirements exceed current expectations.

4. Each of the four applicants have been offered conditions of supply on the basis of an upfront capital contribution of \$1,000 and an annual access fee of \$400 (payable at the rate of \$100 per quarter). There are no minimum consumption guarantees applicable under the terms of this offer.

5. The access fee is based on accessing the service and is to be paid irrespective of the level of energy consumption. Normal energy consumption charges will apply in addition to this access fee.

6. No environmental impact assessment process has been undertaken for these extensions as they are simply extensions to an existing distribution network (for example, two of the four applicants' properties are adjacent to the existing powerline). The distribution network is not adjacent to World Heritage rainforest.

7. The Douglas Shire Council has advised that of the four applicants offered supply by FNQEB, only one applicant has an approved dwelling constructed on their property (lot 23 on RP 738519).

8. Mains power is already supplied to eight properties in the Thornton Peak Drive subdivision (lots 10,12,14,16, 20, 22 and 24 on RP 738519 and lot 4 on RP 737266). There are a further seven customers connected to mains power between the Daintree River and Thornton Peak Drive.

9. FNQEB advise that detailed analysis to provide the answer requested cannot be undertaken until the Queensland Electricity Reform Unit has finalised the market conditions that will operate in the proposed Queensland electricity market later this year. However, FNQEB do advise that a previous, albeit limited, evaluation of the supply costs in the area estimated that the cost of supplying electricity at the Daintree River was approximately 7 to 13 cents per kWh (although it should be noted that this calculation was based on approximate data and was undertaken before the costs of the additional extensions were considered).

10. As indicated above, commercial conditions have been set under the terms of the FNQEB offer to supply electricity to the applicants and no increase in CSO payments will be required to service this development.

290. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Savings Target

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (29/4/97)—

With reference to the requirement of the 1996/97 State Budget for a total savings target of \$500m in the forward estimates across the public sector—

- (1) What is the contribution of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care to this savings target?
- (2) How will this departmental savings target be met?
- (3) Specifically, which program areas will be cut or reduced or contribute in some other way (eg sale of asset) to meeting this target and, in each case, how much will the contribution be?

Mr Lingard (13/5/97):

- (1) I am advised that the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care contribution to the savings target was \$28.674m.
- (2) By administering departmental programs within the 1996-97 appropriations.
- (3) Efficiencies have been achieved in all program areas with expenditure as set out in the 1996/97 budget documents.

291. Petrol Sniffing, Cape York Communities

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (29/4/97)—

With reference to the problem of petrol sniffing in Queensland, particularly in Cape York communities—

- (1) Has he identified the extent of the problem, its history and the reasons for its existence; if so, will he outline the findings?
- (2) What positive and preventative action is being undertaken?
- (3) What other departments and agencies are co-operating and to what extent?
- (4) Has he investigated the programs of the Western Australian and Northern Territory Governments and their success rate?
- (5) As I recently had first-hand experience at Aurukun and Lockhart and viewed the problem as urgent, does his department have the matter listed for urgent attention?

Mr Lingard (16/5/97):

- (1) The extent of the problem is clearly understood by the elders of each community but not necessarily by people outside each community.
- (2) A number of steps are being taken to address the problem. Firstly, measures to support the elders and parents in their efforts locally. For example some persistent sniffers have been referred to Petford Training Farm near Dimbulah which is an alternative youth care and rehabilitation program funded by my Department. Also the Aurukun Council recently took another group of sniffers to Possum Creek Outstation to help in their rehabilitation. I have advised that 2 specific programs will be funded after May 1997.
- (3) The Education, Health and Police Departments, along with the Shire Councils and locally based

human service agencies are all cooperating with community elders to deal with the problem.

(4) Yes. Officers from my Department and other agencies are aware of actions and programs taken in other jurisdictions. Experience so far indicates that strengthening the capacities of parents and local groups to implement local solutions is the key to success. Culturally appropriate strategies like outstation programs run by local elders, and referral to services like Petford have proven successful elsewhere.

(5) Yes.

292. Freeholding of Leases, Mount Isa Area

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Natural Resources (29/4/97)—

With reference to the appreciated commitment give by him to introduce legislation that will grant an extension of time for people to apply to freehold their leases in the Mount Isa area and due to the number of representations received in my Electorate Office—

When does he anticipate the legislation will come before Parliament?

Mr Hobbs (16/5/97): The Natural Resources Legislation Amendment Bill 1997 was introduced to Parliament on 30 April 1997 and withdrawn on 6 May 1997. This Bill included provision for a further period for holders of former miners' homesteads to apply for freeholding.

I am hopeful that this Bill will be reintroduced to Parliament and complete its Parliamentary passage in the near future.

293. Police, Whitsunday; Provision of Equipment

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/4/97)—

With reference to claims at the Carter Inquiry that Whitsunday police twice asked the Queensland Police Service for a lockable cabinet, accurate scales and heat sealed bags for drug exhibits—

- (1) Why weren't these requests acted upon?
- (2) Have they been acted on?
- (3) How many other Queensland police stations have been operating without these pieces of equipment?
- (4) How many remain to be acted upon?
- (5) What costs are involved in supplying this low level technology to a station?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

(1 & 2) A heat sealing machine was purchased for Whitsunday Police and supplied on 12 December 1995. A safe was also supplied on 31 November 1996. Currently there are 3 sets of scales available for use at Whitsunday Station.

An equipment budget is allocated each year to district officers from which district equipment purchases may be made and records indicate that in 1995, requests for equipment were included in the Mackay District Property Plans for consideration by the District Officer.

An application was made by Whitsunday Police on 7 July 1995 for the supply of filing cabinets for document storage purposes. While the cabinets have not been supplied to date the District Officer, Mackay, advises that a number of second hand cabinets are available for supply.

(3 & 4) Facilities of the type referred to differ according to needs at particular stations. While not every station has the specific pieces of equipment referred to, suitable storage facilities in the form of safes, exhibit rooms and lockable cabinets are generally available within all areas.

(5) The cost of heat sealing equipment varies between \$300.00 and \$585.00, depending on size requirements.

The cost of scales varies depending on quality and features and range from approximately \$50.00 to \$300.00 per unit.

An average cost for lockable cabinets is \$250.00 each.

294. School Facilities, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (29/4/97)—

With reference to plans for significant industrial and commercial development at the Brisbane Airport and the expectation, based on Brisbane City Council estimates, that employment levels at this site will rise to approximately 40,000 employees over the next 10 to 20 years and given the increased demand which will arise for and on housing and other infrastructure such as schools—

What steps are being taken to ensure that facilities at schools in the Nudgee Electorate (which are nearby to this development) such as Northgate and Nudgee State schools and Banyo State High School are prepared and/or expanded to cater for this increased demand?

Mr Quinn (30/5/97): Northgate State School has a current enrolment of 125 primary students (37 preschool), and an estimated built capacity far in excess of 300 students.

Nudgee State School has a current enrolment of 322 primary (84 preschool), and an estimated built capacity for 577 students.

Banyo State High School has a current enrolment of 303 students, and an estimated capacity for 705 students.

Education Queensland would therefore seem well-placed to accommodate immediate increases in enrolment should they occur.

It is assumed that future employees of the airport development area would live throughout the Brisbane region. It is therefore appropriate for Education Queensland to continue working closely with the Brisbane City Council on the planning of new housing areas.

295. Wahroonga

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (29/4/97)—

With reference to a recent Question regarding the future of Wahroonga's cottages and units for

Maryborough and District's elderly citizens and to his answer to that Question which did not provide the specific intentions of this Government regarding the facility's future and in light of his decision in Maryborough recently that Wahroonga's cottages and units would be kept open—

(1) Will he provide a precise clarification of what changes, if any, would be made to the facility?

(2) I ask again, for the many people waiting to secure their future accommodation in the facility, when will he start accepting clients into the cottages and units?

Mr Horan (29/5/97): The Coalition State Government has saved Wahroonga. With my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Public Works and Housing, I have announced a program to build 16 new units on the Wahroonga site at a cost of about \$1.5 million.

By contrast, the desire of the Member for Maryborough to lock the residents out of this new accommodation is a disgrace.

Sixteen new one-bedroom seniors units will be constructed on the Neptune Street site, close to the existing old and tiny cottages. This is great news for the senior citizens of Maryborough and district.

Under the terms of the agreement, my Department will transfer land for the redevelopment to the Department of Works and Housing. For its part, that Department will build and maintain the new accommodation in line with appropriate public sector housing standards. Sufficient land will be made available to allow for a second stage of the redevelopment, as the need arises.

Queensland Health will continue to provide three (3) meals a day for the 16 current residents of Wahroonga, as well as 24 hour emergency response services for all residents.

It is anticipated that the first stage of the project will be completed by the middle of next year. It means that elderly residents can move from the old, derelict cottages to far more suitable new brick units.

While the Coalition has saved the Wahroonga living units, the record of the Member for Maryborough is far less defensible. He sat quietly in the corner during the six hard Goss Labor years and let the units run down—not one cent was spent on them. He and his Labor mates stopped resident entry to the units in November 1995 and then tried to blame the Coalition.

Wahroonga under Labor was an absolute disgrace and a fact the Member for Maryborough will have to live with. He still wants to consign residents living in the Wahroonga independent living units to second rate living conditions. He has publicly stated that he would put the senior citizens of Maryborough into the existing substandard, 40 year old cottages and even smaller single room barracks. He should be ashamed of himself. He has no credibility whatsoever left on this issue.

To improve the conditions for residents in the interim, a minor works program to upgrade each occupied cottage is in place at Wahroonga. This work, involving floor coverings, painting and security at an estimated cost of \$10,000, is intended to be completed prior to 30 June 1997.

296. Sugar Mill, Bowen Shire

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (29/4/97)—

With reference to the situation regarding land set aside for a sugar mill in the Bowen Shire Council area—

- (1) Has the land been set aside for a future sugar mill; if so, what is the status of any future mill in Bowen and expansion of the sugar industry in Bowen Shire?
- (2) In view of the fact that water is required, what action has he taken to ensure funding for a future water supply for further sugar expansion into the Bowen region?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. I am advised by the Department of Natural Resources that no land has been set aside by the Department for a future sugar mill in Bowen Shire.

While there is a number of prospective growers in the Bowen Shire who would like to supply existing mills in the region, I understand that these mills have no or limited capacity to accommodate the additional cane and that transport costs could jeopardise the long term viability of these farms during times of low sugar prices.

Any expansion of the sugar industry in the Bowen Shire will depend on access to a mill with crushing capacity and within an acceptable distance when transportation costs are considered. I am not aware of any investors who are seriously considering building a mill in the area.

2. I am advised that submissions to the Water Infrastructure Task Force by local groups proposed additional water supply for horticulture. No mention was made of sugar as a potential crop. There is no current activity by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in relation to the provision of a water supply for cane growing or milling.

DNR investigations are current on potential storage sites in the Don River catchment, with horticulture being the principal expected user of any additional supply. There are prospects for limited water resources development which could supplement the existing groundwater reserves. The supplies that could be developed from the Don River catchment are not likely to be sufficient to support a large enough area of cane locally to warrant the construction of a mill, even if all the area under horticulture were replaced by cane.

297. Electricity Industry, Restructuring

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (29/4/97)—

With reference to the restructuring of the electricity industry and his proposal that all existing supply authorities should remain as distribution only authorities covering their existing areas rather than be aggregated into three franchise areas as recommended—

What additional costs will Queensland electricity consumers incur as a result of his rejection of the recommendations?

Mr Gilmore (26/5/97): The Queensland Electricity Industry Structure Task Force recommended in its report of December 1996 that the existing seven regional distribution Boards be integrated to create two rural/coastal distributors and a single urban distributor. The Task Force based this recommendation on the basis that reducing the number of distribution Boards may realise potential efficiency savings of between \$60 million and \$80 million per annum. These figures were not based on Queensland data, but rather on information compiled by a New South Wales Distribution Review Group regarding potential scale efficiency savings by reducing overheads of distribution authorities within that State.

The Government's position in considering the Task Force report, was that the regional distribution Boards performed critical service delivery functions within their respective areas and that from a service and regional employment perspective, the structure of the distribution sector of the industry should remain in tact. Moreover, it was the Government's position that the creation of competition in electricity generation and retailing, together with independent economic regulation of the natural monopoly wires sector, would be sufficient to deliver higher levels of industry efficiency and lower prices to Queenslanders.

Retention of the seven distributors was the only significant departure from the Task Force report, which has been widely accepted as a robust blueprint for the reform of the Queensland electricity industry.

298. Morningside Police Station

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/4/97)—

With reference to the Morningside Police Station—

- (1) What is the actual strength of the station?
- (2) What is the recommended, allocated or model strength for the station?
- (3) What is the targeted strength for the station at 30 June 1997?
- (4) How does this figure compare with the actual strength on 30 June 1996?
- (5) Is a new or refurbished station included on the Government's capital works plan?
- (6) What is the planned completion date?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

(1) The actual strength at the Morningside Police Station as at 2 May 1997 was 14 police officers.

(2) The authorised strength at the Morningside Police Station as at 2 May 1997 was 21 police officers.

(3) It is hoped to achieve the authorised strength by 30 June 1997. All vacant constable positions are gazetted regularly.

(4) On 30 June 1996 the actual strength at Morningside Police Station was 15 police officers.

(5-6) The need for a new or refurbished station has been identified.

299. Former Prison Officers, Police Investigation

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/4/97)—

With reference to his claims that two former prison officers, Mr O'Connor and Mr Hansen, tried to blackmail him into giving them jobs—

- (1) When did this occur and was it a single occurrence, or did it occur on several occasions?
- (2) What threats were made if he didn't accede to their requests?
- (3) Was there any linkage to the \$7,000 consultancy Mr O'Connor gained via Mr Ian Prentice following the Minister's approach to the former Housing Minister?
- (4) Was there any linkage to encouragement given by his eyes and ears in Mundingburra, Mr Matthew Heery, to Townsville prison guards to continue their strike for political purposes in the run down to the by-election in that city in February 1996?
- (5) What form is the police investigation of this matter taking and when is it expected to report?

Mr Cooper (27/5/97): The behaviour of these former prison officers has been a matter of public record for some time and the member would also be aware that both men have claimed to have been in close contact with members of the Opposition to collude in causing my office maximum political irritation. The matter is now in the hands of the Queensland Police Service and I have no intention of interfering in any way in that investigation.

300. Education Department, Consultancies

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (29/4/97)—

With reference to consultancies—

- (1) How many consultancies have been employed by the Education Department since the change of Government in 1996?
- (2) What guidelines apply to the awarding of these consultancies and were all consultancies engaged in accordance with these guidelines?
- (3) What was the purpose of each of these consultancies and were reports received in respect of each consultancy?
- (4) Which of these reports have not been publicly released?
- (5) What is the individual and/or business name of each consultancy?
- (6) What is the individual cost of each consultancy, including the total anticipated cost of each current consultancy?

Mr Quinn (30/5/97): Please find details attached.

301. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Casualty Section

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Health (29/4/97)—

With reference to the case of a 77-year-old pensioner who was bashed at his home and then rushed to the Princess Alexandra Hospital casualty section where, after being attended to, was bundled into a taxi and sent home in the early hours of the morning at a cost of \$20 to the pensioner; on top of this, his relatives were not notified and on arrival at home, the pensioner continued to bleed from his wounds until he was able to attend a local doctor and to the case of another pensioner who after being rushed to the Princess Alexandra Hospital casualty section with a suspected heart attack, was also discharged into the care of a taxi driver at a cost to the pensioner of \$20—

- (1) Will he investigate whether casualty patients are being discharged to the care of taxi drivers from the Princess Alexandra Hospital in the early hours of the morning?
- (2) Is the reason because there are no beds for the patients to be admitted overnight?
- (3) Is this practice being carried out at other public hospital casualty sections?
- (4) In the event of a discharged patient dying in a taxi travelling home after discharge, with whom will the duty of care and responsibility rest?

Mr Horan (29/5/97): I am advised that:

- (1, 2 & 3) Public hospital emergency departments assess patients according to the National Triage Scale—in accordance with these national protocols, patients who do not meet the threshold for admission are discharged. This is also the practice of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Emergency Department. No patient has been discharged because of a lack of beds.
- (4) There can be no definitive answer to this question, as the duty of care can rest with several, one, or no parties, dependent on the circumstances.

302. Chermside Fire Station

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/4/97)—

- (1) What is the current status of proposed redevelopment of the Chermside Fire Station; has a decision already been made or does he expect to make a decision before the State Budget is brought down on 27 May?
- (2) Has the Queensland Fire Service (QFS) purchased land on Webster Road (part of the former Woolworths site) or is the department still negotiating the purchase of this land?
- (3) If the QFS is considering other locations for the proposed new Chermside Fire Station, what are those alternate sites?

Mr Veivers (27/5/97):

- (1) Negotiations were under way with Coles Myer for a land exchange deal whereby the Chermside Fire Station site would be exchanged for land on Webster Road (owned by Coles Myer). Before this deal could be finalised Coles Myer sold the Chermside Shopping Centre to Westfield, therefore

although still in possession of the Webster Road site, Coles Myer had no further requirement to purchase the Chermside Fire Station.

Westfield were approached to ascertain their interest in the Chermside Fire Station. As they were uncertain of their future plans for the shopping centre they advised that they were not in a position to negotiate for the purchase of the site.

Therefore a decision has not been made and will not be made prior to the State Budget being brought down on 27 May 1997.

(2) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has not purchased any land at the former Woolworths site on Webster Road and no further negotiations have taken place in this regard.

(3) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is presently not considering any other locations for the proposed new Chermside Fire Station.

303. Rockhampton Diesel Shed

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/4/97)—

With reference to the Rockhampton diesel shed where there are 10 trades assistants who wish to continue with the provisioning and fuelling of diesel electric locomotives and the provisioning of electric locomotives—

- (1) Will positions called for provisioning and fuelling be offered first to TMAs currently doing this work?
- (2) Will training be required to meet KSCs and will it be available?
- (3) How many staff will be required to carry out these tasks?
- (4) What shifts will be required to be worked?
- (5) What would be the actual duties involved in future provisioning and fuelling?
- (6) Where would the provisioning and fuelling area be located?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

(1) It is confirmed that those QR staff at the Rockhampton diesel shed who are currently engaged in sanding and fuelling of locomotives will be given preference for any positions in the provisioning facility, consistent with meeting the required skills or within a reasonable period of time, being able to acquire those skills.

(2, 3, 4 & 5) The QR Freight Locomotive Provisioning Facility Working Party has been formed to establish the general philosophy for provisioning facilities throughout the state. No decisions have been made in regard to the following issues at the Rockhampton provisioning facility.

Training for provisioning staff

Number of staff in the facility

Roster arrangements

The scope of work for provisioning facilities.

(6) The existing sanding and fuelling facilities for locomotives are adjacent to the Rockhampton diesel shed. The proposal to relocate the provisioning

facilities is currently under review. The review was prompted by the need for QR to reduce capital expenditure.

304. Opposition Members' Electorates, Visits by Senior Police Officers

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/4/97)—

With reference to the statement of the Member for Springwood (Mr Woolmer) to Parliament on 19 March (Hansard page 620), "Last month, I visited almost every retailer in my electorate with the Senior Sergeant from the Slacks Creek Police Station"—

Will he ensure that senior local police officers of a similar rank are available to undertake inspections and visits on request with Opposition Members in their electorates?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97): I am informed that Mr Woolmer has visited a number of retailers in his electorate and was accompanied by the Senior Sergeant from Slacks Creek Police Station. I understand the Senior Sergeant addressed concerns regarding break and enters and security.

Members of the Queensland Police Service are encouraged to work in partnership with the community and I know that many such officers do so. However, as Minister for Police, I do not intend to issue a directive to ensure officers accompany MLAs for this purpose. Such requests should be made to local and regional management where the request can be considered in line with policing requirements and other commitments.

305. Mount Coonowrin, Glasshouse Mountains

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (29/4/97)—

With reference to recent media reports of an imminent rockfall from Mt Coonowrin in the Glasshouse Mountains—

- (1) Does he agree this risk exists; if so, what assessment, and by whom, has been conducted of the danger?
- (2) Have any restrictions been placed on public access, particularly rockclimbers to this peak; if not, why not?
- (3) Does he believe the potential fall poses any risk to the public?
- (4) Does he believe that blasting from the nearby Excel Quarry could be contributing to the peak's demise; if so, does he believe his department should be objecting against expansion of the quarry as currently proposed?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97):

(1) Following reports in the media of concerns about potential rock falls at Mt Coonowrin in Glasshouse Mountains National Park, the Department of Environment commissioned Consulting Geotechnical Engineer Mr P.M. James to undertake a preliminary geotechnical assessment of the site. The assessment was completed in March 1997.

(2) The consulting engineer's report indicated that the erosive process on Mt Coonowrin has been ongoing for a period in the order of 10 million years. The report estimates that it is possible that up to 10 cubic metres of rock will continue to fall annually from Mt Coonowrin.

It has been and continues to be the Department of Environment's policy to advise the public that caution is needed when climbing any of the Glasshouse Mountain peaks. Printed visitor information on the area recommends that Mt Coonowrin only be accessed by experienced rockclimbers.

In light of advice that erosion is natural, has been ongoing for a very long period of time, and the Department's existing recommendations to climbers about access, restrictions are not proposed at this time.

(3) Potential risks exist for anyone entering natural, undeveloped areas.

The Department of Environment recognises that rockfalls have occurred and will continue to occur at Mt Coonowrin and will be undertaking the following additional precautions in the area:

more detailed geotechnical studies will be commissioned of the entire mountain to identify areas of particular concern;

consistent with advice from geotechnical studies undertaken, an ongoing monitoring program will be initiated in the areas of greatest risk; and

safety programs will be initiated by the Department with emphasis on the wearing of helmets by rockclimbers and other park visitors walking in the vicinity of the cliff face.

(4) The report prepared by Consulting Geotechnical Engineer Mr P.M. James states:

"There is understood to be some concern that blasting from the nearby quarry might exacerbate rock falls from the mountain. This is considered to be highly unlikely as the vibrations caused are very small. Any rock falls which are initiated by blasting would have to have been in an incipient state of failure, prior to the blasting."

The likely effect of quarrying operations at the Excel Quarry on the stability of Mt Coonowrin does not appear to be a significant consideration in relation to decisions about expansion of such operations.

306. Rural Firefighters, Workers' Compensation

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/4/97)—

Under a brigade operation authorised by the brigade, is a member of a rural brigade covered by Workers Compensation when fighting a fire on his own property?

Mr Veivers (29/5/97): The management of fire within a person's property boundaries is the responsibility of that person and not of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority.

However, there may be times when coverage would be extended: for example, if the injured person was

acting at the direction of the First Officer of the brigade. Any decision regarding coverage would be made by the Commissioner (Rural Operations) after examining all the circumstances of the incident.

307. Q-Link

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/4/97)—

(1) Is one of the most important components of Queensland Rail services, known as QLink, which moves over a quarter of a million tonnes of freight annually, providing the most comprehensive general freight services in Queensland, and which is a most important employer in the Electorate of Archerfield, about to cease operations or severely restrict services?

(2) Will he reassure the community of Archerfield and the remote areas of Queensland such as Yaraka and Winton, that QLink will continue its vital services?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

(1) Q-Link, the specialist freight division of Queensland Rail's Freight Group does provide one of the most important components of QR freight services. Q-Link services more locations than any other transport company in Queensland effectively covering approximately 95% of the Queensland population. During the 1996/97 financial year Q-Link will transport for its customers in excess of 390,300 tonnes of freight. Of the total amount, the ratio of tonnes that move by rail as compared to road is 80% on rail/20% on road.

Since Q-Link started operations on 28 October 1991, revenues have been doubled and operating costs and efficiency have been improved at least twofold and in some instances even more.

In addition to this Q-Link has expanded its services to include warehousing, electronic data interchange and total logistics packages covering customers requirements from the southern markets such as Melbourne and Sydney. Q-Link have been able to expand the services it offers its customers by subcontracting the interstate work to privately owned companies.

The Q-Link road operations are currently under review. All road services whether they are currently Q-Link owned and operated or subcontracted to private operators are under review. Part of the review process is to expose all these road operations to a competitive tendering process. This has been done to ensure Q-Link's customers and the community have access to a Government Owned Corporation that provides value for money, quality logistics services.

Taking into consideration the aforementioned facts it is obvious that the operations and services that Q-Link provide will not cease but will in fact expand in the future.

(2) The community of Archerfield and remote areas such as Yaraka and Winton can be assured that vital services such as the type that Q-Link provide will continue in an efficient and cost effective manner.

308. Ms L. Staib

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/4/97)—

With reference to frequent assertions by him that Ms Lyn Staib was never employed as a member of his ministerial staff—

- (1) How did Ms Staib's name come to appear on two staff lists generated by his ministerial office, one of which was 'discovered' under a Freedom of Information application to the Ministerial Services Unit?
- (2) What was the basis on which Ms Staib received payment for a period prior to the commencement of her engagement to undertake a review of the Queensland Fire Service?

Mr Veivers (27/5/97): (1 & 2) I have already answered these questions in the Parliament, and I have nothing further to add.

309. Tweed River Sand Bypass Project

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (29/4/97)—

With reference to the Tweed River Sand Bypassing Project—

- (1) Has the tender for construction of the permanent by-passing system been let?
- (2) Who is the successful tenderer?
- (3) What is the timeframe for completion of the project?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97):

- (1) No.
- (2) This is not applicable as tenders have not been called.
- (3) Tenders were called on 23 April for further dredging and nourishment works (Stage 1B of the project). This work is scheduled to commence in the second half of 1997.

A Notice to Contractors seeking advice on potential technologies that may be offered for the permanent bypassing system (Stage 2 of the project) was publicly advertised in late 1996. Responses from potential contractors have been incorporated in the comprehensive environmental impact assessment study, which is well advanced. When the report is completed it will be placed on public exhibition for scrutiny and comment. It is expected that tenders for the permanent bypassing system will be called later this year following satisfactory completion of the environmental impact assessment process.

310. Special School, Bundaberg Electorate

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Education (29/4/97)—

With reference to the 1996 State Budget in which there was only one capital works project in the Bundaberg electorate for the Education Department, a teaching block at the special school—

Has this project started; if so, how much has been spent to date and when will this 1996 State Budget announced project be completed?

Mr Quinn (30/5/97): The estimated total cost of this project is \$1,198,165 and it is anticipated that the building will be completed by the end of October 1997.

311. Disability Services

Mr FOURAS asked the Premier (29/4/97)—

With reference to his 1995 State election promise that a Coalition Government would (a) provide an additional \$34m per year over three years to assist Queenslanders with disabilities, (b) address the inequities suffered by carers by increasing services and the number of respite centres available and (c) continue the initiative of people with disabilities living in the community so long as it is their wish and the services they require are assured—

- (1) How does he justify his Government's failure to meet the 1995 election promise for \$34m additional per year for disability services?
- (2) How does he explain his Government's serious cuts to the institutional reform program and the funding cuts being experienced by community organisations in disability-related areas?

Mr Borbidge (29/5/97): (1) In the 1996/97 State Budget, my government committed significant new funds over three years through the Disability Program of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care for the provision of services to people with disabilities. In addition to these funds, this government also allocated substantial funds in the 1996/97 Budget to provide services to people with a disability through the areas of Health, Education, Housing and Transport. I consider that these budgetary initiatives represent a significant first step towards addressing the unmet needs of people with disabilities and their families. I am confident that the 1997/98 Budget will build upon the new funds provided in 1996/97 to continue to address unmet needs for disability services.

(2) The Institutional Reform program was a policy of the previous government and had been the subject of much criticism—particularly from families of people living at the two Centres on the grounds that many families were concerned about the capacity of their family members to be supported in the community after having spent many years in either Challinor Centre or Basil Stafford Centre. This Government has a clear policy of offering choice to people with disabilities and their families. In keeping with the concept of choice, the government has ensured that centre-based support remains an option for people with disabilities. This means that while Challinor Centre is closing to make way for the site to be used by the University of Queensland, centre-based care will remain an option for those leaving Challinor.

There have been no funding cuts to community organisations in disability related areas. The Honourable Member must be referring to the proposed Commonwealth cuts of 6% over three years to the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement.

312. Port Hinchinbrook Development

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (29/4/97)—

With reference to the Port Hinchinbrook development—

- (1) What work is currently being undertaken at the development?
- (2) Who is monitoring this work to ensure it complies with the Deed of Agreement?
- (3) Does the work include dredging the marina basin?
- (4) Is this dredging or material extraction an environmentally relevant activity under the Environmental Protection Act; if not, why not; if so, has a licence been obtained prior to the commencement of dredging; if not, what action has been taken against any such unlawful dredging?
- (5) Does the sand deposited at Oyster Point come from Meunga Creek?
- (6) Under what authority is sand being extracted from Meunga Creek?
- (7) Is a licence under the Environmental Protection Act required for such extraction?
- (8) Has a licence been obtained for this purpose; if not, why not and what action has been taken in respect of any environmentally relevant activity unlawfully undertaken without a licence?
- (9) Have rocks been dumped in the State marine park adjacent to the development site?
- (10) Under what authority are these rocks disposed at this location and how is this in accordance with the Deed of Agreement?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97): Firstly, it should be noted that major approvals for this development were issued by the Labor Government. Major approvals included:

- (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.

I also note that you and your Leader attended a recent dinner in Brisbane to raise funds for the Hinchinbrook Legal Fighting Fund, somewhat hypocritical given the efforts by the government of which you were both part to ensure the project proceeded. Since guests were invited to have a "Night to Remember Forever . . . be provoked, entertained, laugh till you split . . .", your attendance might well have been tongue in cheek.

The Environmental Site Supervisor is monitoring the site and existing structures on a routine basis to record their performance in relation to the Deed of Agreement. No work, other than general maintenance, is currently being undertaken at the development.

The Environmental Site Supervisor is monitoring the site and existing structures on a routine basis to record their performance in relation to the Deed of Agreement.

By the way, dredging in Queensland waters is an Environmentally Relevant Activity under the Environmental Protection Act.

Investigation of available documentation suggests that, through natural coastal processes, some beach sand at Oyster Point may have originated from Meunga Creek. There is no known evidence to suggest that sand deposited at Oyster Point by the developer has originated anywhere other than from within the development site boundaries. Pursuant to The Marine Land Dredging By-Laws 1987 made under the Harbours Act 1955, permit number 34/96 has been issued for the extraction of up to 1000m³ of material from the tidal waters of Meunga Creek. This permit is not in the name of Cardwell Properties and there is no known evidence to suggest that the developer has extracted sand from Meunga Creek for use within the development. However, no licence under the Environmental Protection Act is required for the extraction of sand from Meunga Creek.

Rocks have been placed within the State Marine Park as part of a revetment wall to provide protection to earthwork within the site boundary. The works are included in the Canals Act approval and the permit issued under the State Marine Park Act. The works are described within the Deed of Agreement which also requires that all relevant approvals be obtained and the works have been inspected by Commonwealth and State government representatives.

313. Mackay Base Hospital

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Education (29/4/97)—

With reference to the Mackay Base Hospital—

- (1) What were the bed numbers as at March 1996?
- (2) What are the bed numbers now?
- (3) What will be the bed numbers after re-development?
- (4) How many jobs including casual and temporary staff will be lost as a result of any reduction in bed numbers?

Mr Quinn (29/5/97): I am advised that:

- (1) Average occupied bed days for March 1996 was 148.5.
- (2) Average occupied bed days for March 1997 was 155.1.
- (3) Between 173 and 188.
- (4) There will be no reduction in the number of beds used.

314. Ambulance Stations, Electronic Doors

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/4/97)—

- (1) How many ambulance stations in Queensland have electronic doors?
- (2) How many ambulance stations in Queensland do not have electronic doors?
- (3) Is he aware that if an ambulance is called out at night and it is necessary to open and shut doors, that this adds up to two minutes to the ambulance response time?
- (4) In light of the fact that the Department of Emergency Services has spent, both comparatively and in absolute terms, a minuscule proportion of its capital works budget for the present financial year, will he undertake to give high priority to fitting electronic doors to all compatible ambulance stations, so that ambulance officers do not have to waste valuable time opening and closing garage doors?

Mr Veivers (27/5/97):

- (1) 82 stations have electronic operating door access.
- (2) 93 stations have manually operated doors and an additional 11 stations have no doors at all.
- (3) I am not aware of any survey that has been undertaken which indicates that egress from a station at night which necessitates the opening and closing of manual roller doors adds an additional two minutes to ambulance response times.

Ambulance Officers are dedicated professionals who are always endeavouring to achieve improvements in response times and to date, have not highlighted the use of manual doors as an obstacle in responding to emergencies.

Advice received from Ambulance Officers is that when departing the station on an emergency case, one officer opens and shuts the door whilst the other officer drives the vehicle outside the station. Therefore, delay is kept to the bare minimum.

315. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/4/97)—

With reference to her responsibility for overall budget management, for each department and agency (a) what proportion of their current (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 March 1997, (b) what proportion of their capital (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 March 1997 and (c) what proportion of their total (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 March 1997?

Mrs Sheldon (30/5/97): The latest information on the proportion of recurrent and capital 1996-97 Budgets expected to be expended by Departments during the course of the 1996-97 financial year is contained in the Queensland 1997-98 Budget Papers presented to Parliament on 27 May 1997.

316. Sandgate Dialysis Unit; Specialist Renal Advisory Group

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health (29/4/97)—

With reference to ongoing concern within my electorate regarding the relocation of the Sandgate Dialysis Unit from its present location in Sandgate to the Prince Charles Hospital and in relation to correspondence under the hand of Dr J G Youngman whose title is described as Deputy Director General (Health Services) on 13 January wherein advice is provided that a Specialist Renal Advisory Group was established to address issues including the relocation of the Sandgate Dialysis Unit—

- (1) Will he advise the names and backgrounds of the Members of the Specialist Renal Advisory Group?
- (2) When was the advisory group established?
- (3) How often does the advisory group meet?
- (4) Is the advisory group considering relocating the Sandgate Dialysis Unit from its present location in Sandgate to the Prince Charles Hospital or is another location being considered; if so, what other location is being considered?
- (5) Will there be community consultation before the final decision is made?
- (6) Will the staff and patients who use the services at Sandgate be involved in any consultation or given the opportunity to make submissions prior to any final decision being made?
- (7) When can a decision be expected?

Mr Horan (29/5/97): I am disappointed that the Honourable Member has asked a question with so many parts, which breaches the spirit of the Standing Orders. However, for the benefit of those receiving renal services, and their families, I provide the following information.

The End Stage Renal Failure Advisory Panel, which meets monthly, consists of eighteen renal specialists, senior clinical nurses working in renal services, a medical superintendent, key corporate office staff, and is chaired by Dr Wally Smith, District Manager, Cairns District Health Service.

The role of the Advisory Panel is to provide advice on the principles underlying the establishment and operation of services, not detailed planning. The Panel will be considering the distribution of dialysis activities throughout the State of Queensland, and not specifically the relocation of the Sandgate Dialysis Unit.

If relocation of that Unit is to be considered seriously, then the community, staff, and patients will be consulted.

317. Pacific Highway, Air Quality Testing

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/4/97)—

With reference to commitments given to undertake air quality testing along the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway as part of the environmental impact assessment study to determine the construction of his eight-lane super-highway—

- (1) When will this air quality testing be carried out?
- (2) Who will be conducting the air quality testing?
- (3) What equipment will be used to conduct the air quality tests?
- (4) At what locations along the highway will testing be carried out?
- (5) Will the air quality testing to be carried out measure fine particulates?
- (6) Will he provide the results of the air quality tests to me as soon as they are completed?
- (7) Has any air quality testing been carried out along the Pacific Highway; if so, what were the details of the tests carried out and what were the results?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97): For the Pacific Motorway project between the Logan Motorway, Loganholme and Pappas Way, Nerang section, the results of the air quality monitoring and modelling is documented in the Impact Management Plan.

A copy of the documents has been placed in the Parliamentary Library to allow Members to peruse the document.

Alternatively, a copy of the document is available for inspection at the Main Roads Project Office, Level 1, 96 George Street, Beenleigh Qld 4207.

With respect to the South East Transit project between the Brisbane Central Business District and the Logan Motorway, the issue of further air monitoring is still under discussion and public comment. In relation to the specific question raised, I would advise:

- (1) In recent years, air quality has been measured along the South East Freeway and Pacific Highway route as well as major roads in Brisbane by the Department of Environment, CSIRO, Queensland University of Technology and Katestone Scientific.

The air quality impacts of the South East Transit Project were calculated using modelling techniques accepted by regulatory agencies and Councils in Queensland and New South Wales. The modelling was carried out using existing data and developing modelling scenarios based on known vehicle emissions and projected traffic volumes. There was sufficient existing air quality data on which to base calculation, so no additional measurements were considered necessary for the first stage air quality analysis which is contained in the draft Impact Management Plan.

Through the first stage modelling process, the consultants Katestone Scientific, identified Stanley St, Marshall Road, Gaza Road, the Gateway Motorway and Underwood Road overpass as locations where more detailed assessment is considered necessary. It is also likely that sites away from the South East Freeway route will be monitored to act as controls.

The draft Impact Management Plan is on display from 28 April to 26 May 1997. The results of consultation will be considered and a program of testing developed at that time.

- (2) As part of the Draft Impact Management Plan, Connell Wagner's subconsultants, Katestone Scientific, identified locations where more detailed assessment is considered necessary. This will be conducted over the next two months.

- (3) The equipment specifications are yet to be defined.

- (4) Locations for the testing have not yet been defined; however, consultants, Katestone Scientific, have identified Stanley St, Marshall Road, Gaza Road, the Gateway Motorway and Underwood Road overpass as locations where more detailed assessment is considered necessary. Therefore, these sites and sites away from the South East Freeway route to act as controls, are likely to be the locations.

- (5) Both Queensland Transport and Main Roads are interested in the issue of submicron particle pollution. However, this matter has only begun to emerge as a potential concern in recent times, so further investigation into the most appropriate response is required. However, it seems probable that some form of physical measurements will be required at select locations.

The submicron pollution issue itself relates also to existing transport corridors as well as the South East Transit and Pacific Motorway Projects. Queensland Transport has indicated a willingness to consider joint funding options for further investigation of this particular issue in relation to transport related sources, as part of its broader interest in air quality issues arising from the draft Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland. It may well be that the South East Transit corridor would be an important monitoring site in any such investigation. However, Queensland Transport would prefer that such proposals be integrated with the Department of Environment's overall air quality monitoring program at a regional level. Various options to progress investigation of this issue are under development by Queensland Transport at this time.

- (6 & 7) The results of the analysis so far is contained in the Draft Impact Management Plan reports which has been made available to you. I can direct your specific attention to South East Transit Impact Management Plan Technical Papers, Volume 5, Part B, Technical Discussion Paper 8, prepared by Woodward Clyde and Katestone Scientific, for Connell Wagner. The results of follow-up testing also will be made available in supplementary papers to the final Impact Management Plan report.

318. Air Quality Strategy, South East Queensland

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (29/4/97)—

With reference to the SEQRAQS Work Program agreed to by the Regional Coordination Committee that is responsible for implementing the South East

Queensland 2001 initiatives of which SEQRAQS is a part and which was agreed to late in 1996 and is certainly not on track—

- (1) Is he aware of the concern that exists in the community regarding environmental pollution?
- (2) Is he aware of the health care costs to the community of environmental pollution e.g. asthma (Simpson Report) and is he serious about its commitment to the community's right to safety - their right to clean air?
- (3) Is he serious about developing a comprehensive air quality management plan in South East Queensland and is it serious about implementing initiatives of South East Queensland 2001 such as SEQRAQS and the IRTP?
- (4) Will he ensure (a) the SEQRAQS Community Reference Group will be convened before the end of May, (b) SEQRAQS will be put back on target, (c) that sufficient funding will be made available for the draft regional air quality strategy to be available within the agreed time frame and (d) that there will be adequate consultation with the community?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Just as I am sure Labor Environment Ministers were during their time in office, I am aware of estimates of the impacts of air pollution on human health and well being. The Government is committed to environmental protection consistent with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development.
- (3) Yes. A comprehensive air quality strategy for South East Queensland will be finalised by December 1997. The Government is committed to South East Queensland 2001 initiatives, including SEQRAQS and IRTP.
- (4)
 - (a) The Community Reference Group will be a key stakeholder in the consultation process leading to the preparation of the air quality strategy. Consultation is scheduled to commence in August 1997.
 - (b) The target for completion of SEQRAQS by the end of 1997 was set in 1992 by the Goss Labor Government
 - (c) Yes.
 - (d) Yes.

319. Ambulance Service, Moreton Bay Islands

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/4/97)—

With reference to the non-existent ambulance service on Russell, Karragarra, Lamb, Macleay and Perulpa Islands and to his letter in which he undertakes that a service will be established in six months—

- (1) What steps have been taken so far?
- (2) What is the timeline for completion?

Mr Veivers (29/5/97): Historically the provision of ambulance services to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands placed a high reliance on the use of Honorary Officers. The increasing demand for service being placed upon this system by a steadily increasing Bay Island population, highlighted a need to review the approach to ambulance service delivery in this area. In February 1997, the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) initiated a comprehensive review of all facets of QAS service delivery to the islands. This review was completed on 14 March 1997. The review recommended the establishment of a full time QAS presence on Russell Island utilising the existing facilities established with the assistance of the Local Ambulance Committee.

The full time officer to be stationed at Russell Island will also be responsible for providing emergency coverage to adjacent islands in support of existing Honorary Officers.

The establishment of this full time presence will take place as soon as possible. QAS management is developing an expression of interest document in order to attract suitably qualified officers to serve on the island in a full time capacity. In addition inter island transport and other logistical requirements for a full time presence are being addressed.

The Assistant Commissioner QAS responsible for the Greater Brisbane Region addressed a public meeting at Russell Island on Monday 21 April 1997 and explained the process and reinforced the QAS commitment to have a permanent presence on the island in place within six months. The island's residents and the Local Ambulance Committee have indicated their support for this initiative.

320. Commercial Fishermen, High-speed Ring Netting

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (29/4/97)—
With reference to high speed ring netting—

- (1) Is this method of fish capture supported by him?
- (2) In what fishery locations is this method employed?
- (3) How many commercial fishers use this method of fishing and where are they situated?
- (4) Does the QCFO and other commercial fishers support this method of fish capture?
- (5) What research has been undertaken to determine the effects of this fishing practice?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. This method of fish capture is supported in legislation and has been for many years. All licensed fishers who hold a N1 fisheries symbol may capture fish on the east coast of Queensland using this method.

2. Appropriately licensed fishers may ring net spotted mackerel in all east coast waters where net fishing is permitted. The main locations where this method of fishing is employed is in waters adjacent to Bowen during August and September and in

Hervey Bay and Moreton Bay from November to March.

3. There are about six licensed fishers who actively participate in this fishing activity in Bowen, about twenty in the Hervey Bay region and three in Moreton Bay. There are over 1000 licensed fishers who hold a N1 fisheries symbol who are legally able to ring net spotted mackerel.

4. I am advised that the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation supports this form of fishing. I expect that the vast majority of individual licensed fishers also support it.

5. In 1993, a research project investigating the fisheries biology and interactions in the northern Australian small mackerel fishery was initiated by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. The project aimed to describe the biology of three species of small mackerel, of which one was the spotted mackerel, and describe the fisheries for each small mackerel species. The project was not intended to provide assessments of the status of stocks of small mackerel or the effect of different fishing practices on these mackerel stocks. A component of this research investigated the perceived problem of drop out of spotted mackerel from ring nets. The final report of this research project is due to be completed on 30 June 1997.

321. Mines Rescue Services

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (29/4/97)—

- (1) As the Government has told the mining industry that no further funding for the Mines Rescue Brigade will be available from the end of June 1997, how will Mines Rescue Services be funded in the future?
- (2) What will be the formula used to determine the level of funding?
- (3) What action will Government take to ensure that funding for Mines Rescue Services keeps pace with industry development?

Mr Gilmore (26/5/97):

(1) It is the Government's commitment to ensure that the Queensland mining industry continues to have a viable Queensland Mines Rescue Brigade (QMRB). The industry has grown to the extent that it is now in a position to support its own emergency services organisation as is the case elsewhere in the mining world where mines rescue is really core business for industry. In addition, the Management Committee of the QMRB has been concerned for some time that it does not have an appropriate level of autonomy and is required to continuously seek funding/approval from Government. This autonomy will be achieved when it becomes a corporate body. Orderly transfer of management and financial responsibility to the proposed new corporation is now under way. I advised industry in November last year that Government funding of QMRB would cease at the end of this current financial year. The Queensland Mining Council has recently indicated that it will require up to December 1997 to allow the new

Corporation to be financially viable, and means of interim funding are currently under joint review.

(2) The formula used to determine the level of funding after conformation will be determined by the Board of the new company, initially through the member companies of the Queensland Mining Council. The manner in which contributions are determined will be a commercial matter between the Mines Rescue Company and its subscribers.

(3) I propose to introduce legislation in the next session, having obtained the agreement of major stakeholders, to require all coal mining companies to contribute to a mines rescue service which has been approved by the Minister. An approved service will be one declared to be such, having regard to its competence and compliance with 'Mandatory Performance Criteria' which will also be prescribed under the new legislation. A condition of approval will be that in default on delivery of the mandatory performance criteria, 'step-in rights' or other remedies satisfactory to the Minister are stipulated in the corporation's Articles of Association. Both performance and funding are thus ensured to keep pace with industry development.

322. Community Library, Palm Island

Mr SMITH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/4/97)—

With reference to correspondence to the State Librarian, Mr Des Stephens, over the past six months from the Palm Island Aboriginal Council, the Department of Education (Northern Region), the Townsville School Support Centre (Vincent Sub Centre) and the Principal of BWG Colman Community (Palm Island) School requesting the establishment of a community library serviced by the Country Lending Service and the subsequent refusal to provide the service and in view of the demonstrated need for the service in this underprivileged and isolated community of about 3,000 people and the fact that such service is provided to the remote centre of Greenvale and the relatively large centre of Charters Towers—

Will she, as responsible Minister, intervene on behalf of the Palm Island people to authorise the provision of this service to the Palm Island community?

Mrs Sheldon (30/5/97): The Director of Public Libraries Division has been in regular contact with the Palm Island Community on this matter and is prepared to visit the Island at a mutually acceptable time to meet with the Palm Island Aboriginal Council and other interested bodies to discuss the possible future provision of library services to Palm Island.

323. Cultural Centre Redevelopment; Mr R. Gibson

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/4/97)—

With reference to the letting of a contract to prepare a master plan for the redevelopment and expansion of parts of the Cultural Centre—

- (1) What was the tendering process followed with this contract and what is the value of the contract?
- (2) Were tenders recalled for this work and the contract subsequently let to prominent Brisbane architect, Robin Gibson; if so, why was this done?
- (3) Does this contract with Mr Gibson also engage him to do the further architectural work required by the master plan or are his claims to such additional work baseless?
- (4) What is Mr Gibson's precise commission from the Government at this time and when is he required to report?
- (5) What level of consultation has been undertaken by Mr Gibson with major user groups on the site, are these groups satisfied with Mr Gibson's approach and is she satisfied that adequate consultation has occurred?

Mrs Sheldon (30/5/97):

(1) to (4) Cabinet approved the engagement of Robin Gibson and Partners to prepare a development strategy to address the accommodation needs of the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland Museum, State Library of Queensland, Queensland Theatre Company, Queensland Film Centre and Queensland Writers Centre. The fees are \$260,000. Mr Gibson was engaged for this consultancy in view of his special understanding of the strategic concepts involved in the development of stages 1 to 5 of the Cultural Centre and his detailed knowledge of issues to be considered in the preparation of an expansion development strategy. A report on the consultancy has been recently submitted by Mr Gibson.

(5) Extensive consultation has been undertaken by Mr Gibson and a steering committee involving representatives of all major user groups on the site. This has involved ongoing discussions with individual member bodies, a two day workshop with representatives from all of the user groups and briefings by the steering committee for the Boards of all member bodies. Adequate consultation is occurring.

324.Arts Queensland; Regional Libraries

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/4/97)—

With reference to the dismantling of Arts Queensland and to the resultant dismay amongst regional and metropolitan arts workers and cultural organisations—

- (1) Is she aware that the scrapping of the Strategic Development Branch and its replacement with a business and marketing arm will prejudice the development of innovative and community arts, particularly in regional Queensland?
- (2) How does she reconcile her claim that supposed savings from the arts restructuring will go to funding artists with the reality of her 1996/97 Budget cuts to regional libraries (\$279,000), the Queensland Art Gallery

(\$565,000), the Queensland Museum (\$471,000) and the State Library (\$363,000)?

- (3) When will she honour her pre-election promise to increase funding for regional libraries by \$5m?
- (4) In view of her pre-election promise of extra funding for Aboriginal arts, will she reconsider her decision to scrap the Indigenous Arts Festival?

Mrs Sheldon (30/5/97):

(1) The Strategic Development Branch was not scrapped as claimed, it is being retained and will in fact be enhanced by a refocussing of the function to allow greater emphasis on communication with all relevant stakeholders in the industry.

(2) An outline of the activities within The Arts portfolio has been included in the 1997/98 Budget papers.

(3) Two major Indigenous arts festivals are currently funded—Laura Dance Festival and Torres Strait Island Arts Festival.

Additional funding has been provided for Aboriginal arts in the 1997/98 budget with support for specific Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) initiatives for Indigenous people; enhanced State Library services to North Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and Internet access to the State Library's facilities.

325.Transport Act Breaches, Mount Isa Area

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

Will he inform the Parliament of the number of tickets and the amount of revenue which Police Department officials have collected for breaches of the Transport Act in the Mt Isa area in 1996-97 to date?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97): In 1996, 95 traffic infringement notices were issued to heavy vehicles for breaches of the various Transport Acts amounting to \$11,400.00

In 1997, to the end of April, 64 traffic infringement notices were issued to heavy vehicles for breaches of the various Transport Acts amounting to \$7,680.00.

326.Workshops Strategy

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/4/97)—

With reference in part to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1160, dated 27 November 1996—

- (1) Has the mid-term review mentioned in the last paragraph of his reply been completed?
- (2) Will he give an unambiguous answer as to whether major maintenance work on wagons will continue in Townsville beyond 1998?
- (3) If Queensland Rail does intend to continue major maintenance work, why in this area has there been a reduction of staff with the

displaced maintenance crew being asked to work on the shorter-term heritage train project?

- (4) Is he aware that the new Stuart rolling stock facility is not able to fully cope with the volume of work required to be carried out?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

(1) A Workshops Strategy Review (Mid Term Review) has commenced as noted and will be completed by September this year.

(2) Major maintenance work including heavy wagon repairs will continue beyond 1998.

This workload is evidenced in part in the development plans for the Southyard as signed off by employees and unions and it is envisaged that the new wagon repair shop, due for completion in Southyard this year and the existing wagon repair roads in Southyard will, on an ongoing basis, support wagon repairs for Queensland Rail.

(3) There has not been a reduction of staff, in fact the opposite, with additional trades and non trades staff having been employed in the last six months to support the repair of mineral wagons in the Northyard, as well as the Heritage Train in the Southyard.

Staff numbers have, in fact, increased from 233 to 271 in the last six months.

There is a need to transfer staff to the heritage project from other areas within Townsville Workshop to compliment ongoing external recruitments otherwise the Heritage Train will not be delivered to plan.

(4) The new Stuart facility is, in fact, now operating as designed which has seen a reduction of wagons being sent to Townsville Workshop for light repairs, a situation which was always envisaged in the plans to develop the facility.

327. Queensland Policy and Research Institute

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (30/4/97)—

With reference to a group calling itself Queensland Policy and Research Institute which, earlier in 1997, hosted a dinner in Townsville addressed by the noted historian Geoffrey Blainey which the Premier attended—

- (1) What is the institute, when was it formed, by whom, for what purpose and are its activities confined to Townsville or Queensland?
- (2) What sort of research has the institute conducted and what work is it currently involved in?
- (3) Is its Chairman, Terry Bolger, a prominent member of the National Party, a member of the Concerned Citizens of Mundingburra and a Government appointed member of the Workers' Compensation Board?
- (4) Is this the same organisation that provided Wendy Armstrong's salary when she worked for the Premier in his then capacity as Opposition Leader; if not, who did fund Ms Armstrong's employment?

- (5) Were Geoffrey Blainey and himself worth the \$200 each attendee paid for the evening or was this just another National Party fundraising front?

Mr Borbidge (30/5/97): I have no Ministerial responsibility for the Queensland Policy and Research Institute.

328. Queensland; Great South Pacific Express

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/4/97)—

With reference to his previous answer indicating that the Queensland train will cease operations in 1998—

- (1) Will he advise why the introduction of the lavish luxury train, the Great South Pacific Express travelling Australia-wide, will supersede the Queensland, when the trains aim at differing market sectors, the luxury train at the very affluent, and once-only overseas tourists, and the Queensland at the general tourism market?
- (2) What steps will be taken to accommodate the 150 economy passengers who travel on the Queensland each Sunday?
- (3) Will he review the North Coast passenger rail services to provide a daily service to North Queensland?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

(1) The Great South Pacific Express, to be jointly operated and marketed by Queensland Rail and Venice Simplon-Orient-Express will be a truly first class train aimed at the local and international tourist market.

The Queensland, currently Traveltrain's "flagship" service, is poorly patronised by both the local and overseas markets and requires a substantial subsidy to cover its direct operating costs.

This service, one each way per week carried a total of 18,983 passengers in sleepers and seats during 1995/96. The Sunlander service three times per week each way in contrast carried a total of 127,931 passengers in berths and seats.

Because of the poor patronage and high operating costs, Queensland Rail were already considering options for the Queensland including the merger with the Sunlander before the partnership with Venice Simplon-Orient-Express was formed.

I can assure the Honourable Member, that there will be no reduction in train services to country Queensland.

(2) Upon withdrawal of the Queensland, Queensland Rail is planning to increase the frequency of Sunlanders between Brisbane and Cairns from three to four services per week. Planning is also under way to extend the existing Spirit of the Tropics service from Proserpine to Townsville each week.

These arrangements will more than cater for the existing passengers carried by the Queensland and Sunlander Services.

(3) Passenger patronage and the high costs associated with the provision of passenger rollingstock do not justify the running of a daily service between Brisbane and Townsville or Cairns.

As already stated in my previous response to the Honourable Member, (Question on Notice No 117) Queensland Rail is always looking for opportunities to improve existing rail services and will continue to do so under this Government.

My foregoing comments regarding changes to the Queenslander, Sunlander and Spirit of the Tropics will see five passenger train services operating between Brisbane and Townsville each week.

In early 1998 the new Tilt Trains will commence operation between Brisbane and Rockhampton. These trains will replace the existing Spirit of Capricorn service and reduce the travelling time by 2 1/2 hours.

Queensland Rail is currently undertaking research to investigate new rollingstock options to eventually replace the Sunlander and Queenslander services as this rollingstock is, in the main, over 40 years old and close to the end of its economic life. However, these new trains are unlikely to be constructed and enter service until past the turn of the Century.

Investigations for the possible introduction of a new train service between Brisbane and Bundaberg are nearing completion and if proven to be economically feasible will provide for a daily service between these two cities.

329.Redcliffe Hospital, Optometry Treatment

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (30/4/97)—

With reference to Optometry treatment at the Redcliffe Hospital, in particular, under the previous Labor Government wait times for treatment were approximately five weeks and I am informed that under his administration, the wait time has now extended to 13 weeks—

- (1) What is the reason for the extended wait time?
- (2) Will he be taking action to reduce wait times for Optometry treatment at the Redcliffe Hospital?

Mr Horan (29/5/97):

(1) In keeping with internal management strategies and resources available, Redcliffe Hospital introduced a budget for optometrical services during 1996/97. Requests for services are processed in accordance with ensuring that this budget will not be exceeded, however, in every instance, patients requiring urgent referrals are processed immediately.

I am advised that, in line with this strategy, the current waiting period for normal referrals is no more than 7 weeks.

(2) The District will review this matter when the hospital budget for 1997/98 is allocated. I wish to stressed that, in situations where services are required urgently or when there is a genuine need, orders will be placed immediately to ensure that no patient is disadvantaged.

330.South East Freeway/Pacific Highway, High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/4/97)—

With reference to the SIS studies undertaken by Queensland Transport and, in particular, SISS (5) which addresses issues surrounding his proposal to construct so-called High Occupancy Vehicle lanes along the South East Freeway south of the Gateway Motorway and which states, "If the HOV lanes end at Klumpp Road, it could be argued that much of the investment in widening for HOV purposes to the south would be wasted and many of the anticipated benefits would not materialise due to the limited time savings available for most HOVs entering the corridor south of Klumpp Road"—

- (1) Is this an accurate recording of the contents of SISS Report No. 5?
- (2) When was this report completed?
- (3) Who completed these reports and at what cost?
- (4) What action has he taken to address this problem and other problems identified by his own department?
- (5) Were copies of these reports made available to the Parliamentary Public Works Committee during their recent inquiry into the South East Busways?
- (6) Will he make available copies of these SISS reports to me as a Member of Parliament whose electorate is affected by the construction of an eight-lane freeway?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

(1) The Supporting Infrastructure and Services (SIS) studies were established to answer many of the strategic questions associated with the new concepts of busways and HOV lanes in South East Queensland. The studies are technical studies which have provided input to the development of planning guidelines for the South East Transit Project. The SIS work has proven to be highly successful in setting strategic directions and establishing design and operational criteria to guide the planning for the SET project.

The Member for Sunnybank has accurately reported a quote carried on to current drafts from an early draft of the SISS5 report, in which the consultants have queried the issue of lack of continuity of the HOV lanes north of Klumpp Road into the City, and the impact of this on the total travel time for HOV lane users.

It is important to note that the decision not to extend the HOV concept north of Klumpp Road is a deliberate strategy to provide a balance in the project between increasing public transport usage on the adjoining busway, and to encourage greater vehicle occupancy of private motor vehicles using the corridor. Thus, the project provides no additional road capacity for private motor vehicles north of Klumpp Road.

The comment referred to by the Mr Robertson first arose in a February 1997 draft prepared before data collection and travel time analysis was completed. The consultant's comments were based on initial concerns that travel time savings would be insufficient, and were made prior to the collection and analysis of data relating to travel times in this sector of the project. The consultant has now confirmed that the proposed HOV lane layout will generate, in peak periods, travel time savings in excess of 5 minutes over the full length of the proposed HOV lane section. Obviously, all of these savings will not be available to city bound motorists joining the Motorway part way along the HOV section, but the time savings averaged across all journeys are sufficient to justify inclusion of HOV lanes in the project from the Logan Motorway to Klumpp Road.

The project, as currently envisaged, does not preclude any future decision to extend the HOV lane concept into the City by the conversion of current general purpose traffic lanes to HOV operation. However, on the basis of data that is now available, this is not seen as critical to the success of the project at this time, and in the spirit of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan, it is not this Government's intention to remove travel options from commuters unless reasonable alternatives are first provided.

(2) A draft final report was produced by consultants for SISS5 in mid April 1997.

(3) The cost of the SIS studies is \$550,000. The various studies were undertaken by:

SISS 1: Ove Arup & Partners—Land Use/Transport

SISS 2: Rust PPK Pty Ltd—Systemwide Public Transport Initiatives

SISS 3: Veitch Lister Consulting—Busway Operations

SISS 4: Gutteridge Haskins & Davey Pty Ltd—Station Location

SISS 5: Rust PPK Pty Ltd—HOV Lane Operations

SISS 6: Peter Davidson—Demand Modelling

SISS 7: Woods Bagot Architects—Architectural Study

SISS 8: AGB McNair—Travel Demand Survey

SISS 9: Booz Allen & Hamilton—Busway Access

(4) The consultant has acknowledged that a revision of the previous wording is required in the context of the data now available which predicts that satisfactory travel time savings will be achieved.

(5) Reports were not completed at the time of the hearings, nor were draft copies of what was available requested. The Public Works Committee Inquiry was made aware of the studies and outputs from the studies at that stage were made known to the Committee. Output from the studies is also included in current material for the SET Project, on display in Mr Robertson's electorate.

(6) The entire suite of SISS reports will be available for perusal by the public when finalised. I will arrange for a set of the reports to be provided to Mr Robertson, and will arrange for Queensland Transport to brief Mr Robertson on the SIS studies if he so desires.

331. Crime Rate, Mackay

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

What steps has he taken to ensure that vigilantes do not take control of the streets in Mackay due to the public perception that crime is out of control in the Mackay CBD?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97): The actual strength of Mackay Station is increasing following the recent allocation of five (5) First Year Constables and another five (5) Constable transfers proceeding from other locations. The additional staff will enhance rostering and deployment capabilities for operational purposes. Additional First Year Constables will be allocated to Mackay following the August 1997 induction.

To coincide with additional staff the District Officer has developed and implemented an action plan for Police Beats in the Mackay Central Business District which will cover a mix of periods including day and night. The plan incorporates actions directed at addressing local issues within the Central Business District, liaising with the local business community and enhancing foot patrol presence. The plan is being monitored and overviewed at District and Regional levels. Previously foot patrols were conducted on an ad hoc basis and the District Officer advises some 100 foot patrols were conducted in the Mackay Central Business District for the three months January to March 1997.

The beat policing plan will supplement other operational and pro-active strategies directed at crime, crime prevention and local problem solving approaches to local policing issues. Mackay Police are involved in a range of community based pro-active programs and a continued focus will be maintained on working in partnership with the community.

Crime statistics indicate there have been no significant trends in reported offences against the person in Mackay Police Division for the comparative years 1995 and 1996, or for the first quarters for the years 1996 and 1997. Police will maintain focus on monitoring crime trends and local problem areas in conjunction with upgraded foot patrols and maintaining intelligence driven operations in the Mackay area.

332. Wacol Prison

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

With reference to the practice of allowing dangerous sex offenders and child murderers at Wacol Jail the right to leave the jail precinct on a daily basis largely unsupervised—

- (1) Is this true; if so, how many prisoners are involved and why is this practice being allowed?
- (2) Is this practice consistent with the Premier's stated aim of allowing these types of prisoners to "rot in hell"?

- (3) Are we to believe that the only way these prisoners can be safeguarded from other prisoners is to let them out of prison?
- (4) Were child pornography videos found in the possession of these inmates recently and was their freedom to move freely out of the prison the likely means of supply of these videos?
- (5) When were the videos first located and what action was taken at that time to prevent a recurrence of this and discipline the offenders?
- (6) Will he table the incidence reports from the jail files (plus the date they were completed), regarding the locating of the videos?

Mr Cooper (28/5/97):

(1) Prisoners in a correctional environment are assigned security classifications based on their institutional risk—their potential to re-offend in custody or attempt to escape. Prisoners progress through the prison system with increasing exposure to opportunities to exhibit responsibility to correctional staff and to the community and to decreasing levels of direct supervision.

Only prisoners with a low or open classification are permitted outside work opportunities. Any prisoner released from Wacol Correctional Centre to work outside the secure perimeter has been assessed to represent a limited risk of escape or other offending behaviour.

Five life sentenced prisoners are employed on the prison farm at Moreton A (formerly Wacol) Correctional Centre. They are not permitted to leave the prison reserve. They are not unsupervised. Consistent with the level of risk they represent, they are subject to low supervision. They report to the gate every two hours and additional random checks are conducted on a frequent basis.

(2) The five prisoners involved have been incarcerated for periods of between 23 years and 40 years. They are, and will continue to serve their time in custody.

(3) These prisoners are not working on the prison farm to ensure their safety from other prisoners. They have earned this privilege after years of satisfactory institutional performance. They are "mainstream" prisoners, not protection prisoners, and return to a secure environment with other mainstream prisoners at the end of their working day.

(4) At no time has there been any documented incident where child pornographic videos have been located within the Moreton A Correctional Centre. At no time have pornographic videos been located in the cells of the prisoners who work on the prison farm.

(5) As no videos were found, no action was required. A system has been in place for some time to ensure cells are searched regularly.

(6) As no child pornographic videos were found there are no reports relating to such an incident to table.

333. Lotus Glen Correctional Centre

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

With reference to security at the Lotus Glen Correctional Centre between Mareeba and Atherton—

- (1) Did an inmate serving time for burglary hide a girl in her early teens in a prison cell for up to three days before being discovered by Corrective Services staff?
- (2) What charges have been laid against the inmate and has he been charged with having sex with a minor?
- (3) What other disciplinary measures have been taken against this prisoner?
- (4) What changes have been made to prison routines to prevent a repeat of such an occurrence?

Mr Cooper (28/5/97):

(1) No.

Prison farm staff observed a girl on the public road adjacent to the prison farm early one morning. As she was not on prison property they had no jurisdiction in relation to her.

On further investigation it was determined that the female had officially visited a prisoner the preceding afternoon having arrived by bus provided by the Family and Prisoner Services group. She had left the prison farm on the bus at the conclusion of the visit. She had later attempted to make contact with a prisoner during the night and he had hidden her momentarily in a vacant room to avoid detection during a head count. He escorted her to the prison boundary and asked her to leave.

(2) The matter was referred to the Corrective Services Investigation Unit of Queensland Police who referred the matter to the Mareeba Police. No charges resulted.

The female had used a student identification when attending the visit that indicated she was over 18 years of age.

(3) Accommodation in open security on a prison farm is a matter of trust and a privilege valued by prisoners. The prisoner was removed to secure custody for his protection after the incident.

(4) Visitor processing procedures have been reviewed.

334. Disability Services

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (30/4/97)—

With reference to funding for the Disability Program under the Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement—

- (1) What funds were received from the Commonwealth for indexation for 1996-97?
- (2) What proportion of these funds were provided for new services and what new services received funding?
- (3) Was it only the Disability Program services that did not receive the indexation payment under similar Commonwealth/State funding agreements?

- (4) What "efficiency dividend" is to be applied to CSDA funds at the conclusion of the current agreement?
- (5) In the event that the Commonwealth withdraws funding by way of "efficiency dividend" or some other means from these vital services, will he guarantee State funds to fill any funding gap?

Mr Lingard (16/5/97):

- (1) \$776,980.
- (2) No indexation funds were provided for new services.
- (3) Yes, and all indexation was included in the Disability Grants Program for recurrently funded services.
- (4) The Commonwealth Government has proposed an efficiency dividend of 3% in 1997/98 and a further 1% for each of the following three years, a total of 6% over four years. All State and Territory Ministers are united in their opposition to this proposal and this issue has not been resolved.
- (5) Other contingency plans are being formulated by all the states and territories as it is not a State responsibility to provide funds to fill any gap caused by Commonwealth funding cuts.

335. Integrated Regional Transport Plan

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/4/97)—

With reference to the recent release of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South-East Queensland—

- (1) Where does he intend to provide additional bikeways and walkways in the area in 1997-98, and at what cost?
- (2) Where does he see a by-pass to the west of Brisbane traversing the suburb of The Gap, Enoggera Reservoir and the eastern edge of Brisbane Forest Park and when does he see work on this road commencing?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

- (1) The Roads Implementation Program (RIP) signed by the Minister on 18 November 1996 contains commitments to bikeway and pedestrian facilities for implementation in 1997/98.

The Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland (IRTP), announced on 23 April 1997, contains a companion commitment to improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Regarding future bicycle and pedestrian facilities, the government has taken the responsible step of incorporating development of a South East Queensland Regional Cycle Plan. The government will also support the preparation of local cycle plans by local government which integrate with regional cycle networks. Government funding of local cycle projects will be linked to these local cycling plans.

It would not be reasonable to announce any additional facilities to those included in the

previously announced RIP until the Regional Cycle Plan and discussions with the local governments are closer to completion.

- (2) Any suggestion that the IRTP is recommending some form of Western Bypass is premature and is clearly wrong.

People living in the western suburbs know that traffic congestion around their homes is growing. The impacts of this are felt every day by motorists using the Western Freeway, Waterworks Road, Samford Road and Kelvin Grove Road, among others. This is dangerous, frustrating and polluting.

The IRTP recognises that steps must be taken to ensure that road congestion in Brisbane's western suburbs does not become an irreparable problem for future generations.

The IRTP is a strategic plan for the transport system across South East Queensland. It puts in place a process of identifying the future travel task; setting targets for public transport, walking, cycling and ride-sharing; and establishing a new approach to transport planning that looks at all modes and land use, in consultation with the community to find the right solution.

What is clear is that additional transport system capacity will be needed in the 21st century unless there is a major change in travel behaviour in the western suburbs.

The answer may not necessarily lie in building new roads. It could lie in providing better public transport options for these areas, and particularly in providing better Public Transport access to the inner city for western suburbs residents through measures such as the Western Busway. All of these options will be looked at with full consultation of the people involved.

Western Brisbane transport capacity investigation will be addressed in a staged approach as follows:

- conduct an analysis of present and future passenger and freight travel demands in the western metropolitan area;

- analyse the reasons for, and nature of, the predicted growth in passenger and freight demand, and assess a range of options to address travel growth, including all transport modes and land use strategies to reduce travel demand and localise journeys;

- identify corridor options, including a corridor for the Western Busway; and

- plan and protect for the mix of strategies.

A feature of this and all other transport studies will be extensive community consultation on the options and preferred solutions, as well as comprehensive social, economic and environmental impact assessment.

It is a pressing problem, but we do not need to rush in to solve it. We must find a sustainable solution by working to build community understanding of the issues and available options.

336.60s and Better Program

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (30/4/97)—

Will he guarantee that funding levels will be increased for the 60s and Better program to cover the recently introduced SACS Award?

Mr Horan (29/5/97): There are few better examples of the greed and callousness of the Union movement than the Social and Community Services (SACS) Award. The actions of Labor's mates, the ASU, in pursuing this award against the wishes of many working in the voluntary and non Government sector, were calculated to strike at the aged, the sick, and the poor—and in this they have succeeded. Now they turn to Government and the taxpayer to cover up their heartlessness.

In addition, it is unreasonable for Government to be responsible for the actions of others: the State of Queensland was not a party to the Award.

Unfortunately, then, supplementary funding for this Award is not available, short of withdrawing money from other services. Queensland Health is working with community organisations to develop solutions that will minimise the impact the SACS Award on the 60s and Better Program and other programs. Should funding become available, the Government shall address this program as a priority—in the meantime, the ASU must shoulder the blame for a situation of its own creation.

337. Public Housing, Cairns

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (30/4/97)—

Will he supply details of the number and cost of public dwelling units (by category) made available in Cairns for 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 (est.)?

Dr Watson (30/5/97): In the Cairns Local Authority area during 1994/95, there were 113 construction completions or purchases comprising 62 detached houses, 41 medium density units of accommodation and 10 seniors' units. Expenditure on these dwellings was approximately \$13.7M.

During 1995/96, there were 152 construction completions or purchases comprising 83 detached houses and 69 medium density units of accommodation. Expenditure on these dwellings was approximately \$17M.

During 1996/97, it is estimated that there will be 62 construction completions or purchases. These include 20 detached houses, 30 medium density units of accommodation and 12 seniors' units. Estimated expenditure on these dwellings is \$7.6M.

338. Policing, Logan City

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

With reference to the recent spate of robberies and break and entries in Woodridge, in particular, and Logan in general—

- (1) What special or extraordinary measures are being implemented to combat this rise in community crime?
- (2) Is a team policing policy being implemented in Logan?
- (3) What preventive policing policy is being used in Logan?
- (4) What community policing schemes are in place in Logan?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

- (1) I have taken a direct and personal interest in ensuring a new dynamic approach is taken towards policing in those areas because of the high incidence of these crimes.

Logan District Management have in place, reactive units to target specific incidents. These units include:

The recently formed Task Force concentrates on investigating break & enter and unlawful use of motor vehicle offences within the Woodridge, Kingston, and Slacks Creek areas.

The Logan District armed robbery team was commenced on 7 May 1997 to target the recent spate of armed robberies and other stealing with violence offences being committed within the Logan District.

These units are additional to the Logan District Criminal Investigation Branch and Juvenile Aid Bureau, and the personnel are drawn from existing resources within the District.

The Divisional Managers within the Logan District conduct a number of intelligence based operations each year targeting any trouble spots identified within their area, and call on District resources as required.

- (2) The Task Force and Armed Robbery Team are the Logan Districts reactive 'team policing' squads.
- (3) The use of the Crime Prevention displays at major shopping centres throughout the District is supported and encouraged where the establishment of a Police Beat Shopfront is neither warranted nor a viable proposition.

The Police Mounted Unit is used to patrol railway stations and carparks as high profile and visible patrols to reduce crime in those areas.

Resources from State Crime Operations Command are used in the Logan District during operations and policing initiatives. In addition, resources from Operations Support Command including the Public Safety Response Team and the Railway Squad are also used.

The use of local media to promote public awareness of public safety and crime prevention and other campaigns are all part of the Logan District's strategies to reduce crime in high risk areas.

- (4) There are two new neighbourhood watch areas to be launched on 26 May 1997 and a further two areas are being developed in the Woodridge area.

Officers are encouraged to participate in community based policing strategies.

Some of these strategies include the Neighbourhood Watch committees, Community/Police Consultative Committees, Police in Schools including the Rostered Schools Intervention Program, and the Adopt-a-Cop Program.

339. Sir David Longland Correctional Centre

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

With reference to reports that prisoners at the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre are, or were, being allowed to watch 14 videos a week, eat smoked oysters and gain access to "girlie magazines", all in the name of "goodwill gestures" to reduce jail tension—

- (1) Are these reports true; if so, who gave the instructions to make these "gestures" and how long have they been in force?
- (2) Does he support these "gestures"; if not, what steps has he taken to alter the practice?

Mr Cooper (28/5/97):

(1) Prison overcrowding requires doubling up (two prisoners locked up for 12 hours a day sharing a cell designed for one person) which adds to prison tension. A local management decision at Sir David Longland Correctional Centre was taken to permit one video each week day, four on Saturdays and five on Sundays for a limited period pending the transfer of excess prisoners to the Woodford Correctional Centre which commenced in March 1997.

Prisoners use the \$1.90 to \$3.90 per day they earn from work in prison to make purchases from a limited range of items which include confectionary and soft drinks. In the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre prisoner population, about 12 cans of smoked oysters a week are purchased by prisoners of Asian background who mix this with their rice to supplement the meals provided.

Prisoners are permitted to purchase adult magazines which are of a type which are generally available in newsagents in Queensland. A limited number per week are purchased by prisoners.

These practices have been in place in Queensland prisons for many years.

- (2) This is an operational matter which is the responsibility of the QCSC.

340. Primary Producer Organisations, Trade Unionism

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (30/4/97)—

With reference to the statement of his Ministerial colleague the Hon Santo Santoro, Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (Hansard p. 4296), "But preference clauses lead to people joining a union simply to ensure that they are not disadvantaged. So we have a situation where employees are pressured to join the union. This is diametrically opposed to freedom of choice and the basic principles of democracy. It is coercion, pure

and simple and the spirit of enterprise in Queensland has suffered as a result. Employers should not have to support unions by fulfilling a recruitment role. It is time for unions to provide valuable services to encourage membership—it is time for them to stand on their own two feet"; and as I have been informed that letters have been forwarded to commercial fishermen from the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation demanding payment of a compulsory membership levy to the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation—

- (1) What philosophical and/or legislative reasons does the Government have for treating the rights of trade unionists as any different from the rights of Primary Producer Organisations, or is it that he just wants to look after his National Party mates in those organisations?
- (2) Given that his Ministerial colleague has indicated that employers should not have to support unions by fulfilling a recruitment role, how is this any different from the Government recruiting role contained in section 30F of the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926?
- (3) Given that it is the Government's implemented policy to outlaw compulsory trade unionism, why will he not act consistently and outlaw compulsory closed shop membership of Primary Producer Organisations such as the QCFO?
- (4) Will the Queensland Fish Management Authority now renew a master fisherman's licence without the applicant remitting membership fees for the QCFO?
- (5) Was this decision of the QFMA based upon his direction and/or QFMA legal advice and will he table a copy of such direction and/or advice?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. The Primary Producers Organisation and Marketing Act 1926 was introduced by the Forgan Smith Labour Government in late 1926. The current PPO&M Act provides for the payment of a Levy to QCFO by the holder of a Commercial Fisher's Licence issued pursuant to the Fisheries Act 1994. Any holder of a Commercial Fisher's Licence is therefore automatically a member of QCFO.

The reason for this arrangement is to ensure that the Government is able to consult with the commercial fishing industry through a single representative organisation and that such an organisation has sufficient financial resources to effectively represent the views of its constituents and provide a proper and timely flow of information in both directions.

The funding of QCFO through the compulsory levy ensures that these objectives are met and provides significant benefits to all members of the Queensland fishing industry.

If some QCFO members have a specific problem with the way in which QCFO is representing their interests, they have two main options:

Firstly, they can pursue the matter through the appropriate channels within the Organisation.

Secondly, under the provisions of the PPO&M Act, it is possible for thirty percent of the QCFO membership to effect a review of the Organisation. If this thirty percent were in favour, a poll of the members would be held, and if fifty percent voted and sixty percent of these were in favour of abolition, the Organisation would cease to exist.

This is a democratic process which is available to the membership of QCFO.

I do not think it would be appropriate to abolish the QCFO Levy simply because a small number of members lobby for this.

Moreover, there do not appear to be any suitable alternative means of ensuring that an effective industry organisation such as QCFO continues to exist and that it receives adequate funding to carry out its important role.

2. The Honourable Member has misread and misunderstood the provisions of the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926. None of the producer representative bodies constituted under the Act represent the State Government

3. The Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926 and the Fruit Marketing Organisation Act are to be reviewed and the matter of compulsory producer funding of the five current statutory producer representative bodies will be addressed during this review. I do not intend to pre-empt the outcome of the review but I can assure Honourable Members that "rank and file" producers will have the opportunity for input.

4. Yes. Master Fishermen's licences have been issued by the QFMA regardless of the QCFO levy for about five years.

5. Not relevant given the reply to question four.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**341. Casino, Southport Spit**

Mrs ROSE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (30/4/97)—

With reference to reports that as part of the Fisherman's Wharf redevelopment on the Southport Spit an exclusive European style casino club will be built—

- (1) If this is true, does she support a second casino on the Gold Coast?
- (2) What discussions has she, her staff or Casino Control Division officers had with the developers of this establishment regarding this second casino?

Mrs Sheldon (2/6/97):

- (1) No. I share the widely held view that there are quite enough casinos in Queensland at this time.
- (2) None.

342. Suncorp-Metway Ltd

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (30/4/97)—

With reference to recent senior managerial appointments to the Suncorp/Metway megabank—

- (1) How many ex-senior QIDC managerial staff have applied for positions in the new megabank, and how many positions have been applied for?
- (2) How many of these staff have been successful with these applications?
- (3) Is she aware of the concerns in rural Queensland at the failure of ex-QIDC staff to gain senior positions with Suncorp/Metway?
- (4) Will she give a guarantee that with the loss of senior QIDC staff to the megabank the new institution will still be able to perform a credible role in rural financing?

Mrs Sheldon (2/6/97):

(1) & (2) These questions relate to commercial and operational matters of the merged Group. Although the Queensland Government is the major shareholder in the Group, the Government is no different to any other shareholder in that it is not in a position to interfere in the operations of the Group.

(3) & (4) Any concerns in the rural sector about QIDC and its future lending role appear to be based on misinformation. It is my understanding that there have been no closures of QIDC branches since the merger on 1 December 1996. In fact, there has been an expansion of services at a number of QIDC offices in locations where there is no Suncorp or Metway presence. Rural customers serviced by these QIDC branches are benefiting from access to a more extensive range of financial services including personal and retail banking and insurance and superannuation services.

343. Yeppoon Turf Club; Ms J. Dixon

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

With reference to the March edition of the Queensland Racing Calendar which lists persons placed on the Forfeit List under the Australian Rules of Racing, 75 & 76 and, in particular, I refer to the entry which details \$12,750.00 fees owing to the Yeppoon Turf Club by Trainer, Miss J Dixon—

- (1) Why was Miss Dixon allowed to incur such a large debt with the Yeppoon Turf Club?
- (2) What action has been taken by the Yeppoon Turf Club to recover the debt?
- (3) Has the Yeppoon Turf Club President, Mr Millroy, given a commitment to pay the outstanding fees on behalf of Miss Dixon?
- (4) Why should the Yeppoon Turf Club continue to benefit from the Racing Development Fund when it is unable to maintain checks and balances on its own finances?

Mr Cooper (27/5/97):

(1) Miss J Dixon was for several years the resident trainer at the Yeppoon Turf Club. Miss Dixon's father was at the time the owner of several hundred thoroughbreds and a well known entrepreneur of Dixon Homes. Latitude was extended to Miss Dixon by the Club on the basis that her father would meet any outstanding sum. In the event, however, Mr Dixon's business ventures proved to be unsuccessful and he did not meet this cost. Mr Dixon was subsequently declared bankrupt.

(2) The Yeppoon Turf Club acted to have Miss Dixon placed on the forfeit list as a means of attempting to have her pay this outstanding amount. A decision was taken by the Club not to pursue expensive legal proceedings as it was felt that this would be futile.

(3) No

(4) Bad debts are an incident of every business. I consider the Club's present financial management to be good and no case exists for the Club being denied the benefits enjoyed by other clubs in terms of Racing Development Fund monies. The Yeppoon Turf Club is one of the most financially successful in the Capricornia Region Association area.

344. Toyota Fishing Classic

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (30/4/97)—

With reference to the 1996 Toyota Fishing Classic held on Fraser Island at the Eurong Resort—

- (1) How many fish and of which types were caught, tagged and successfully released at this tournament?
- (2) How many of these tagged fish were recaptured during the tournament or since?
- (3) What fish survival rates would be expected from such a tagging program by amateurs?
- (4) Has the Australian Institute of Marine Science furnished a report on the tagging success from the 1996 tournament; if so, will he table it?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. No fish of any species were caught, tagged and released during this tournament. However people participating in the Toyota Fishing Classic at Fraser Island are encouraged to release, without tagging, all unwanted fish.

2. This question is redundant given no tagged fish were released as part of the Toyota Fishing Classic at Fraser Island.

3. The survival rates of tagged fish depends on many factors including the species of fish tagged and the procedures used to capture, handle and tag the fish. The survival of tagged fish in exercises conducted by experienced recreational fishers operating under quality assured methodology as undertaken by the Australian National Sportfish Association is believed to be very high. However, the chances of survival of fish tagged by untrained recreational fishers in programs, which do not release fish in optimal condition, are likely to be low.

345. Ambulance and Fire Appliances, Automatic Vehicle Locaters

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (30/4/97)—

With reference to the fact that automatic vehicle locaters are not part of the QESCAD package and that his department has no plans to obtain automatic vehicle locaters for ambulances or fire appliances and as we already have automatic vehicle locaters on taxis and some other private vehicles—

Why has he adopted the policy of not giving priority to automatic vehicle locaters for ambulances and fire appliances?

Mr Veivers (29/5/97): With reference to the provision of Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL), indeed the facility to locate vehicles is already designed into the SCC QESCAD package.

My Department has identified this as a most important feature and as a result, QESCAD has been designed to ensure interface connections have been built into the system so that AVL can be added at any stage. The current implementation schedule calls for this technology to be incorporated into phase two of this project.

It is the intention of my department to embark on phase two at the earliest opportunity. Departmental officers are presently investigating the equipment options and infrastructure requirements to support the introduction of AVL into the emergency services environment. The technical methodology by which AVL will be utilised is still to be determined as there are a number of technical options requiring specific infrastructure to support AVL. To ensure my department uses the specific infrastructure which will meet the operational technical requirements to interface with QESCAD, an extensive appraisal of the infrastructure systems will need to be undertaken prior to implementation.

I refer you to the brochure 'The Key to Life' recently released by my Department for further details.

346. Policing, Whitsundays

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

With reference to claims that police, in February, failed to correctly advise a Magistrate hearing drug charges against a man in Proserpine of the man's previous convictions and probation breaches—

- (1) How could this still occur after revelations in the Carter Inquiry in Brisbane that this practice was used by confessed, corrupt police in the Whitsundays to go soft on "protected" drug offenders?
- (2) What steps were taken, and when, by him following these revelations at the Carter Inquiry to stamp out this practice?
- (3) Were any of the police officers named at the Carter Inquiry involved in the arrest, charging and court action against this man?
- (4) Has the offender re-appeared before the court for sentencing based on his "real" police record; if not, why not?
- (5) Were the warrants issued by Corrective Services on the Whitsundays police computer at the time of this court omission; if not, why not?
- (6) Could it have been possible that police just did not bother looking up the man's previous record prior to his appearance in court?
- (7) Have checks been made to determine how many other drug offenders in the Whitsundays have appeared in court with incorrect police records being placed before Magistrates by police; if so, how many have there been?

Mr Cooper (30/5/97):

- (1) These matters are the subject of a misconduct investigation by the Criminal Justice Commission and are pertinent to the Carter Inquiry. Accordingly, it would be inappropriate at this time to provide details of the circumstances surrounding the incident.
- (2) Stringent operating procedures were developed and implemented to avoid incidents of this type. Increased accountability using audit trails and risk management mechanisms were developed and put in place after the Inquiry was announced. These procedures were being developed some time prior to the commencement of the Inquiry. Any deficiencies in current procedures will be identified in the findings of the investigation.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No. Steps have been taken to approach the Department of Justice with a view to determining whether the matter can be brought back before the court.
- (5) No. Advice from the Police Information Centre is that there is no record of the date of receipt from Corrective Services of the warrants.
- (6) No, the arresting officer made the request and it was faxed to Whitsunday nine (9) minutes after the request was made. This happened the day after the arrest.
- (7) No.

347.Live Fish Exports

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (30/4/97)—

With reference to live fish exports—

- (1) What species are currently being targeted for live fish exports?
- (2) How many and what species of live fish were exported during 1995 and 1996?
- (3) What enforcement/inspections and other checks are carried out to ensure that live fish which are exported comply with size limits?
- (4) Have any operators been either reprimanded or prosecuted for taking undersized live fish?
- (5) How many commercial operators are involved in the live fish trade?
- (6) What research is either under way or has been undertaken into the effect that live exports have had or will have on the sustainability of fish stocks?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. Coral trout species form the vast majority of live reef fish catches destined for export, comprising approximately 98% of total live fish exports for the past year. Other fishes including barramundi cod and wrasse make up the balance of species exported.

2. The following details are provided:

3rd Quarter 1995	Coral Trout—55357kg
	Other—Nil
4th Quarter 1995	Coral Trout—66608kg
	Other—1343kg
1st Quarter 1996	Coral Trout—84015kg
	Other—1142kg
2nd Quarter 1996	Coral Trout—134252kg
	Other—1205kg
3rd Quarter 1996	Coral Trout—121127kg
	Other—197kg
4th Quarter 1996	Coral Trout—65397kg
	Other—2631kg

Export data prior to July 1995 are not readily available. However export quantities in those prior years were far less due to poor handling and transport infrastructure.

3. Activities in the live fish trade have been under greater scrutiny than other forms of reef fish marketing since the emergence of the trade. That additional scrutiny has emerged in response to the situation with live fish where smaller specimens attract a premium price. Those higher prices provide a monetary incentive to try to avoid detection and sell small and undersized fish.

Where live fish are exported by air (principally from Cairns to

Hong Kong), processors are the subject of regular checks by fisheries inspectors. Those inspectors maintain good lines of communications with AQIS inspectors who often view the product as part of the export certification process.

Where live fish are exported by international cargo boats equipped for carriage of live fish, the following additional requirements apply—

the boat must nominate the port/s of loading prior to arrival.

there must be no live fish product on board the vessel on arrival.

live fish product can only be loaded in the nominated port/s.

live fish product is not to be loaded directly from a fishing boat to an international cargo boat.

live fish product must satisfy AQIS requirements

the principal of the operations must notify the relevant office of the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol at least 24 hours prior to each loading of product to the carrier boat, to ensure that product being loaded can be inspected by a fisheries officer.

authorised fisheries officers inspect selected loadings, principally for undersized fish.

These measures are accompanied by an industry Code of Practice, signed by most, if not all present participants in the live fish trade, a copy of which is attached.

4. The following convictions, prosecutions pending and warnings have been recorded for offences related to live reef fish.

13	Convictions
5	Pending prosecutions alleged
15	Warnings

5. It is not possible at this time to provide information on the number of operators in the live fish fishery, as most monitoring of the trade occurs for practical reasons on land at the wholesale processing stage. Live fish processing requires specialised handling and transportation infrastructure which is concentrated and highly visible making land based surveillance particularly cost effective.

Whilst there are some boats operating solely on live fish, the majority of operators are diversified across product forms (live, fresh, frozen fillets) and engage in other fisheries. Operations to date have been limited to ports with adequate infrastructure, particularly Cairns, Innisfail, Bowen and Mackay but the operating range is expanding over time along with that infrastructure. No new licences to fish are being issued for line fishing in the Great Barrier Reef but some existing licence holders have changed from frozen product or from other fisheries to land live reef fish.

6. Live reef fish is another product form in an ever changing market. Previously frozen fillets and more recently fresh whole fish constituted supply to the market. Irrespective of product form, the research required and undertaken for the purpose of establishing sustainable use is basically the same.

Whilst increased research of tropical coral reef fish is highly desirable, there are significant reef fish research projects underway which benefit or monitor reef fish stocks. The most comprehensive of these is the "Effects of Line Fishing" experiment which will compare and evaluate the performance of various fishery management approaches on sustainable use of stocks. Recently established strategic reef fish

research priorities include projects on coral trout and other fishes sought after by the live fish trade.

LIVE REEF FISH INDUSTRY

CODE OF PRACTICE

1. Processors undertake that they will not purchase undersized product and if they encounter any such product then they will contact the QBFP and provide information to the inspectors.

2. Processors are not prepared to purchase product from unlicensed fishers and will convey offers of sale to the QBFP.

3. Handling Practices:

Processors are prepared to promote and support the highest quality handling procedures possible for the following reasons:

to maintain product quality

to reduce the stress to the product

to reduce the mortality rate during capture and transportation

4. Processors will give the strongest possible support for industry initiated quality assurance programs.

5. Processors as a group are prepared to invite inspection by the authorities, and welcome inspection by other reputable interests.

6. Processors as a group are prepared to cooperate with Research Organisations.

7. Processors publicly indicate their preparedness to provide information on the status of the live fish industry by way of providing catch figures, changes in demand, and whatever other information pertaining to the status of the export trade of live fish product.

8. Processors are prepared to show that chemicals used fit the World Health Organisation standards and particularly those standards applicable to the country which the product is being sold.

9. Handling practices will meet the guidelines of the World Health Organisation standards and be fit for human consumption.

10. Processors will promote industry and technology training.

11. Processors to participate in management forums and assist enforcement at all times.

348.Consumer Affairs Office, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/4/97)—

(1) Why is the Consumer Affairs Office in Maryborough being transferred from a building with a lift providing access for all, to a building which has two flights of very steep stairs?

(2) As a very large percentage of inquiries and complaints come from the elderly and disabled who are often targets for conmen and shonky dealers and as this new office will not provide wheel chair access to the office nor will it provide easy access for the elderly or infirm, will he provide the citizens of Maryborough

with an explanation why this transfer of the Consumer Affairs Office has been made?

Mr Beanland (23/5/97):

(1) The current accommodation for the Consumer Affairs Office in Maryborough is unsuitable because it lacks a number of basic amenities, including counter facilities, private interviewing facilities, air conditioning, running water and adequate disabled access. The absence of private interviewing facilities is particularly unsatisfactory, as there is a need for officers to formally interview persons when conducting investigations into breaches of legislation.

As part of the Government's commitment to enhancing service delivery in regional areas of the State, more suitable accommodation which addresses these deficiencies has been identified in Suite 14, 1st Floor, Public Trust Building, 88 Ellena Street, Maryborough. Renovation of this accommodation is due to commence shortly for completion in June 1997, after which relocation of the Consumer Affairs Office will take place.

(2) Although this new office is also located on the first floor, arrangements have been made with the Public Trust office to use their ground floor interview rooms where necessary to minimise any potential inconvenience to aged, infirm or disabled clients who have lodged complaints or require assistance and need to confer with Consumer Affairs Inspectors.

349.Caboolture Magistrates Court

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/4/97)—

With reference to the escalation in matters being dealt with at the Caboolture Courthouse Magistrates Courts—

Has he considered the appointment of a second Magistrate at Caboolture?

Mr Beanland (23/5/97): The Government monitors the workload of Magistrates throughout the State and appoints additional Magistrates when this is considered necessary. The Government appointed two additional Magistrates in 1996, taking the total number to 73. Acceptable delay standards for hearing dates in Magistrates Courts are between 8-12 weeks. Hearing date delays at Caboolture are currently shown as 8.3 weeks. The responsibility for posting Magistrates to particular locations rests with the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate.

350.Disability Services; Challinor Centre

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (30/4/97)—

With reference to the accelerating needs of people with disabilities—

(1) What was the sale price for Challinor?

(2) How is that money being allocated?

(3) What consideration is being given to the respite and community-based accommodation needs of disabled residents currently being cared for by family?

Mr Lingard (28/5/97):

(1) The sale price of Challinor Centre was agreed to on the following terms:

\$4.4m to be paid in 1996-97;

\$3.6m to be paid in 1997-98 (by the Office of Higher Education); and

\$2.8m from Commonwealth funding under the Building Better Cities Program.

(2) The funds will be used over the two years to assist in the relocation of residents from the Centre. The majority of funds will be used to provide alternative accommodation options in the form of centre-based accommodation. Some funds will meet the costs of relocating residents from the Centre by providing for the set-up costs for new accommodation (furniture, whitegoods, specialists equipment and so on).

(3) I assume the honourable member is referring to people with disabilities who live with their families in this part of her question and that the issue is that of unmet need. The funds available from the sale of Challinor Centre are, of course, non-recurrent and will therefore not be used to meet the unmet needs that are referred to. This Government is committed to addressing the issue of unmet need and will be considering other ways to meet some of these increasing demands for services from people with disabilities and their families.

351. Waste Tracking System

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (30/4/97)—

With reference to his department's development of a satellite dependent waste tracking system—

- (1) How much has this work cost the Queensland taxpayer so far and how much will it have cost once in place?
- (2) What stage is the work at, and when does he expect it to be in action?
- (3) What contracts have been signed with the company developing the system and to what value?
- (4) What other countries in the world are presently using such an advanced system of waste tracking?
- (5) What will the system cost to operate once in place?
- (6) Is he satisfied that this is money well spent, and not a case of overkill?
- (7) What funding has he secured in the 1997-98 budget for this system?
- (8) What is wrong with the five docket system of waste tracking as originally proposed and forms of which are presently in use in both Brisbane and Townsville?
- (9) Is he satisfied that waste producers and transporters won't be able to get around the satellite system?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97):

(1) You may be interested in the advice I have received that, of the \$40,000 contributed to date,

\$20,000 was contributed during the term of the Labor Government. However, it is not the Department of Environment that is developing a satellite waste tracking system. It is facilitating the development and use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) as a more efficient electronic approach to waste tracking than the five docket manifest system. The company developing the system, Hamil Haven, has not advised of its total expected costs.

(2) An announcement by Hamil Haven is expected in June/July 1997 regarding the status of development of the GPS for waste tracking.

(3) None

(4) I am advised that Australia is the first country developing the advanced application of the GPS for waste tracking. However the use of GPS in other areas of waste management has been reported for some other industrialised countries.

(5) This is yet to be finalised by the developer of the system. However, operational cost is expected to be low, as data is collected and transferred electronically. In addition, paperwork associated with the five docket manifest system is avoided. The Department of Environment will only need the computer terminals necessary to access GPS Exceptional Reporting.

(6) I consider the Department of Environment's involvement as legitimate and far sighted in facilitating the development of a leading edge technology in Queensland to improve the management of society's waste products. I presume that same applied when the Labor Government became involved.

(7) Any funding required will be provided in the context of the forthcoming 1997-98 State budget. However, I am expecting that any requirement of the Department of Environment to acquire electronic data collection equipment will not require major expenditure.

(8) The five docket system has been in use and is effective. However, it is considered to be labour intensive, prone to paper loss/damage, and could be subject to inaccuracies in transcription. The GPS system appears to have eliminated most of these shortcomings.

(9) The GPS Waste Tracking System when fully developed and approved for use, is expected to have features to trigger an exception report when waste generators or transporters try to get around the system. Such provisions will meet regulatory requirements and satisfy expectations of the waste management industry, key stakeholders and the Government.

352. Primary Industries Department Land, Sale to EGR Plastics

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (30/4/97)—

With reference to the concerns among the Moorooka community over the possible sale of Department of Primary Industry land at Evans Road in the Yeronga electorate to EGR Plastics—

- (1) What discussions are taking place between his department and EGR Plastics over this matter?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that there will be no detriment to the amenity of the local area if such a sale proceeds?
- (3) Will the proposed sale result in job losses and/or a cut in forestry services; if not, what alternative arrangements would be put in place in relation to the jobs of staff at the centre and the forestry services provided by the Government?
- (4) Will he give an assurance that the local community will be fully consulted before any decision is made regarding the future of the site?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. Upon assuming office I discovered that the discussions to which you refer have their origins with previous DPI Minister's.

EGR Plastics has expressed a continuing interest in purchasing the property and discussions have involved a range of Departments including DPI.

Discussions have primarily centred around the benefits offered by the proposal to Queensland, particularly in employment creation. Any decision would need to involve a number of departments and the Brisbane City Council. To date no firm decision has been taken to sell the property and no agreed price negotiated.

2. If a sale eventuates, any rezoning of the site would be the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council. Local residents will have access to the normal processes to give their comments.

3. If a sale eventuated it would only occur on the understanding that there would be no job losses or cuts in forestry services. Forestry services would be relocated and potentially enhanced.

4. I am sympathetic to the concerns of local residents. As previously stated, any decision made will be one that provides the greatest benefit to the Queensland economy as a whole. Whatever discussion or consultation that is necessary to ensure that this occurs will be undertaken.

353. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (30/4/97)—

With reference to recent Government advertising campaigns—

- (1) What is the department's advertising and promotional budget?
- (2) How much to date has been spent on advertising and promotional work by the department?

Mr Lingard (13/5/97):

(1) \$220,000 including promotional printing and general advertising.

(2) Expenditure to date—

Tenders, public notices etc.—\$32,788

One-off advertising ranging from \$1254 to \$4368 relating to carer recruitment, Christmas closure, child sexual abuse, Disability Awareness Kit, Domestic Violence, Outside School Hours Care and Vacation Care etc.—\$22,512

Seniors Card)—\$9,423

Seniors Card Directory)—\$24,130

Seniors Card Week)—\$8,040

Child Care—\$5,840

Concessions Card—\$15,940

TOTAL: \$118,673

354. Roads, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (30/4/97)—

With reference to the safety of residents of the Bulimba Electorate when travelling on local roads conducting local business, in their local suburbs—

- (1) Will he acknowledge the danger to local road users brought about by the transport of the explosive mix of nitrous fertiliser along Lytton Road in one direction to the Ampol Refinery through a blind corner, and diesel fuel along Lytton Road in the opposite direction?
- (2) When will work commence on the intersection of the highly dangerous Paringa and Lytton Roads in order that a possible future tragedy is avoided?
- (3) When will upgrade work commence on the Hemmant/Tingalpa Road intersection, so that local parents can feel confident of the safety of their families when travelling to and from school?
- (4) When will work commence on the port road?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

(1) I am advised that there is minimal danger to road users on Lytton Road, as explosive grade ammonium nitrate is not manufactured, transported or used at the Gibson Island fertiliser plant.

(2) Improvements to the Paringa Road intersection at Murarrie are presently being identified as part of four-lane planning for Lytton Road. Consultants have been engaged to undertake planning including consultation with stakeholders and businesses within the Paringa Road catchment to determine feasible options for the intersection upgrading. This planning is to be completed by the end of July 1997. Following this planning, a detailed design will be undertaken to estimate the costs and staging proposals. The timing for construction will depend on available funds within the 1997-98 to 2001-02 Roads Implementation Program.

(3) A design for the improvement of the Hemmant-Tingalpa and Lytton Road intersection is presently under way and includes a dedicated right turn slot from Lytton Road to access the Hemmant school. This work is expected to commence this

calendar year and forms a condition on development impacting at this intersection.

(4) The Port Road Impact Assessment Study has been finalised and the Report will be presented to Government shortly. Following Government consideration on the findings and recommendations on the report, decisions on timing of construction of the Port Road will be made.

355. Capital Works Program, Wide Bay-Burnett Region

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Premier (30/4/97)—

With reference to the Wide Bay-Burnett Region which has an unemployment rate of 19 per cent compared to the national figure of 9.3 per cent as reported in the Newsmail on 30 April—

Will he take immediate action to implement a capital works program to include (a) immediate commencement of the hospital redevelopment, (b) immediate upgrading and raising of the platform at the Bundaberg Railway station, (c) immediate start on school capital works projects, (d) immediate start on the TAFE Horticultural building, (e) support for development of sporting facilities, (f) commencement work on the southern ring road and (g) also have the State Government introduce special training and employment programs in the Bundaberg district?

Mr Borbidge (30/5/97): In 1996/97 the Government committed almost \$4 billion to its capital works program including the commencement of a three year, \$1.6 billion infrastructure rejuvenation package. The Government intends to maximise the benefits to all Queenslanders by delivering capital works within a planned, strategic framework. This will ensure that existing priorities are not compromised by ad-hoc decisions based on political expediency and that infrastructure is delivered in accordance with need.

The Wide Bay-Burnett Region has benefited from this approach with capital outlays for 1996/97 totaling \$306 million across most areas of government. This represents an increase of over \$87 million or 39% on the previous year's budget of \$219 million.

In relation to the specific projects identified by the honourable member I can advise the following:

Item 1, commencement of the hospital redevelopment.

Stage 2 of the Bundaberg Hospital redevelopment is now complete and finalisation of the extent of works for stage 3 is nearing completion. Stage two of the Maryborough Hospital, comprising \$15 million of capital works, will commence later this year.

Item 2, upgrading Bundaberg railway station.

The 1996/97 budget provided \$70 million for rail projects in the region, including the awarding of significant contracts to Walkers Limited, Maryborough for rolling stock. The region will also benefit from the Mainline Upgrade Project with outlays totalling \$4 million. Queensland Rail is currently investigating works estimated to cost \$1.45 million over three years for Bundaberg station.

Item 3, school capital works projects.

The Department of Education has \$1.58 million of capital work currently in progress within the area and will spend a further \$3.29 million over the remainder of the calendar year improving facilities within the region.

Item 4 Immediate start on the TAFE horticultural building.

This project has already commenced with the tender awarded on 9 May. Construction on this \$2.3 million project will start later this month with completion expected by December this year.

Item 5 support for the development of sporting facilities.

The Government is developing a State Sporting Facility Plan in consultation with Local Government and Sporting Bodies throughout the State. This plan will improve the coordination of the delivery of sporting assistance and maximise benefits through a planned response. Whilst the Office of Sport and Recreation are consulting widely, groups interested in developing sporting facilities can contact the Office directly. In addition there are a number of sports projects currently underway within the area. These include the Maryborough Memorial Pool Complex (\$250,000), Urangan High School multi-purpose courts (\$125,000) and Whitsunday Sailing Club reclamation work (\$250,000).

Item 6 commencement of the southern ring-road.

Recent transport investigations indicate that this project may not be required for another 15 years. However, as part of the Government's commitment to improving the state's road network, the Department of Main Roads has undertaken projects to the value of \$18.3 million within the region so far this financial year and will spend a further \$9.6 million by December.

Item 7 Special training and employment programs.

The Government is clearly focused on enhancing the skills base within the Queensland workforce and has shifted the emphasis from employment programs to vocational education and training initiatives. Our priority is to provide training to allow the unemployed, as well as young people, to gain the vocational skills they need.

In relation to training programs for the area, the Bundaberg College of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE will introduce a number of new training programs in 1997/98 subject to funding, including a Diploma of Business, new post trade engineering modules, Certificate IV in Applied Science (Sugar Chemists), Certificate IV in Horticulture Practice and Shop Fitting courses.

During 1996/97, the Purchasing Branch of the Department of Training and Industrial Relations (DTIR) committed more than \$1.2 million to training providers for the delivery of training in Bundaberg in areas such as retailing, rural office practice, engineering, small business management, construction, residential aged care, commercial catering and office skills. In addition, funding of \$17,000 was provided under the Client Purchase Arrangement to the Endeavour Foundation to

purchase training for their staff in Bundaberg and surrounding areas.

Bundaberg has also been targeted for extra development activities. As recently as 1 May, DTIR together with the local Area Consultative Committee, Queensland Confederation of Commerce and Industry, local employers and schools conducted a Careers Market day specifically to promote traineeships and other employment opportunities.

The Government, through its Strategic Planning process is working to ensure that regional and remote communities are not disadvantaged relative to the rest of the state. Clearly, our commitment to capital works and training and education in the Wide Bay-Burnett Region is concrete evidence of this.

356. Queensland Health, Rebuilding Programs

Mrs EDMOND asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (30/4/97)—

With reference to her answer to Question on Notice No. 119 where she indicated that the capital charges on the rebuilding programs in Health in 1998-99 would raise \$23.4m, 1999-2000 would raise \$51.3m and 2000-2001 would raise \$69.7m—

Will she indicate how much will be raised from each hospital throughout the State for each of the above years?

Mrs Sheldon (2/6/97): The allocation of the funds subject to the capital charge to specific projects within Queensland Health is a matter for the Minister for Health. The exact composition of funding for each capital works project is currently under review. For those projects whose funding attracts the capital charge, payment will be made from savings due to operational efficiencies that can be achieved with the new capital infrastructure.

Arrangements for the application of the capital charge have recently been amended for the charge to apply from the beginning of the second financial year after the year in which funds under this facility are drawn. This effectively provides an average charge free period of 18 months.

Accordingly, this change will affect the estimates of the annual charges referred to in the question as will changes to the program as part of the 1997-98 Budget.

357. Comalco, Head Office Relocation

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (30/4/97)—

With reference to his recent much heralded announcement that Comalco had relocated its head office from Melbourne to Brisbane—

- (1) Why then did the group conduct its annual general meeting in Melbourne on 23 April ?
- (2) Is it still his understanding that Comalco will be relocating its entire head office to Brisbane; if not, what then is coming to Brisbane and when, and what is staying in Melbourne?

Mr Borbidge (30/5/97):

1. Because Comalco has not yet relocated its head office to Brisbane.

2. Yes; as far as the Government is aware Comalco intends to move all its head office functions to Brisbane.

358. Assisted Living Service Houses

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (30/4/97)—

With reference to ALS (Assisted Living Service) houses operated by the department—

- (1) What criteria is used in the selection of sites for this service?
- (2) As employees of the department provide 24-hour care at these facilities, are they registered workplaces under the relevant legislation?
- (3) What processes are in place to deal with matters or complaints raised by neighbouring residents to these facilities?

Mr Lingard (16/5/97):

(1) The Alternative Living Service is community based accommodation support provided to people with an intellectual disability. Accommodation is provided in houses and flats throughout Queensland and these are usually rented from either the private rental market or from public housing stock, with some people owning their home. The location, appearance and design of accommodation should ensure that appropriate household amenities and a homelike environment are provided, while enabling the people concerned to continue to access their local community. Residents of ALS houses have tenancy rights and wherever possible are involved in choosing their own houses.

(2) These houses are people's homes with support being provided by staff to enable the people concerned to live in the community. The houses concerned are therefore not workplaces requiring registration under the Workplace Health and Safety Regulations.

(3) On rare occasions where neighbours have raised concerns, officers of my Department have met with them to talk through the issues, to provide relevant information, and to discuss ways of resolving the concerns if possible. In some cases, my Department has sought assistance from an independent mediator to facilitate a resolution process. Staff closely monitor issues that may be likely to cause concern to others and take appropriate actions, including the immediate notification of their manager. Staff are instructed that at all times interactions with neighbours should be courteous, tactful and discreet.

359. Adoption Legislation

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (30/4/97)—

With reference to his public statements during 1996 regarding his intention to review the adoptions legislation—

- (1) What progress has been made on this legislative review?

- (2) Has any public consultation been undertaken in the process of this review; if so, what form has it taken and which groups were consulted; if not, when will there be an opportunity for members of the public to comment on any proposed changes to adoption legislation?
- (3) What is the proposed time frame for implementing changes to adoption legislation?

Mr Lingard (16/5/97): The Department has completed a report on adoption procedures at present in place. Timing for changes to the adoption legislation will depend on decisions such as The Hague Convention.

360. Juvenile Offenders

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (30/4/97)—

If a juvenile is involved in an offence which would result in immediate follow-up and questioning of the suspect if the suspect were an adult, is it the accepted practice of the Queensland Police Service that mobile police patrols do not speak to the juvenile or follow-up on evidence but pass on information to Juvenile Aid Bureau officers, even if that means delaying the investigation for some days?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97): No.

361. Natural Heritage Trust Fund; Tree-clearing Guidelines

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (30/4/97)—

With reference to his funding applications to the Federal Government's Natural Heritage Trust Fund—

- (1) What applications have been made for work on native vegetation clearance and what will these funds be used for?
- (2) What further mapping or identification of habitats at risk is required to finalise the preliminary tree clearing policy?
- (3) At what stage is the satellite mapping of the extent of native vegetation in rural Queensland and what funds have been expended on this project to date?
- (4) How many land clearing permits for how many hectares of native vegetation (both pristine and regrowth) have been issued by his department since February 1996?
- (5) How much land has been cleared in this time and how many of these areas were inspected by Department of Environment officers prior to the permits being issued?
- (6) Were these permits issued in accordance with the previous Government's provisional tree clearing policy; if not, what policy is being used?

Mr Hobbs (16/5/97):

(1) At this stage, one project proposal which directly concerns tree clearing has been submitted by my Department for funding under the Natural Heritage

Trust. This is a pilot project which proposes to trial a system which will monitor the impact of the issuing of tree clearing permits on the conservation status of vegetation communities which may be subject to clearing for development.

The information from this project will provide landholders with planning certainty, and ensure that the issuing of tree clearing permits does not potentially move any vegetation community from one conservation category to another, for example from "not of concern" to "of concern". It will also assist the State Government in meeting its commitments to the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development and related strategies and conventions.

(2) The Department of Environment is responsible for the biodiversity mapping which is being used in the development of Local Tree Clearing Guidelines. Most of the local guidelines have been completed and the remaining ones are currently being finalised using available biodiversity information.

When guidelines are completed and formally approved, and the implications of the Wik decision clarified, the Broadscale Tree Clearing Policy will be finalised. Accordingly, no further mapping or identification of habitats at risk is required to finalise the local guidelines and the Broadscale Policy.

However, further mapping of endangered and "of concern" regional ecosystems is being planned and undertaken by the Department of Environment for use in the review later this year of certain aspects of the Broadscale Policy, and for the on-going assessment of applications for permits and refinement of local guidelines.

(3) A revised estimate of 1991 to 1995 vegetation change will be available by August this year. Field verification of the 1991 to 1995 vegetation change maps has been completed for one-third of the State. This represents 70% of the area where clearing is occurring. Mapping of 1991 land cover for the entire State is continuing.

Some \$4.2 million of State funds was spent on satellite monitoring in 1995/96. Approximately \$1.45 million will be spent on the project in the current 1996/97 financial year. It should be noted that this expenditure will also provide data for use in the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Change Studies.

(4) No new permits for broadscale treeclearing for land development have been issued since January 1997. Permits are still being issued for fire management, pulling mulga for drought feeding and regrowth control.

From January 1996 to 20 December 1996 (pre-Wik) 505 permits were issued to clear trees over 545,138 ha. This included 223 permits for the treatment of regrowth over 345,506 ha which is 63% of the total area for which permits were issued.

Since the Wik decision, 84 permits were issued to 20 April 1997 for some 105,708 ha. This included 28 permits for the treatment of regrowth over some 82,553 ha which is 78% of the total area for which permits were issued. This higher percentage of regrowth control permits is attributable to the

post-Wik moratorium on the issue of permits for broadscale clearing of virgin timber.

(5) As I have previously advised the Parliament, the issuing of permits does not mean that the areas approved for clearing will in fact be cleared. This is especially the case with the current downturn in commodity prices and the prevailing drought conditions. Accordingly, it is not possible to determine accurately how much leasehold land has been cleared since February 1996.

However, it is possible through the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) to analyse vegetation change over time. Only interim results of this project are available. Preliminary analysis of satellite imagery shows that some 308,000 ha were cleared annually over the period 1991 to 1995. From a State perspective, the 308,000 ha represents only 0.17% of the total area of Queensland, or 0.4% of the area of existing woodlands in the State.

It is not necessary for officers from the Department of Environment to inspect all applications for tree clearing permits. Officers of my Department of Natural Resources are responsible for assessing applications for permits under the Land Act against local tree clearing guidelines that have been developed by industry, conservation interests and Government specialists. Providing an application falls within the local guidelines, there is no need for inspections by other Departments. Nevertheless, applications for tree clearing permits are generally referred to the Department of Environment for information and, where necessary, consideration.

(6) The Preliminary Tree Clearing Policy developed by the previous Government has been revised by the State Trees Group and some variations to the Preliminary Policy have been accepted for the purpose of developing the local guidelines. Further refinements may be needed before the Preliminary Policy evolves into the Broad-scale Tree Clearing Policy and is proclaimed under the Land Act 1994.

The Preliminary Policy and the draft local tree clearing guidelines provide the basis for the assessment of applications for tree clearing permits. This will remain the case until the local tree clearing guidelines and the Broad-scale Policy are formally approved.

362. Mackay Base Hospital

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (1/5/97)—

With reference to the Mackay Base Hospital—

What is the current project status of the redevelopment?

Mr Horan (2/6/97): The Project Definition Plan (PDP) is nearing completion and a recurrent cost study has recently commenced. Concurrently, early works packages have been initiated involving air conditioning to wards, and on May 19 1997 A.E Smith and Son Pty Ltd were awarded the tender for the air-conditioning upgrade of the Mackay Hospital which is expected to be completed by November 1997.

In recent months a CT Scanner has been installed with upgrades occurring in the medical imaging area to allow for the installation of the scanner.

A planned \$25.9 million will be spent on the Mackay Hospital redevelopment with \$2 million of this funding already spent on the upgrade of equipment. The construction is due to begin in late 1997 with completion expected in March 1999.

363. Environment Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/97)—

With reference to recent Government advertising campaigns;

- (1) What is the department's advertising and promotional budget?
- (2) How much to date has been spent on advertising and promotional work by the department?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) The Department's Education and Information Unit has a budget of \$71,224 this financial year to cover promotions including documentary production, World Environment Day celebrations, The Royal Queensland Show and Colonial George Street Festival.

Advertising costs are expended by each program area of the Department on a needs basis. These costs comprise employment advertising, notices of public meetings, legislative notices and community information and education activities.

(2) \$229,227 has been spent to 30 April 1997. The major categories of expenditure are:

Job vacancies—\$117,750

Calls for tenders, park closures and other public notices—\$59,557

Expressions of Interest—\$12,920

Cultural Heritage Register Proposals—\$27,000

Grant Schemes—\$12,000

By way of comparison, you may be interested in the figures for the previous three financial years:

1995/96—\$345,676

1994/95—\$378,709

1993/94—\$317,467

364. Rat Control in Cane Fields

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/97)—

With reference to the problem of rats causing damage to canefields—

- (1) Are these rats native animals or introduced species?
- (2) What control measures are presently being used to control these rats and what application technique is being used?

- (3) What numbers of permits have been issued in 1995, 1996 and 1997 by the Department of Environment to control these rats and what numbers of returns have been received in those years?
- (4) Are personnel, other than Department of Environment staff, allowed to issue these permits; if so, who and what numbers of permits were used by these people in 1995, 1996 and 1997?
- (5) What quantities of rodenticide are being applied to cane crops to control these rats and what assessment has been made of the impact of this application on the environment, and what were the results?
- (6) How many of the permits issued were based on crop inspections by qualified Department of Environment officers?
- (7) What assessment has been made of the number of rats being killed annually by this poisoning and what results were achieved?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) Five species of rodents have been recorded in sugarcane. Only one of these, *Rattus rattus* is an introduced species. Of the other four native species *Rattus sordidus*, the canefield rat, and *Melomys burtoni*, the grassland melomys are considered the main native pest species in the sugarcane industry.

(2) The current control measures used to manage rodents involve an integrated pest management approach. This incorporates habitat manipulation techniques using both biological and chemical control methods in an orderly sequence to suppress the canefield rat breeding cycle, as well as the maintenance of infield crop hygiene. Appropriate weed control and revegetation of harbourage areas are used to prevent rodent numbers from reaching levels where they become a serious problem. The Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations and Cane Pest and Productivity Boards release rodent activity predictions each season and encourage growers to bait only if necessary. The use of these predictive modelling techniques aims to minimise the application of chemical treatments.

(3) Data, obtained by my officers, on the number of Damage Mitigation Permits issued for the control of the canefield rat and grassland melomys indicated that: in 1995 five permits were issued; in 1996, nine permits and; in 1997, five permits.

Permits may be issued to Cane Protection and Productivity Boards, which represent all growers in a particular area. The Cane Boards generally notify the Department of Environment on a regular basis of the growers who are applying baits.

(4) The Department of Environment is the only issuing authority for Damage Mitigation Permits.

(5) Klerat is the only registered rodenticide for use in sugarcane. It is applied by growers in accordance with the registered rate recommended by the manufacturer. This rate is 2kg per hectare. The use of baits is being reduced in the cane industry. For example in the Herbert Cane Protection and

Productivity Board area, 252ha of a possible 65,760ha was baited in the last season.

In relation to the impact of klerat on the environment, research trials have been completed recently by the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. The results are currently being analysed.

(6) Permits are issued to the Cane Protection and Productivity Boards. Department of Environment staff work in close cooperation with the Boards. It is on the basis of the advice received from the Boards, regarding the potential for rodent damage to crops, that Departmental officers issue Damage Mitigation Permits. Where necessary, Departmental officers will inspect particular cane areas. It must be emphasised that the most efficient and cost-effective way to minimise crop losses is to prevent an increase of rodent population densities, rather than to control or reduce numbers once they have increased. A critical period for management occurs when rodent population densities are low. Thus approval for chemical control is usually given before an obvious rodent presence in an area. This enhances control and minimises environmental risks.

(7) Data on the number of rats killed annually is difficult to obtain due to the delayed action of Klerat. Rats may disperse underground or leave the cane area when poisoned. Recent field trials will provide more reliable information on the number of rats being killed. The Department is awaiting the results of these trials.

365. Bilby Research Program

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/97)—

With reference to the increasingly popular Easter chocolate bilbies as a replacement gift for the long-standing Easter bunnies—

- (1) What funds were generated from the sale of these Easter bilbies that came to the department or other environmental bodies in 1996?
- (2) What portion of these funds have made their way directly to work on the bilbies and what aspect of the bilby research or management have they been spent on?
- (3) To what other purposes have these funds been directed and why?
- (4) Has the bilby research program virtually no operating funds at present and is unlikely to have any until the next budget, if then?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) In 1996 sale of bilby chocolates by the Department of Environment earned \$3,309.35. The Department was provided with a total of \$24,000 in the current financial year donated by Australian Conservation Foundation and the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society from the sales of chocolate bilbies by Coles Myer in 1995. I am not aware of the funds generated by other environmental bodies from chocolate bilby sales.

(2) All of the \$24,000 generated from the Coles Myer sales went towards bilby research. I understand that

sales from the 1996 Easter bilby promotions are yet to be allocated.

(3) The proceeds from all Departmental merchandising activities, including the sale of bilby chocolates, are used to fund new educational products and services. These products and services aim to increase community awareness and understanding of important environment and conservation issues such as the plight of the bilby.

Profits from the sale of bilby chocolates in 1995 helped fund the production of a Bilby calendar in 1996. Proceeds from bilby chocolate sales in 1996 have helped to fund the production of a bilby poster about to be released. Both these items include an information sheet providing relevant details about the bilby which aims to increase community awareness and appreciation of this threatened species.

(4) Bilby research is presently funded through my Department with approximately \$30,000 to be expended during 1996-97 in addition to the \$24,000 previously mentioned. Also, the Department allocated two full-time research positions to the program. Research activities have focussed on implementing the Queensland component of a national Recovery Plan.

Funding will be provided to allow for on-going research in 1997-98. The specific allocation cannot be determined until details of Commonwealth Government grant funding are available. In addition to State and Commonwealth funds, Stanbroke Pastoral Company have committed to provide \$500,000 over a five year period for Bilby research and management in Queensland.

366.Environment Report

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/97)—

With reference to a publication from his Ministerial office called the Environment Report—

- (1) Has this report been produced by his ministerial office at ministerial expense or has there been departmental involvement in its design, layout, etc.; if so, what exact departmental involvement occurred and at what cost to taxpayers?
- (2) Were the graphs, photographs, draft text or artwork in the publication supplied by the department; if so, at what cost to the taxpayer?
- (3) Does he believe it is appropriate in this day and age for taxpayer-funded publications to be produced under the guise of a ministerial publication and distributed for pure political propaganda purposes?
- (4) What distribution has occurred of this publication, is it the first of its type, how many are planned annually and how many of this first issue were initially printed?
- (5) What is the total cost of this publication including design, content, layout, paper, printing, binding, packaging and distribution costs?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97): The honourable member might be aware that it is difficult to gain positive coverage in some sections of the media

regarding environmental issues. By way of example, I refer to some instances regarding the Courier-Mail in demonstrating this point:

- a) Last year I wrote to the Editor-in-Chief of Queensland Newspapers, Mr Chris Mitchell, regarding the lack of coverage in the Courier-Mail of a march and other activities involving school children to mark World Environment Day. He replied (in part): "I am not in the business of presenting positive images, and I am sure the 2000 primary school children may have been cute for the television cameras or the suburban newspapers, but it is of no interest to me."
- b) In recent weeks there have been five examples where the State Coalition Government's role has been virtually ignored or misrepresented:

The signing in Brisbane of an agreement between industry and the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) on reduction of waste: The role of the State through myself, as Queensland Minister for Environment and current ANZECC chairman, was ignored;

An end to extractive dredging in the Brisbane River by Pioneer: The role of the Brisbane River Management Group was ignored. This Group is chaired by me as Queensland Minister for Environment and includes the Ministers for Natural Resources and Transport as well as local authority and conservation representatives;

Signing of Greenhouse Challenge agreements between industry and government: The role of the Queensland Government in becoming the first State to join the program was ignored. The early signing of agreements with Queensland industries was also ignored, though an accompanying photograph did include my Commonwealth counterpart and myself. This, at least, acknowledged the attendance of a Queensland Government representative at this major event, which was held in Brisbane (an advertising feature in a subsequent issue recognised the positive contribution of the Queensland Government);

Announcement of a joint employment/training program: This was described as a Commonwealth program to be managed by the Department of Environment. In fact, it is a joint program with the major share of funding from the State Government, that is, \$1.5 million of \$1.83 million; and

A moratorium on permits in the Hinchinbrook region: The original announcement by Senator Hill and myself was not used, yet a release on the subject from the North Queensland Conservation Council critical of the Queensland Government was given considerable space.

Given the above, I believe a newsletter such as "The Environment Report" is necessary. This was produced by my office. The only use of departmental resources was the scanning of illustrations, which took less than half an hour. I am advised that the cost of publication and distribution to various groups and individuals was \$2899.45. Postage was handled through the Department with the cost charged to my office. It is intended to produce further issues on a quarterly basis, though it is expected they will be reduced in size.

367. Waste Management Facility, Yatala; Barkoola Environmental Pty Ltd

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/97)—

With reference to media reports that senior Department of Environment officers have expressed grave concerns that a waste management facility at Yatala, operated by Barkoola Environmental Pty Ltd, could have future plans to replace the Willawong Treatment facility which is due to close by mid 1998—

- (1) Has their Environment Management Plan been approved by the Department of Environment?
- (2) Does this plan include a capacity for Barkoola of approximately 10,000 litres of "feed stock" annually?
- (3) Is this capacity identical to the capacity of the Willawong treatment plant currently?
- (4) What are the storage capacities of hydrochloric and sodium hydroxide on the Barkoola site as set out in the EMP?
- (5) What assessment has the Department of Environment made of the Barkoola plant's potential to seriously contaminate nearby land and water in the event of a spill or a leak?
- (6) What strategies are planned to handle sludge from the site?
- (7) Does he support Barkoola's application?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97):

- (1) The Department of Environment has received a draft Environment Management Plan from the company to inform the Department of its intentions in relation to future operations and to seek comment from the Department. There is no statutory requirement to submit or approve an Environment Management Plan in this case.
- (2) The proposed treatment capacity in the draft Environmental Management Plan is in excess of 10,000 litres annually.
- (3) The capacity of the Willawong treatment plant is much greater than 10,000 litres annually.
- (4) The storage capacity in the draft Environmental Management Plan for hydrochloric acid is 20,000 litres and for sodium hydroxide the storage capacity is 20,000 litres.
- (5) Barkoola has applied for an Environmental Authority (licence) pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act 1994. This application is under consideration and the licence will contain stringent

conditions for storage and bunding to prevent or minimise the likelihood of environmental harm to nearby land and water.

(6) Based on sludge analysis, the majority of sludge from the proposed operation would be suitable for disposal to local licensed general waste disposal facilities with a smaller proportion of the sludge incorporated into inert material for disposal to appropriate licensed regulated waste disposal facilities.

(7) The application for the environmental authority is being assessed against the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and will be decided upon by the Department of Environment.

368. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (1/5/97)—

With reference to her responsibility for overall budget management —

For each department and agency (a) what proportion of their current (1996-97) budget was expended as at 30 April, (b) what proportion of their capital (1996-97) budget was expended as at 30 April and (c) what proportion of their total (1996-97) budget was expended as at 30 April 1997?

Mrs Sheldon (30/5/97): The latest information on the proportion of recurrent and capital 1996-97 Budgets expected to be expended by Departments during the course of the 1996-97 financial year is contained in the Queensland 1997-98 Budget Papers presented to Parliament on 27 May 1997.

369. South Bank and Cultural Centre Redevelopment; Mr R. Gibson

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (1/5/97)—

With reference to the preparation of a new master plan for South Bank—

- (1) Who has been awarded the contract for this work, at what cost and what is the due completion date?
- (2) Was a draft of this master plan presented to the South Bank Corporation during the week ending 26 April and found wanting; if so, what changes were requested and why?
- (3) Is this master plan being conducted in isolation from that of Robin Gibson's work at the Cultural Centre?
- (4) What role did he play in having the Cultural Centre master plan contract awarded to Robin Gibson and is he satisfied that due process was followed in the tendering process for this contract?
- (5) Is he satisfied that the user groups at the Cultural Centre are being adequately and properly consulted by Mr Gibson in the preparation of this master plan?
- (6) Why isn't an holistic approach being taken to any redevelopment of the South Bank area with particular emphasis on its relationship and

interaction with the central business district and city generally?

- (7) Why wasn't a project of this size and importance to Brisbane put up as an "architectural competition" to obtain the best possible result for the City of Brisbane?
- (8) Will he guarantee we are not seeing a major opportunity lost to Brisbane as a result of the Government's mishandling of this project?

Mr Borbidge (2/6/97):

(1) Denton Corker Marshall International were appointed 13 February 1997 at a cost of \$119,400 plus disbursements to undertake the master planning work for the proposed South Bank Precinct Development Plan. The work is on target.

(2) A draft of the master plan was presented to a Special Board meeting on 28 April 1997. The Board has indicated that the work was generally to their complete satisfaction and of an exceptionally high level of urban integrity, and reflected the Corporation's Vision for the South Bank Precinct.

(3) This phase of the master planning of South Bank commenced in January 1997 and consultation with Robin Gibson and Partners and representatives of the Queensland Cultural Centre has taken place.

(4) The Cabinet approved the engagement of Robin Gibson and Partners to prepare a development strategy to address the accommodation needs of the Statutory Authorities at the existing Cultural Centre.

(5) As part of the development strategy, Robin Gibson and Partners have undertaken extensive consultation with a steering committee representing all major user groups within the precinct.

(6) The South Bank Corporation is extremely conscious of its responsibility to the redevelopment of the South Bank Precinct and to relate positively with the central business district and inner city development plans of the Brisbane City Council. The South Bank Board includes a senior executive from the Brisbane City Council who has a major input into the planning for any redevelopment of the site.

(7) The South Bank Board believes that any redevelopment must reflect Queensland community aspirations. As such, it has quite rightly decided that an Australian Planning Group present an overall mix for the site with input from a number of local architects. The methodology for the implementation of the final plan will be one for the South bank Board to consider.

(8) The South Bank Board is confident of an overwhelmingly positive response from the Queensland community when its redevelopment plans are unveiled.

370. Airconditioning of Schools

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Education (1/5/97)—

With reference to his answer to a Question from the Member for Fitzroy on Wednesday, 30 April, wherein he acknowledged the expenditure of \$300,000 for air-conditioning in three schools in Moranbah, an area south of the 20th parallel—

- (1) Is he aware of the special and pressing needs of the Vincent Special Education Development Unit and the Aitkenvale Special School, particularly (a) the very young age of the student group ranging from birth or a few months to six years, (b) children with physical disabilities requiring the wearing of knee-high plastic walking aids (AFOs) sitting in vinyl covered, disability specific seating apparatus and wheelchairs, (c) children with life preserving, medical interventions, such as naso-gastric tube adhered to the face causing skin irritations aggravated by hot, humid conditions, (d) hygiene for a child with a gastrostomy button which enables manual feeding directly into the digestive system, (e) many children in the unit have autism spectrum disorder and it is commonly accepted that extreme, persistent heat behaviourally affects children with this disability causing considerable distress, (f) children with disabilities frequently have epileptic seizure activity, exacerbated by prolonged exposure to hot conditions, (g) a large proportion of children have physical therapy goals requiring sustained levels of physical exertion. In summer conditions these children are often unable to persist due to excessive perspiration making limbs slippery and causing difficulty maintaining traction on apparatus, (h) one piece of specialised equipment used with younger children (ie younger than 12 months) is the Lillie Neilsen room. This is an enclosed frame one metre square and 20 centimetres high. The "room" is enclosed on three sides with perspex and one with a cloth curtain. This equipment was designed in Europe and has proven very successful for children with developmentally delay and/or visual impairment. The length of time a child can benefit from this therapy in the centre is very limited in summer conditions as fans have little or no cooling effect, (i) the model of teaching and support implemented in the centre requires the close proximity of staff to facilitate modelling. This strategy termed "silent shepherding", is meant to be a supportive, non-intrusive form of assistance, however, in very hot conditions this is not pleasant for student or staff therefore compromising program effectiveness, (j) the orientation of the unit on the land, the location in respect to surrounding building precludes access to the prevailing breezes, (k) the almost flat design of the roof provides poor air circulation at ceiling height, thus reducing the cooling effects of ceiling fans even on mild days and (l) parents of the children and visitors to the centre frequently complain that the building is unusually hot?

- (2) In view of the demonstrated need and the reduced ability of parent groups to raise funds due to the time consuming efforts and difficulty in coping with very young disadvantaged children, will he now give ministerial priority and arrange special funding for the air-conditioning of these two education centres?

Mr Quinn (30/5/97):

1. The honourable member for Mundingburra has made representations to my office on behalf of these schools. As a consequence, I am aware of the nature of the programs and students at the Vincent Special Education Development Unit and Aitkenvale Special School. I am also aware that the Vincent Special Education Development Unit has been operating since 1989 and Aitkenvale Special School since 1972. Further, I am aware of there being 28 other special schools and units north of 20°S, 25 of which were opened prior to 1996. All classroom accommodation built in State schools north of 20°S since 1996 has been air-conditioned at full state cost, as an initiative of the Coalition government.

2. Many parents have to cope with the time consuming demands of young children and parenting. Particular cases where students have been identified as being medically affected by exposure to excessive heat have led to special treatment in schools, including provision of air-conditioning in some instances. These decisions have been taken at departmental level rather than through Ministerial intervention.

371. Traffic Act Breaches, Mount Isa Area

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (1/5/97)—

What is the number of tickets and the amount of revenue which the Department of Transport officials have collected for breaches of the Traffic Act in the Mt Isa area in 1996-97 to date?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97): While the Traffic Act is enforced by Queensland Police Service, Queensland Transport is responsible for the collection of payments arising from the issue of infringement notices.

Since the 1 July 1996 some 4218 infringement notices have been issued by police in the Mt Isa Police District for breaches of the Traffic Act. These infringement notices have a total value of \$380,371.00 and to date \$304,675.00 has been collected by Queensland Transport.

372. Redcliffe Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (1/5/97)—

With reference to the \$300,000 document entitled Your Queensland, a supposed annual report on the activities of the National/Liberal Government, enclosed with the Sunday Mail of 20 April—

As he refers to Redcliffe Hospital as a 281 bed hospital after closing 25 beds a month before the release of this publication, is he planning to restore those 25 beds or will he correct this information, informing the people of Redcliffe that under this Government, they now only have a 256 bed hospital with more bed closures likely in the near future?

Mr Horan (29/5/97): The Redcliffe Hospital has the physical capacity to run 281 beds. It is planned that, following redevelopment, the Redcliffe Hospital will have the capacity to run 282 beds.

It must be understood that the number of actual beds being utilised at any one time will always fluctuate according to the level and type of demand at that point in time.

Using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. Best practice in health care is increasingly focussed on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided not the numbers of beds.

In March 1997, the 27 bed Ward 8 was converted to a Peri-Operative Centre, enabling relocation of the Day Surgery Unit from Ward 2A. This has resulted in the ability to significantly increase the provision of ambulatory care services at Redcliffe Hospital.

The introduction of the Peri-Operative Centre has resulted in elective Day of Surgery Admissions rising from 60 to 90% through the months of both March and April, 1997. The workload activity of the Hospital, as reflected in Occupied Bed Day statistics and reportable Separations has increased to a higher level than the previous three months and reflects the success of the establishment of this service to the residents of the Redcliffe community.

373. Queensland National Trust

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/97)—

With reference to grant cut-backs to the Queensland National Trust—

- (1) Which grant schemes have been cut back and to what extent?
- (2) Why can't Queensland grant schemes be directed to works on National Trust listed and owned buildings, rather than to conservation plans and studies?
- (3) Does he believe it appropriate the trust owns the number and type of buildings it presently has; if not, how would he see the trust managing its estate?
- (4) How does he intend to assist the trust in its current financial dilemma?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) The Department of Environment administers four heritage grant programs, the Queensland Heritage Grants Program, the Queensland Community History Grants Program, the Queensland Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants Program, and the State component of the Commonwealth funded National Estate Grants Program.

As you would be aware, the new Commonwealth and State Coalition governments faced major challenges in dealing with financial situations inherited from Labor.

In 1996-97, the Commonwealth Government ceased the State component of the National Estate Grants Program which previously provided \$670,000 annually to fund natural and cultural heritage projects in Queensland. In 1996-97, the Queensland Heritage Grants Program was reduced by \$70,000 to \$150,000, and the Queensland Community History

Grants Program by \$10,000 to \$30,000. The Queensland Community History (Indigenous Heritage) Grants Program was initiated by the Coalition Government in 1996-97 and provides annual funding of \$270,000.

(2) The National Trust of Queensland has applied for grant funding for conservation plans and studies, as well as for conservation work on buildings it owns. It has frequently received grant funding for conservation works on its buildings. In recent years, Queensland Heritage Grants Program grants included \$18,000 for work on the Royal Bulls Head Inn, Toowoomba in 1991; \$11,000 for work on Brennan and Geraghty's store in Maryborough, and \$10,000 for work on Mayes Cottage at Kingston in 1993; and \$4,500 for work on the doors at Wolston House in 1995. In addition, in 1995 the National Estate Grants Program allocated \$4,900 for repairs to the stairs at the James Cook Museum and \$13,000 to repair cracking at Claremont in Ipswich.

(3) The National Trust of Queensland Act 1963 provides that the National Trust of Queensland may purchase, hold and dispose of real property. Therefore, the management of its estate is the responsibility of the National Trust.

(4) In addition to any allocations made under heritage grant programs, the Department of Environment makes an annual grant to assist the National Trust of Queensland in its work. Since 1993-94, this annual grant has been \$50,000.

374. South East Freeway/Pacific Highway, High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (1/5/97)—

With reference to plans by the Department of Transport to use police officers to monitor use of the proposed High Occupancy Vehicle lanes to be built along the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway between the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway where traffic will travel at speeds up to 110km per hour—

- (1) Has the Department of Transport consulted with the Queensland Police Service about this proposal?
- (2) Does he agree with police being used to monitor usage of high speed transit lanes?
- (3) What procedures has he insisted on to ensure that the safety of police while monitoring usage of high speed transit lanes is not jeopardised?
- (4) How often will police be used to monitor these lanes?
- (5) How many police will be used to monitor these lanes?
- (6) What will be the estimated cost to his department to provide police resources to monitor these high speed transit lanes?
- (7) Has the Queensland Police Union been consulted about this proposal?
- (8) Will he guarantee that the tragedy that occurred on the Bruce Highway in 1996 will not be

repeated as a result of using police to monitor these high speed transit lanes along the South East Freeway/Pacific Highway?

- (9) Will he put a stop to the Department of Transport plans to use police for this dangerous and ill conceived operation along the high speed transit lanes?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

1. Yes
2. It is a State Government policy that all offences against the Traffic Act be prosecuted by the Queensland Police Service.
3. Discussions are being conducted between the Department of Transport, Department of Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service with a view to implementing electronic surveillance systems to monitor this portion of the road network.
4. Discussions are being conducted between the Department of Transport, Department of Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service with a view to electronically monitoring this portion of the road network on a 24 hour basis.
5. It is not possible at this time to make any predictions on man power deployment until such times as the electronic systems currently utilised in overseas jurisdictions have been evaluated.
6. It is not possible at this time to make any predictions on costings.
7. The Queensland Police Union will be consulted once the evaluation is completed.
8. The Queensland Police Service will not be using manual interception procedures on the high speed road network.
9. The Police Service will not be exposing its members to any operations where excessive danger is present. It must however be realised that when incidents occur, police and other emergency services will be required to provide traffic direction and control until the road network is clear.

A review of the Service's road incidents practices is being conducted and strong recommendations regarding practices, signage and reflective vests are being formulated to increase the level of safety of all persons performing functions on the road network.

The very nature of policing presents an element of danger every time an officer works on the road network and this danger will never be totally removed. This Service however is developing policies and practices that will ensure the danger is minimised as far as possible.

375. Trial Pig Control Program in National Park

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/97)—

With reference to his plans to conduct a trial pig control program in a Far North Queensland National Park using dogs and guns—

- (1) Which National Park does he have in mind for this trial, when will it commence, who will be the hunters, and who will supervise them?

- (2) When will this occur, and over what time period?
- (3) What results will encourage him to implement the practice as policy?
- (4) How will the trial be evaluated?
- (5) What advice is he receiving from his department regarding the wisdom of the trial?
- (6) What is motivating him to conduct the trial?
- (7) Will semi-automatic weapons be used in the trial; if so, by whom?

Mr Littleproud (2/6/97): Following negotiations involving local government, community, conservation and industry organisations, and staff of the Department of Environment, I have approved a closely monitored pig-hunting trial at Wooroonooran National Park under the following conditions:

- (a) The trial is expected to run for six months from about July 1997;
- (b) Use of dogs will not be allowed;
- (c) Only adjacent landowners and their employees will be allowed to participate;
- (d) Incursion into the National Parks will be limited to 100 metres;
- (e) The trial should complement the pig trapping program;
- (f) Use of semi-automatic weapons will not be allowed; and
- (g) The trial will be under the control of the Department of Environment Regional Director, Far Northern Region and will be evaluated by Departmental staff.

376. Volunteer Firefighters

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (1/5/97)—

- (1) Will he confirm that it is his department's practice not to allow members of Rural Fire Brigades to undertake driver training, for the purpose of achieving a certificate of competency, on vehicles owned by the Rural Fire Brigades?
- (2) Will he confirm that as a result, volunteer fire fighters have to hire a vehicle to undertake the training, which might cost \$600 or \$700?
- (3) Will he explain the reasons for this practice?

Mr Veivers (27/5/97):

(1) Rural fire brigade appliances are not required to be registered. The Fire and Rescue Authority Act allows an unregistered vehicle to be used on a road where it is being used by a rural fire brigade to carry persons or equipment for the purpose of preventing, controlling or extinguishing a fire or for training purposes or is being used for any other purpose authorised in writing by the commissioner.

In July of 1996 the then Commissioner declared that "training" does not include learner driver training.

(2) In reaching his decision, the Commissioner considered the following points:

that the appliance would invariably be fully loaded, ready for call out, and therefore close to the operating limitations applicable to the vehicle (which contrast with driving school vehicles which are operated unloaded);

that the capability of the Brigade instructor cannot be pre-determined or pre-ascertained given that Brigade members may well be infrequent drivers of such vehicles themselves; and

that we owe a duty of care to all persons in the appliance and to other users of the road.

(3) Driver training schools vary their prices and I would suggest the Honourable member contact them.

A policy preventing urban and auxiliary appliances from being used for driver training or testing has been in place for a considerable period. Rural appliances are now subject to this uniform policy.

377. Clairview Developments Pty Ltd; Nilsson Corporation Pty Ltd

Mr PEARCE asked the Premier (1/5/97)—

With reference to the Response to Question on Notice No. 240—

- (1) Has the Government made any attempt to have Clairview Developments Pty Ltd remove its offending marketing documentation from the international market place and have the parties associated with Clairview Developments Pty Ltd been asked to explain their actions why they used misleading information in the international market place, especially the support/acknowledgment given by the Queensland Government departments to the Nilsson Corporation Pty Ltd (in liquidation) and the use of such documentation that is not owned by Clairview Developments Pty Ltd?
- (2) Does the Government intend to take any action against Clairview Developments Pty Ltd and its backers for using such misleading documentation in the international market place?

Mr Borbidge (2/6/97): As the Member is aware the matters he raises in this question are presently under investigation by the Office of Consumer Affairs. Until that investigation is concluded it would not be appropriate for me to comment further.

378. Koala Coast Planning Policy

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/97)—

With reference to the delays in the implementation of the Koala Coast Planning Policy—

- (1) What stage is the policy at and, if it is still out for public consultation, how long is this process going to continue?
- (2) What stages have the policy to go through before it is finalised?
- (3) Will he supply a map of the area covered, as it was before the latest round of consultation?

- (4) In the meantime, is the policy being applied as it currently stands for development applications and other changes to land use?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97):

(1) Another problem inherited from Labour is the State Planning Policy 1/95 Conservation of Koalas in the Koala Coast which is in force and has been since its gazettal in January 1996. The Coalition Government undertook to review the State Planning Policy and sought public submissions. Since the period for submissions ended on 30 June 1996 the Policy and associated Planning Guidelines have been thoroughly revised and further discussions have been held with key community stakeholders.

(2) Before the Policy and Guidelines are submitted to Cabinet, I propose to hold detailed discussions with the three Local Governments responsible for the area—Brisbane City, Logan City and Redland Shire.

(3) Once the revision of the Policy is finalised a revised map will be prepared showing boundaries consistent with the revised Policy.

(4) State Planning Policy 1/95 Conservation of Koalas in the Koala Coast is in force and is being applied.

379. School Support Centres

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (1/5/97)—

With reference to the memo from the Director-General to each regional Executive Director in 1996 referring to the recovery of funds relating to significant school support centre bank balances—

- (1) How much money was recovered from each of the State's 46 school support centres, including the amount for each centre?
- (2) What were the targets for funds to be recovered from each school support centre and, if the amount recovered differed from the target, what were the reasons for not recovering the full amounts?
- (3) Will he detail how the money recovered has subsequently been disbursed and spent?

Mr Quinn (30/5/97):

(1 & 2)

REGION	REQUEST	REVISED	RECEIVED
Met East	\$516,073.00	\$316,641.00	\$184,287.00
Met West	\$523,871.00	\$421,159.00	\$378,964.00
Darling Downs	\$175,634.00	\$107,742.00	\$107,742.00
South West	\$266,103.00	\$44,620.00	\$44,621.00
Wide Bay	\$182,124.00	\$15,593.00	\$10,793.00
Capricornia	\$215,924.00	\$147,485.00	\$147,485.00
Northern	\$20,976.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
North Western	\$231,268.00	\$131,571.00	\$85,458.00
Peninsula	\$906,476.00	\$609,666.00	\$453,552.00
South Coast	\$517,132.00	\$359,869.00	\$359,869.00
Sunshine Coast	\$444,420.00	\$335,549.00	\$335,549.00
	\$4,000,001.00	\$2,489,895.00	\$2,108,320.00

The funds requested were funds provided in the 1995-96 budget and not expended. Additional funds were provided in the 1996-97 budget and so the

unused funds were not necessary to maintain services.

Funds that were not requested to be returned were funds in the following categories:

funds committed to purchases

funds committed to specific issues, or provided by other organisations to the centre for subsequent expenditure

funds generated by the centre

funds held on behalf of schools for future activities

- (3) The funds recovered have been used as part of the Departmental budget and have been allocated primarily to technology software trials and additional pre-service teacher education places.

380. Morayfield Plaza Shopping Centre

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Premier (1/5/97)—

With reference to the High Court writ against the State Government issued by HA Bachrach Pty Ltd claiming that the Local Government (Morayfield Shopping Centre Zoning) Act 1996 is invalid—

Will he assure traders in the Morayfield Plaza Shopping Centre, opened by him on 14 April, that they will not become innocent victims of a dispute that they were reasonably entitled to believe had concluded and that the Government will take action to protect their substantial investment in their businesses?

Mr Borbidge (2/6/97): As the honourable member will appreciate, it would be inappropriate for me to comment at length on a matter that is yet to be determined by the High Court. However, I will emphasise that the Government considers its actions in introducing the legislation to which the honourable member refers, were justified and as such, the State will be vigorously defending this matter before the Court.

381. Woodford Correctional Centre

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (1/5/97)—

With reference to the recent disastrous riot at the Woodford Prison—

- (1) Did an investigation conducted by the State Public Services Federation of Queensland on behalf of its Woodford Prison Officer members find that the production and consumption of alcoholic "home brew" was a significant factor in the causes of the riots?
- (2) Did the investigation team he appointed to investigate the riot find no such evidence?
- (3) Have prisoners at Woodford had access to suitable fermentable materials to make home brew; if so, what were these materials and why were they so freely available?
- (4) Were any prisoners breath tested following the riot; if not why not?

- (5) What searches were conducted of the prison following the riot for home brew or equipment to make it and if none were conducted, why not?
- (6) What penalties do inmates in Queensland prisons receive if found preparing or in possession of "home brew"?

Mr Cooper (28/5/97):

(1) The media has printed statements attributed to the report by the State Public Services Federation of Queensland on the disturbance at the Woodford Correctional Centre. In that report the issue of "home brew" was claimed to have been a factor in the causes of the riot.

Unfortunately the SPSFQ have not provided me or the QCSC with a copy of this report. The External Inspectors have advised me that they made a number of offers to the SPSFQ to contribute to their investigation and report. These approaches were ignored. In the clean up after the riots some containers with the "makings" of a brew were found. It is not known when these were prepared.

(2) The Inspectors who investigated the incident spoke extensively to staff and inmates. Their advice to me is that at no stage did they encounter a suggestion that alcoholic brews contributed to or were available before or during the incident. Alcoholic "home brews" were not listed as issues that were regarded as contributing to the disturbance.

(3) Prisoners at Woodford Correctional Centre have access to fruit and fruit juice as part of their normal diets. These materials, in conjunction with sugar could be used to make "home brews". The Centre is now removing all sugar from the Centre and will use sugar substitutes. It is not feasible to ban access to fruit or fruit juice.

(4) No prisoners were breath-tested following the disturbance. There was no apparent evidence of alcohol consumption by prisoners on the night.

(5) Comprehensive searches of all areas of the Centre for illicit items, weapons and other contraband were conducted on the night of the disturbance and during the following week.

(6) Prisoners in Queensland are subject to breaches of discipline pursuant to the provisions of the Corrective Services Act 1988. The penalties which apply are the removal of privileges for a specified period of time.

382. Police Station, Eatons Hill

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (1/5/97)—

With reference to the accelerated capital works program—

What is the status of the Eatons Hill Police Station and if there are any plans to build such a station, when and where?

Mr Cooper (27/5/97): A need has been identified by the Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan North Region, to construct a new divisional headquarters complex in the Eatons Hill area.

Currently the Department of Public Works and Housing is investigating a number of alternative sites in the Eatons Hill area on behalf of the Queensland Police Service.

Timing for the construction of this station will be dependant upon other statewide priorities.

383. Queensland Workplace Agreements; Enterprise Commissioner

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (1/5/97)—

With reference to his statement during the debate on the Workplace Relations Bill, where he said this about Queensland Workplace Agreements (QWAs) "... the Government does believe that it is appropriate that the Enterprise Commissioner not consider the public interest, given that no other persons will be affected by an agreement between the two persons who were parties to a QWAS" (Hansard, 31 January, page 254) and as the Act provides that if an Enterprise Commissioner is not satisfied a QWAS passes the "no disadvantage test" but is satisfied that approving the QWAS is not contrary to the public interest, then the Enterprise Commissioner must approve the QWAS—

Doesn't this confirm the fear of workers that QWAs containing wages and conditions which are less than the relevant award will be approved by the Enterprise Commissioner?

Mr Santoro (2/6/97): The honourable member in his Question quotes selectively from Hansard on the debate of clause 70(5) of the Workplace Relations Bill. My reply to the honourable member for Kedron's motion to delete clause 70(5) followed considerable debate on clause 25 of the Bill on the issue of the 'public interest test' in the application of the no-disadvantage test for certified agreements. To put my comments into context, the following is the full text of what I said during the debate on clause 70(5), with that part quoted by the honourable member highlighted—

"The principles governing the exclusion of the public interest test in clause 75 [sic] have been canvassed quite extensively by me in response to similar concerns that were raised by honourable members opposite in relation to other sections of this Bill. In the interest of enabling the Committee to consider as many as possible of the amendments that the Opposition has proposed, I will desist from reiterating the arguments other than to say that the Government does believe that it is appropriate that the Enterprise Commissioner not consider the public interest, given that no other persons will be affected by an agreement between the two persons who were parties to a QWA. The commissioner will approve a QWA under clause 85 if it passes the no disadvantage test and also if it complies with the provisions of clause 84. I could reiterate the argument, but I choose not to in the interest of providing as much time as possible to consider other amendments." (Hansard, 30 January 1997, page 254)

The Government has provided in the legislation for the independent umpire, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, to approve certified agreements and Queensland workplace agreements which do not pass the no-disadvantage test if the commission is satisfied that it is not contrary to the public interest.

The honourable member would be aware that the commission was required by the Industrial Relations Act 1990 to take the public interest into account when approving industrial agreements and was required by the Industrial Relations Amendment Act 1992 to consider the terms and conditions of employment taken as whole when applying the no-disadvantage test to certified agreements.

The requirement that the commission must certify a single business certified agreement which resulted in a reduction in the terms and conditions of employment considered as a whole, where the reduction was considered by the commission to not be contrary to the public interest, has been a part of Queensland's industrial relations law since 1992.

I remind the honourable member that this is not a new concept in enterprise bargaining in Queensland. When the ALP introduced enterprise flexibility agreements into the Industrial Relations Act 1990 in 1994, the honourable member for Yeronga—the then Minister—said during his Second Reading Speech on the Industrial Relations Reform Bill 1994—

"Enterprise flexibility agreements are being introduced to provide the non-union sector with access to enterprise bargaining in a way that provides maximum flexibility but with appropriate safeguards for the employees. It is proposed to provide this by use of the 'no-disadvantage' test which has proved its worth with certified agreements. The essence of this is that the agreements must not disadvantage employees' terms and conditions of employment considered as a whole. If the enterprise is not bound by an award, a certified agreement must nominate an award that will serve as a benchmark for the test.

The "no-disadvantage" test has been an important innovation. Applying as it does to the overall package of employee entitlements, it allows for a wide range of variations to award conditions. It also allows for agreed reductions if these are not against the public interest, for example, as part of a strategy for dealing with a short-term business crisis and revival." (Hansard, 17 February 1994, page 6929)

The introduction of QWAs by this Government is a genuine attempt to achieve what the former government failed to achieve through its introduction of enterprise flexibility agreements in 1994. The then Minister said at that time (Hansard, 17 February, page 6929) "A major objective of the Bill is to encourage and facilitate the increasing use of enterprise bargaining.", yet only 37 enterprise flexibility agreements were approved under the former Act.

The honourable member is now resorting to scaremongering for cheap and tacky political purposes when he suggests that all of a sudden the independent umpire will approve a flood of QWAs that bring about unnecessary reductions in

employees' wages and conditions. The commission has protected the interests of employees in the past through the judicious application of the no-disadvantage test and there is no valid reason to suggest that this situation will be changed by the introduction of QWAs.

The Government has undertaken an extensive public awareness campaign to inform employees and employers of the many protections for employees enshrined in our legislation, including—

- the retention of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission as the independent umpire

- the establishment of the office of enterprise commissioner in the QIRC to approve QWAs

- the establishment of the employment advocate within my department to provide help and advice to employees about their rights and obligations under the industrial laws and to investigate and remedy complaints relating to QWAs and contraventions of QWAs and freedom of association laws

- the right to use a bargaining agent in QWA negotiations

- retention of the no-disadvantage test

- the employee must wait at least five days after receiving a copy of the QWA before it can be signed by the employee

- the employer must explain the effect of the QWA to the employee

- the employer must use duress in connection with a QWA or knowingly make a false or misleading statement to the employee with the intention of persuading the employee to make a QWA – a penalty of up to \$10,125 applies to a breach

- the enterprise commissioner must be satisfied that the employee genuinely consented to making the QWA

- if the enterprise commissioner has concerns about whether the QWA passes the no-disadvantage test, the enterprise commissioner must notify the employee of the concerns and the reasons for them

- the employee has the right to consult with or seek advice from anyone about the QWA

Employees, employers and the economy as a whole will be better off as a result of my Government's reforms to Labor's biased industrial relations laws through genuine enterprise bargaining.

Employees should embrace the opportunity to break out of the 'one size fits all' mould of the past and welcome the chance to prosper as the result of increased productivity and efficiency gained from improved work practices implemented as a result of this Government's workplace reforms.

384. Public Housing, Archerfield

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (1/5/97)—

- (1) What steps will he take to overcome the large backlog of people waiting for public housing in Archerfield?
- (2) Does he intend to make use of the large stock of fully serviced allotments which are now vacant in Acacia Ridge and Coopers Plains, and which can only be used for residential purposes without compromising the residential nature of the suburbs and compromising the integrity of the Town Plan of Brisbane?
- (3) Will he continue the upgrade of kitchens and bathrooms in existing Acacia Ridge and Coopers Plains public housing began by former Minister Tom Burns?

Dr Watson (2/6/97):

(1) My Department has 914 units of public housing accommodation in the Archerfield electorate. This existing housing stock provides significant opportunities each year for housing people on public housing waiting lists. In addition, my Department is addressing the continuing high demand for housing in some areas of Archerfield through the Public Housing Capital Works Program. In 1995/96, 34 new units of accommodation were constructed or purchased in this area. In the current financial year, a total of 86 new dwellings will be constructed or purchased.

(2) The majority of my Department's holdings of vacant sites in the area are to be built on as part of the current financial year's Capital Works Program (including 2 redevelopment/ demolition sites at 8 and 10 MacGroarty Street). The remaining sites are being considered for inclusion in a redevelopment plan and will either be sold or used for new public housing when funding becomes available.

(3) My Department's kitchen and bathroom upgrade programs are ongoing programs with allocation of work based on housing condition. Those areas with kitchens and bathrooms in the poorest condition will generally be upgraded first.

Additional accelerated funds of approximately \$1.245M have been allocated for total upgrade works in 1996/97 in the two Departmental Area Offices that make up the Archerfield Electorate.

385. Child Sexual Assault Hotline

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (1/5/97)—

With reference to the child sexual assault hotline established by his office in 1996—

- (1) For what period did this hotline operate?
- (2) How many calls were received by this hotline?
- (3) How many, if any, complained of sexual abuse by Queensland Government employees, either past or current?
- (4) In which departments or categories of employment were those officers employed, and how many were there in each case (eg teachers, police officers, etc)?
- (5) What action has he taken to forward these allegations to both the department concerned and the appropriate investigative authorities?

- (6) How many, if any charges, have resulted from complaints to the hotline?

Mr Lingard (2/6/97):

(1) The Child Sexual Abuse Hotline commenced on 16 May 1996 and ceased operations on Friday 30 August 1996.

(2) Statistics recorded from the operation of the Hotline reveal 416 calls were received and these calls related to the abuse of some 334 children or adults when they were children.

(3) Not all people using the Hotline provided information with this degree of detail.

(4) Refer to answer 3.

(5) All allegations of abuse were referred to either the Police Service or the Criminal Justice Commission for investigation.

(6) The laying of charges is not the responsibility of my Department.

386. Supreme Court; Commercial Causes Trials

Mr LUCAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (1/5/97)—

With reference to access to justice and court funding—

- (1) What is the estimated cost per day (excluding costs of legal representatives, witnesses etc.) for each day a judge sits in the Supreme Court?
- (2) What is the general description of matters (including minimum monetary amount in dispute) able to be listed in the Supreme Court commercial causes list?
- (3) What number of commercial causes were dealt with in the Supreme Court in each of the last five years and how many judge days did they occupy in each year?
- (4) What is the average number of judge days taken up in a typical commercial cause trial?
- (5) What court fees are payable by either a plaintiff or a defendant in a commercial cause to have the matter (a) started by an originating process, (b) entered for trial or put on the call over list, (c) in the nature of a daily hearing fee and (d) in any other fee payable to the court in the course of litigation up to and including trial?

Mr Beanland (23/5/97):

(1) \$3218. This includes all judicial and staff salary and operating costs, accommodation depreciation, court reporting, jury and corporate services support costs. The figure which includes criminal and civil jurisdictions, is taken from the Commonwealth benchmarking survey of costs in 1995-96.

(2) There is no commercial causes list in the Supreme Court. It was abolished in 1993.

(3) As commercial causes is not a recognised category no statistics are kept.

(4) Not applicable.

(5) All matters pay the same fees and these are listed in the Supreme Court Act Regulations.

387. Community Legal Services

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (1/5/97)—

- (1) Will he give an assurance to Queensland community legal services that at least their current levels of funding will be maintained in 1997-98?
- (2) Will he assure community legal services that he will guarantee funding to them if his Federal Liberal colleague, Attorney-General Williams, fails to continue funding to them at least at previous levels?

Mr Beanland (23/5/97):

- (1) The allocation of monies in the 1997-98 financial year is a matter for the Government following the deliberations of Cabinet. I have sought maintenance of existing levels of funding for legal aid for the forthcoming financial year.
- (2) The honourable member's question demonstrates a profound ignorance of the operations of Government notwithstanding that he was a Minister in the former Government. The funding of Commonwealth matters is a matter for the Commonwealth only. Funding of Community Legal Centres has always been primarily a Commonwealth matter.

388. Natural Resources Minister, Office Relocation

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (1/5/97)—

With reference to the recent relocation of his office from Woolloongabba to Level 13 of Mineral House at the corner of George and Margaret Streets, the City—

- (1) Why was this move necessary and why was the Woolloongabba office inadequate for his purposes?
- (2) What costs were incurred by the taxpayer in making this shift, and outfitting his new office?
- (3) Does he believe this was the best use of these funds at this time?

Mr Hobbs (16/5/97):

(1) Relocation of my office from the Landcentre, Woolloongabba to Mineral House was undertaken to:

locate me in close proximity to the precincts of Parliament and other executive members of Government.

improve access of clients and interdepartmental officers

address security deficiencies that existed at the Landcentre.

(2) Refurbishment of Level 13 Mineral House was undertaken by Queensland Property Management (QPM) as part of the Office Accommodation Program administered by the Department of Public Works and Housing, to provide accommodation for my Office and the executive management of the Department.

QPM have advised that the actual cost of relocation and fitout of the Office of the Minister and support staff was \$245,352. The standard of accommodation and facilities provided are in accordance with QPM "Ministerial Fitout Guidelines"

(3) Yes.

389. Union Mining, Closure

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (1/5/97)—

With reference to the closure of the Union Mining NL Georgetown gold mine in June and the subsequent retrenchment of 40 staff in a town of about 300 people—

- (1) Does he accept that the Government's decision to refuse to grant mining leases to the company has led directly to this disastrous situation?
- (2) Will he visit Georgetown to examine and then explain the consequences of the Government's actions to the residents?
- (3) What financial support will the Coalition Government provide to the Shire of Etheridge to ensure that the district infrastructure will be maintained?

Mr Borbidge (2/6/97):

(1) No. Moreover no mining leases were refused.

The position of Union Mining is a highly relevant demonstration of the great problems that compliance with the Native Title Act presents, particularly to the small end of the mining industry. In this case, at Union Mining's request, the Government has issued notices under Section 29 of the Native Title Act in relation to its intention to grant numerous mining leases to the company. The last of the necessary notices appeared in the Koori Mail on 23 April 1997. The two month period allowed under Section 30 of the Native Title Act for Native Title parties to come forward remains current. At this stage it is not known if any such parties will come forward nor what their approach may be in relation to any subsequent negotiations. Apart from the applications for leases that involve potential Native Title, the Department of Mines and Energy has negotiated in good faith with Union Mining over a variety of other issues including environmental requirements, rehabilitation standards and the level of security deposits. It is my understanding that these issues were settled prior to the announcement of the intention to close the Georgetown operations. The Government can understand the frustration experienced by Union Mining but in the light of the forgoing it is disappointed by the company's decision to close the Georgetown operations in June this year.

(2) & (3) The workers and people of Georgetown are fully aware of the situation, which has been personally explained by mine management. The Government remains in close contact with Union Mining and is hopeful that the company may be able to reconsider its decision. The Government is doing all it can to ensure the Commonwealth Government changes the native title regime to recreate certainty for affected industries and communities, particularly for regionally important employers such as Union Mining.

390. Panel Beating Apprentices

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (1/5/97)—

With reference to the unavailability of block release training for spray painting for panel beating apprenticeships in Queensland—

- (1) What arrangements are being made for these apprentices so that they can satisfactorily complete their apprenticeships?
- (2) What impact will this have on the training of panel beating apprentices and how will this affect the supply of these workplace skills?
- (3) When will a new facility be available for training these apprentices and why has it taken so long?

Mr Santoro (2/6/97):

(1) There are two training providers registered to deliver training for apprentice panel beaters and spray painters in Queensland. These are the Brisbane Institute of TAFE (Ithaca Campus) and the North Queensland Spray Painting and Panel Beating Skill Centre (a joint venture between Russco Agencies and the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE).

The Brisbane Institute of TAFE has increased its classes to ensure that all panel beating apprentices are able to complete their training within their apprenticeships. Brisbane Institute of TAFE has rescheduled all three stages of the Spray painting training program and anticipates that there will be no backlog of apprentices. To facilitate this training the Institute has arranged for:

Stage 1 training to be delivered at Queensland Paint Supplies

Stage 2 training to be delivered in the workplace

Stage 3 training to be delivered at ICI Dulux for non-metropolitan students and in the workplace for metropolitan students

The Brisbane Institute is currently refurbishing its spray painting facilities at its Ithaca campus and is utilising off-site training facilities to meet current needs. Refurbishing should be completed in 1997 and the Brisbane Institute is confident that there will be no backlog at the end of the year. Double classes will be run as necessary to avoid backlogs.

(2) Given the action put into effect by the Brisbane Institute of TAFE there should be no detrimental effect on the supply of workplace skills in these trades in the future. An examination of intakes of apprentices over the past six years in North Queensland indicates an increase in numbers from 17 panel beaters in 1991 to 26 in 1996; and 7 spray painters in 1991 to 34 in 1996. With the establishment of the new training facility in North Queensland, these apprentice intake numbers should continue to increase.

(3) The new facility for training of spray painting apprentices became available in North Queensland at the beginning of 1996. Current enrolments are 14 in Stage 1; and 27 in Stage 2. Panel beating training commenced at this centre in 1997. Current enrolments are 18 in Stage 1; and 10 in Stage 2.

ANTA recently approved a grant of \$79,000 for this Centre to increase its facilities to cope with the expansion in panel beating.

The refurbishment of the Ithaca Campus spray painting facilities has been hampered by the fact that the original tender approved in late 1996 withdrew. A new tender has been approved and refurbishment is scheduled for completion by October 1997.

391. Public Housing, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (1/5/97)—

With reference to the Government's 1996 Budget which did not provide any capital works spending for public housing projects in Maryborough, despite the long waiting list for public housing and hoping that under new direction, Maryborough will receive better treatment than it did under the previous Minister as it is a low income city with one of the highest unemployment levels in the State and many people rely on affordable public housing for accommodation—

Will he give consideration to Maryborough's urgent need for more public housing?

Dr Watson (2/6/97): The Department of Public Works and Housing has programmed 9 dwellings to be either constructed or purchased in Maryborough for the 1996/97 Public Rental Capital Works Program.

These houses have been planned in accordance with the Department's policy of providing public housing in areas where people have been waiting longest.

Until the 1997/98 Public Rental Capital Works Program is finalised, it is not possible to give details of future activity in Maryborough.

392. Chermshire State School Site

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (1/5/97)—

With reference to the declaration by the Education Department that the Chermshire State School site is "in excess of departmental needs" and the processes of the Government Land Management Scheme are under way, and recognising that local residents, business people and community groups identified that this site should be used for community purposes—

Will she give residents, business people and community groups her personal assurance that the site will not be simply sold off to the highest commercial bidder in order to boost the Consolidated Revenue Fund which he controls?

Mrs Sheldon (2/6/97): All transactions relating to acquisition, management and disposal of Government property assets are governed by and coordinated in accordance with the provisions of the Government Land Management System (GLMS). The GLMS was established in 1991 during the time of the previous Government and its provisions remain unchanged. GLMS provisions ensure that Government land transactions reflect the real value of the assets involved.

The fundamental principle of the GLMS is that land sales and transfers should occur at market prices. According to GLMS provisions, properties that are identified as being surplus to departmental requirements first must be offered for sale to other government organisations and sold to them at full market value. Should no other government body wish to purchase the property, it generally is offered for sale on the open market.

All circumstances and issues, including community views, are taken into account before a final decision is taken on the disposal of any Government property.

In relation to the Chermide State School site, I am advised that Education Queensland has begun preliminary investigations to determine its future use. These investigations have included extensive liaison with the Member to assess community needs in the area and to take into account community interest in the site. In this regard, I understand also that Education Queensland is currently negotiating with the Member to achieve a suitable outcome for all parties concerned.

Education Queensland currently has approval to retain 100% of proceeds from the disposal of all surplus property for reinvestment back into the provision of education services. This revenue forms a vital part of that Department's capital works budget and will generate significant improvements in education throughout Queensland.

393. Water Supply, Cape York Communities

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Natural Resources (1/5/97)—

With reference to reports from his department that the water supply for many of the Cape communities is unsuitable for human consumption—

What program is being undertaken to remedy the situation and what is the time frame in relation to the five Northern Peninsula Area Communities?

Mr Hobbs (27/5/97): The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is currently developing a coordinated Government approach to water supply concerns and other community issues.

Regarding the water supply upgrade program for the Northern Peninsula Area, my colleague the Minister for Local Government and Planning has provided \$5 million of capital works funding this financial year towards the first phase of a water supply upgrade in the NPA communities. My Department has a contract with the Department of Local Government and Planning to manage this project.

The programming of work has been arranged to:

firstly, ensure continuity of supply; and

secondly, to improve the quality of supply.

The project involves managing the replacement and refurbishment of storage tanks and their connecting pipework as well as the preliminary design of the water treatment facilities for the five communities. The work in this first phase of the water supply upgrade is of very high priority and is scheduled to be completed in August 1997. A water supply community committee has been advising and liaising

with an interdepartmental Capital Works Project Management Board on implementation issues. To date the project has been proceeding well and the water supply upgrade is expected to be completed on time.

Work on a water treatment plant is also proposed.

In addition to this work, staff from Department's unit in Cairns regularly visit the Cape communities to monitor the performance of the water infrastructure and to support communities with any operational and maintenance difficulties they have.

394. Statewide Land Cover and Trees Study

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (2/5/97)—

With reference to his answer on 30 April to a Question from the Member for Cunningham regarding a Statewide Land Cover and Tree Study—

- (1) How can he substantiate his statement that there is more standing woodland in Queensland today than at the time of white settlement when departmental advice provided to him by way of a Question in Parliament in March 1995 stated the coverage had diminished from 110 million hectares to some 76 million hectares?
- (2) In view of his comments that satellite imagery for 1988, 1991 and 1995 to detect the change in tree cover across the whole State has not yet been fully analysed and verified, how can he substantiate his claim that greenhouse gas emissions may be in balance with carbon being stored as a result of woodland thickening when also in March 1995, the then Lands Department provided advice that there were no figures available on what percentage of woodland in Queensland is regrowth at present or at any nominated time in the past?
- (3) On what basis can he substantiate his preliminary assessment of an average tree-clearing rate of 308,000 hectares per annum with 60-70 per cent being regrowth without the formal ground work verification being completed?
- (4) In view of formal departmental advice received in 1995 that of 768 permits authorising clearing of a total of 1,079,298.2 hectares for the period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1994 only 113 of the permits covering 391,730.8 hectares or 36.3 per cent of the total area were for regrowth, how can he authenticate his statement that for the 1991 to 1995 period, clearing of regrowth constituted 60 to 70 per cent of all clearing?

Mr Hobbs (16/5/97):

- (1) In my answer on 30 April to the Question from the Member for Cunningham regarding a Statewide Land Cover and Trees Study, I was referring to the thickening of woodlands and the amount of regrowth in Queensland, not the area covered by woodlands.

In the open woodland areas in western Queensland such as mulga communities, there has been an increase in the woodland density which is most likely due to changed fire frequency. There is evidence

that areas originally with scattered mulga trees are now thickly wooded. This is also occurring in other communities where fire frequency has been reduced.

(2) There is confusion regarding the terms thickening and regrowth: regrowth refers to regrowing trees or shrubs following clearing; and thickening refers to increases in density and size of trees in natural stands, predominantly as a result of decreasing frequency of fire.

The thickening of woodlands (both tree size and density) resulting from reduced fire frequency is primarily responsible for enhanced carbon storage in trees. This is a recognised phenomena for savanna woodlands. While regrowth contributes to carbon storage it is small relative to woodland thickening. Woodland thickening and carbon storage in Queensland has been estimated from permanent and well managed monitoring sites installed by the Department of Primary Industries and peer reviewed by international experts. Independent DPI Forestry data also supports the thickening trend. The Statewide Land Cover and Trees Study (SLATS) project is actively extending this permanent on-ground monitoring system. To date carbon storage from thickening has not been included in the national greenhouse inventory but is likely to be included in the next revision. Preliminary analysis based on the initial SLATS clearing estimates and DPI's woodland thickening data indicates that storage into natural stands of trees may balance the clearing emissions. I emphasise again that this is not due to regrowth but to thickening of existing natural stands. Regrowth is indeed an important storage sink, but a smaller component of the balance.

(3) The estimated average annual rate of tree clearing of 308, 000 ha is derived from time change analysis of satellite imagery. The percentage clearing of regrowth is calculated from records of tree clearing permits issued. Permits are issued for various purposes such as to clear virgin timber, for regrowth control, and for drought feeding purposes. For instance, the area of regrowth permits issued during the 1995 calendar year was some 72% of the total area approved for clearing.

(4) As the previous Minister for Lands you would be aware that statistics on clearing permits were only collected from 1994 onwards. I am only too willing to provide some statistics from that date. For instance, regrowth represented 36% of total clearing in 1994, 72% in 1995, and 63% in 1996. On average then for those 3 years, this is approximately 60%, with a generally increasing trend. My answer to the previous question should be seen to represent the trend in the latter years of that period.

395. Advance Account

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (2/5/97)—

With reference to her Ministerial Program Statements for the 1996-97 State Budget and the provision of \$259,353 in her Advance Account—

(1) What was the balance in that account at 30 April?

- (2) What sums have been outlaid in March and April?
- (3) For what purposes were each of these sums expended, and what was the date of each of these outlays?
- (4) Have any additional funds been allocated to her Advance Account in 1996-97?

Mrs Sheldon (2/6/97):

(1) The balance in the account at 30 April was \$127,134,000.

(2) The sums that have been outlaid from this account in March totalled \$74,157,000. The amounts to be outlaid from this account in April are unavailable at this stage.

(3) The provisions in the Treasurer's Advance Account are transferred to other Departments and are not expended directly from this account. Natural disaster, regional drought initiatives and salary related payments for enterprise bargaining are met by the Treasurer's Advance Account. Further details of the account are in the 1997/98 State Budget documents.

(4) No additional funds have been allocated to the Treasurer's Advance Account in this financial year.

396. Roma Street Rail Yard Site; Super Stadium

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (2/5/97)—

With reference to his commitment given to the people of Queensland on 9 October 1996 to make the Roma Street railyards principally parkland—

- (1) Why then did a report appear in the Sunday Mail on 9 March five months later, indicating that Roma Street was still being considered along with the ANZ and Suncorp stadiums as the site of a super stadium for Brisbane?
- (2) Why are senior Government employees considering a scheme to sell Suncorp Stadium for a Park Road like development to help fund the building of a super stadium on the Roma Street site?
- (3) Why have costings of \$250m been done for building a super stadium on the Roma Street site if he intends the area to become principally parkland?
- (4) Why are public servants continuing to ignore his direction on development for this site, and when does he intend to stop public servants working on any proposal for Roma Street other than as world class inner-city parkland?
- (5) Why is the Managing Director of Devine, Erby Mazlin, presenting an address titled "Roma Street Railyards—A Major Urban Renewal Opportunity" at an upcoming Queensland Environmental Law Association seminar in Palm Cove, Cairns this month if he intends to make the area principally parkland?
- (6) Why does the Bligh Lobb report include reference to Roma Street as a potential site for this super stadium?

Mr Borbidge (2/6/97):

(1) Not only did the Sunday Mail in its 9 March 1997 edition, but also in its publication on 30 March 1997 provide inaccuracies regarding the future for Roma Street, the correct position was placed on Page 5 of the Courier Mail on 31 March 1997. In this article titled "Super Arena No Rival for Suncorp", the Queensland Events Corporation chairman rejected the previous assertions in the Sunday Mail by stating clearly that Consultants Bligh Lobb were commissioned to review Brisbane's stadium requirements into the future including recommendations for a benchmark for the size and type of stadium required. Having set the benchmark, Bligh Lobb was to assess the capacity for upgrading existing facilities or investigate alternate sites for a so called Super Stadium if such upgrading would not sufficiently meet future requirements. The Roma Street Rail Yards were specifically excluded from the terms of reference for the study.

(2) At no point in the Bligh Lobb report was there any recommendation for Suncorp Stadium to be other than the leading stadium or, in the event of a Super Stadium being constructed, to be a feeder ground for those games which would not attract a maximum crowd at any super stadium.

(3) There has been no construction cost investigation into the formulation of a super stadium at Roma Street Rail Yards. The Bligh Lobb report set a footprint outline for a super stadium on various properties in South East Queensland. It did not provide any detailed construction assessment on any site it investigated.

(4) It is not planned for the Roma Street railyards to be developed in any other way than that generally described in previous advices which were reported on the 9 October 1996— a user friendly parkland and commercial development.

(5) I am advised that no such paper was presented.

(6) This question has been answered in (1) above. The terms of reference to Bligh Lobb specifically excluded Roma Street.

397. Caboolture Hospital

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (2/5/97)—

With reference to bed occupancy at Caboolture Hospital—

- (1) How many beds at the hospital have been occupied on each night since the hospital opened?
- (2) How many patients have been transferred to other hospitals (a) for medical reasons in that services required cannot be provided at Caboolture and (b) for reason of bed unavailability each day since the hospital opened?
- (3) With respect of patients mentioned in 2(a) above, which particular services needed to be accessed, and by how many patients for each service?

Mr Horan (29/5/97): The use of hospital beds fluctuates according to the need in the community for example, associated with the winter illness season—June-September. Occasionally, transfers to other hospitals are required. Most transfers to other hospitals were for medical treatment unable to be provided at Caboolture because of medical reasons rather than unavailability of beds.

The most common reason for transfer is for orthopaedic treatment. The District has responded to this by providing an orthopaedic outreach service from Redcliffe early in 1997. The second most common reason for transfer was access to coronary care services.

The fundamental basis of this, and of all and any problems at Caboolture Hospital, was explained to the Parliament by the Member for Maroochydore on 6 May 1997, when she described the hospital as it was opened by Labor—

"Not a \$24 million facility (as required), but a \$17.2 million facility ... no coronary care ... substandard medical records, and a major loss of floor space. I understand that staff of the Hospital were at pains to show the Minister, on a recent visit, just how cramped Stage 1 of the Hospital is. Not a Caboolture Hospital, but Caboolture's Half-a-hospital. No wonder \$6 million was available to be creamed off the Hospital's recurrent budget—slashing it from \$20 million to \$14 million—to bail out the metropolitan hospitals, the budgets of which were running wildly out of control. No wonder the Caboolture Hospital required rebuilding from the day it was opened."

The Member for Caboolture is yet to explain away his involvement in the stripping of Stage 1.

Planning for the \$35 million Stage 2 Redevelopment at Caboolture Hospital is well under way. This will result in significant expansion in the range of services to meet the needs of the Caboolture community. In the interim, I have directed that funds provided in this week's Budget—providing the District with a new record budget, and an immediate \$3.97 million boost, with the promise of more funding to come during the year—I have directed that these funds be used in any way possible to alleviate Labor's legacy at Caboolture, in particular reducing the need for transfers.

398. Economic Development and Trade Department, Shanghai Office

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (2/5/97)—

With reference to the announcement on 2 May that his senior representative in the new Shanghai Office has been dismissed or had resigned—

- (1) Was she employed on a contract and how long was this contract for?
- (2) Was she asked to resign or did she leave of her own accord?
- (3) What were the reasons for her resignation/dismissal?

- (4) When was this position first advertised and how many applications were received?
- (5) What are the details of the salary and conditions that are attached to this position?
- (6) How many people are employed in the Shanghai Office and what are their classifications, job descriptions and pay points?
- (7) Where is the Shanghai Office located and what is the monthly rent on the premises and how large is the office?
- (8) What is the length of the lease on the premises occupied by the Shanghai Office?
- (9) Does the lease provide for periodic increases in rent for the term of the lease; if so, what are they?
- (10) How much extra trade has this office facilitated between China and Australia since it opened and what are the details of trade deals facilitated by the Shanghai Office?
- (11) What is the total annual operating budget allocated to the Shanghai Office?
- (12) What is the total travel budget for the Shanghai Office for 1996-97 and how much of this budget has been spent at 30 April?
- (13) What are the details of the work currently being carried out by the Shanghai Office?
- (14) What performance indicators have been set that will determine the long term success of the Shanghai Office?
- (15) What is the total value of export and imports between China and Queensland for 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-April 97?

Mr Slack (3/6/97):

(1) Ms Sun's appointment as Queensland Government Commissioner, International Trade Development Division, Shanghai, from date of entry upon duty was approved by the Governor in Council on 17 October 1996. The appointment was on a contract basis. Ms Sun commenced duties on 18 October 1996.

The period of Ms Sun's contract was to be 3 years.

The contract of employment was not signed due to:

drawn out negotiations with Ms Sun regarding the amount and type of allowances she was seeking in the contract negotiations and where her salary would be paid;

clarification of Ms Sun's residency status which has taxation implications and impacts on the amounts specified in the contract.

- (2) Ms Sun's employment was terminated on 16 April 1997.
- (3) There were no reasons provided in her termination letter.
- (4) The position was first advertised on 27 July 1996. 51 applications were received for the position.
- (5) The Trade and Investment Commissioner, Shanghai is paid at a rate equivalent to that paid to an SES2 officer. Allowances are payable for items including the provision of a motor vehicle,

accommodation, travelling expenses whilst on official duty, medical and dental expenses, an overseas living allowance and the provision of an annual reunion visit for travel between Australia and Shanghai.

(6) There are currently four people employed in the Shanghai Office:

TITLE	NAME	MONTHLY SALARY
Acting Commissioner	Zijian Zhang	A/SES2
Senior Project Officer (temporary)	Jenny McLachlan	A06
Secretary/Receptionist	Lily Zhang	5,000RMB
Administrative Assistant (temporary)	Michelle Lee	4,000RMB

A Marketing Officer will be appointed shortly and that person will be paid approximately 8,000 RMB a month.

(7) Address of the Shanghai Office: 10th Floor, Novel Plaza, 128 Nanjing Road, Huangpu District, Republic of China

Rent: US\$8,461.92 per month

Area: 214 square metres (gross)

- (8) 2 years
- (9) No. New rent is to be mutually agreed by both parties at the time of renewal of contract. (Date for renewal of the lease is 30 June 1998)
- (10) Since the Shanghai Office opened, it has facilitated various business missions, seminars and the recent Queensland—Shanghai Business Forum. Through these arrangements, Queensland businesses have set up connections with their counterparts in the areas of IT&T, food and food processing, construction and building materials, and traded services. Follow-up negotiations and visits have occurred, especially after the recent Queensland—Shanghai Business Forum, which attracted more than 130 senior business executives from Shanghai as participants in the Forum. It is expected that trade and investment links between Queensland and Shanghai will be encouraged as a result of the Forum.

(11) \$1.059 M

(12) Total travel budget (1996-97)— \$80,000; Amount spent on travel at 30 April 1997— \$ 39,000

(13) QUEENSLAND-SHANGHAI BUSINESS FORUM— 19 MAY 1997

The Second Annual Queensland—Shanghai Business Forum held on 19 May 1997 attracted more than 60 Queensland business executives and a total of about 200 participants from both sides, including major target industry sectors such as IT&T, Food and Food Processing, and Traded Services.

The Shanghai Office coordinated the business forum, the official program for Minister for Economic Development and Trade and arranged all business meetings and individual programs for the Queensland participants.

Following the Forum, seminars on IT and Food were arranged for the Queensland companies to enable them to meet with their respective counterparts from a total of 40 major Chinese firms.

Twenty-seven individual meetings were arranged for Queensland firms to meet with their counterparts in Shanghai.

QUEENSLAND WEEK CELEBRATIONS

In conjunction with the Business Forum the Office was also involved in facilitating Queensland Week, a series of television documentaries shown on Shanghai Television which has a viewing audience of 100 million.

During the week of the Forum, a Queensland Under-15 Representative Soccer Team visited Shanghai and played several matches against a Shanghai Representative Team. The Office was involved in the arrangements for this event.

On 19 May, a feature advertisement on "Queensland—Your Partner in Business Opportunity", designed to promote business with China, appeared in the "People's Daily", a major Chinese newspaper with a circulation of three million copies per day in China.

The Office also continues to deal with the ongoing trade enquires from Queensland firms wishing to access the Chinese market including follow up activity from the Forum.

(14) The Shanghai Office's Performance Indicators have been set to ensure long-term success in developing a productive business relationship between Queensland and China.

To ensure this goal is reached, a series of levels of indicators have been set as follows:

Business achievement indicators, including identification of opportunities, value of export sales facilitated, identification of potential investment projects, and organisation of business missions, seminars and forums;

Market approach indicators, including promotion programs to be organised, market research to be undertaken and Queensland's profile to be raised; and

Customer service indicators, including establishment of Government contacts and clients' satisfaction with the services provided.

(15) QUEENSLAND—CHINA TRADE STATISTICS

	EXPORTS	TOP EXPORT DESTINATION RANKING
	\$	
1992-93	169,139,000	(17)
1993-94	250,588,163	(14)
1994-95	513,116,746	(5)
1995-96	425,854,300	(9)
	IMPORTS	
	\$	
1992-93	165,764,369	
1993-94	215,960,457	
1994-95	240,293,732	
1995-96	301,313,126	

399. High-speed Police Pursuits; Mr and Mrs Keong

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (2/5/97)—

With reference to a high speed "Police Pursuit" in July 1995 resulting in damage to property owned by my constituents Mr and Mrs Keong and to my latest correspondence to him on this matter dated 6 January —

- (1) Why hasn't he provided an answer to this latest correspondence?
- (2) Is his lack of reply indicative of the fact that he supports high speed "Police Pursuits"?
- (3) Will he now intervene personally in this matter to ensure the "Keongs" receive due compensation for the property loss?

Mr Cooper (30/5/97):

- (1) My office was in the process of preparing a detailed response to the member's correspondence of 6 January and that has now been forwarded.
- (2) 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. I support the general thrust of this protocol.
- (3) As indicated in previous correspondence to the member, Crown Law had advised that no statutory basis exists for the Queensland Police Service to make ex-gratia payment to Mr and Mrs Keong.

400. Marlin Fishing

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (2/5/97)—

With reference to Queensland marlin fishing—

- (1) What steps is the Government taking to protect marlin fishing from commercial exploitation?
- (2) Is he aware of any commercial sale of marlin products in Queensland?
- (3) Does he approve of the commercial taking of marlin?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. Commercial harvesting of tuna and billfish, including marlin, comes under Commonwealth jurisdiction and is managed by the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA). Queensland has no jurisdiction over the marlin fishery. Queensland is concerned that the Commonwealth is currently not able to manage the fishery with recreational or game fishing objectives in mind. This is because it has received legal advice that the objectives of its legislation do not permit it to do so, unless the sustainability of the stock is threatened. To resolve this problem the Queensland Government has recently made a submission to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into the Management of Commonwealth Fisheries. That submission seeks amendment of the Commonwealth fisheries legislation so that AFMA can manage the entire fishery and take into account the importance of game fishing to Queensland. The Queensland Government has also obtained an undertaking from

the Commonwealth that it will consider the introduction of additional management measures if the current voluntary ban on the taking of marlin by commercial longliners proves unsatisfactory, and that it will investigate the impact of commercial fishing on game fishing. Following that undertaking and Queensland support, CSIRO (Fisheries) has received funding from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation to carry out a study on the interaction between the recreational and commercial fishing sectors and the effects on black marlin off north Queensland. Queensland has made its position on the marlin issue very clear and we should now wait for the outcome of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry before deciding on any further action.

2. No. Billfish are regulated fish under the Fisheries Regulation 1995. This means that taking, possessing or selling marlin in Queensland is prohibited.

3. No. The Government does not approve of commercial taking of marlin. What the Government wants to see is Queensland getting the greatest possible benefits from the use of the marlin resource and we believe that can best be achieved through game fishing and tourism. That is why we have asked the Commonwealth to amend its fisheries legislation so that it can manage the fishery in a way that achieves such an outcome.

401. Police Service and Corrective Services Commission, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (2/5/97)—

With reference to recent Government advertising campaigns—

- (1) What is his department's advertising and promotional budget for (a) police department and (b) corrective services?
- (2) How much to date has been spent on advertising and promotional work by his department in these areas?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

- (1)
- (a) The Queensland Police Service does not have a specific budget for advertising.

The Service allocates global budgets to its regions, commands and directorates, and the executives in charge of these areas determine the level of funding to be expended on advertising.

During this financial year, the Queensland Police Service received funding for the advertising and promotion of National Uniform Firearms' Control, from the Commonwealth Government. The amount of funds identified for this purpose was \$3,500,000.

- (b) No QCSC funds have been spent on Government Advertising campaigns.

The Commission advertises regularly in the press for vacant staff positions. The total

advertising budget for this purpose in the current financial year is \$50,000.

The QCSC has only a modest budget of \$1,000 for promotion of prison industries.

- (2)
- (a) As at the end of April 1997, approximately \$1,341,000 has been spent by the Service on advertising and promotions.

The project incurring the majority of this expenditure is National Uniform Firearms' Control. This project has incurred to 30 April 1997, approximately \$1,217,000 or 90.7% of the Service's total expenditure in advertising and promotions.

The other significant areas of the Service that have incurred expenditure in advertising and promotions are: Operations Support Command (\$18,000); and Human Resources Division (\$72,000).

- (b) The QCSC has spent \$29,000 in the year to date advertising vacant positions.

To date, \$271.53 of the promotional budget for prison industries has been expended.

402. Sandmining, North Stradbroke Island

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (2/5/97)—

Will he give his total commitment to the continuation of sand mining on North Stradbroke Island whilst ensuring the best environmental safeguards are maintained?

Mr Gilmore (26/5/97):

1(a) Let me state two things quite clearly to you. Firstly, I intend to ensure that mining on North Stradbroke Island is conducted in a responsible manner. Secondly, there is no intention by this Government to create and implement a timetable for the cessation of mining on North Stradbroke Island.

1(b) I note your concerns regarding the maintenance of the best environmental safeguards pertaining to sand mining on North Stradbroke Island. I wish to make the following comments that reflect the objectives for the mining industry as set out in the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development.

This Government, through the Department of Mines and Energy, has instituted a highly regarded system of environmental management of the mining industry. The system includes environmental impact assessment procedures, the environmental management overview strategy (EMOS) and the plan of operations procedures. The system is flexible to accommodate community concerns, differing land types and land uses, different mineral commodities and mining processes, and various scales of operations. The Regional approach to environmental regulation also helps insure that the Department of Mines and Energy meets the expectations of the community, the mining industry and the Government.

Mining is a major generator of wealth for Queensland which enables the funding of essential services by the State Government. Sand mining operations on

North Stradbroke Island are an important part of this State's mining industry and contribute significantly to the economic and social welfare of Queensland residents.

In recent years, both the Government, through my Department, and the mining companies on North Stradbroke Island have undertaken consultations with the Island community and other stakeholders in relation to mining matters. This approach is deliberate and I encourage all stakeholders to continue constructive discussions on the full range of issues.

403. School Crossing Supervisors, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (2/5/97)—

With reference to the school crossing supervisors for the schools in the City of Bundaberg—

- (1) What are the number of hours, and number of supervisors provided to each school on a weekly basis?
- (2) Have any hours or numbers of supervisors been cut from these schools over the past two years?
- (3) Will there be any cuts to these services as a consequence of the 1996 Budget or the 1997 Budget?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

(1) There are a total of 19 schools with 35 supervised crossings in the Bundaberg area, where 50 crossing supervisors work a total of 234.5 hours each week.

(2) As part of the management of the Scheme a review process is undertaken on an annual basis to ensure that the resources applied to the Scheme are used efficiently and distributed equitably. In the Bundaberg area there have been 14 crossings reviewed in the past two years. Of those reviewed 11 have had a small reduction in operating times 1 is likely to have a small reduction and 2 have had their supervised times increased. The number of supervisors has not been reduced as a result of this review process.

(3) On 10 October 1996 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.

To support the SafeST package the State Government has committed \$8 million, a significant increase on previous allocations, to safe school travel programs. The School Crossing Supervisor Scheme is a major component of the SafeST package.

In addition to the funding provided under the SafeST package the Scheme has been allocated an extra \$100,000 to ensure the high quality of service throughout the State is maintained.

404. Correctional Centres, Wacol Precinct

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (2/5/97)—

With reference to the proposal to build additional correctional centres at the Wacol precinct—

- (1) How many additional correctional centres are planned for the Wacol precinct?
- (2) Is there a new correctional centre in the process of being constructed at the Wacol precinct; if so, what is the expected prisoner capacity and completion date?
- (3) Are any of the existing correctional centres at Wacol to be closed; if so, which ones, and when?
- (4) With the increase in population in the Brisbane to the Gold Coast corridor is there a proposal to provide a facility for that corridor; if not, why not?

Mr Cooper (28/5/97):

(1) Two replacement correctional centres, South East Queensland One (SEQ1) for male prisoners, and South East Queensland Womens (SEQW) are included in the current Capital Works Program for the Queensland Corrective Services Commission (QCSC) to meet infrastructure requirements. Both are to be located on the Wacol Prison Reserve.

SEQ1 is a replacement for two existing correctional centres at Wacol—Moreton A and Moreton B Correctional Centres (previously known as Wacol and Moreton Correctional Centres respectively).

SEQW is a replacement for the existing Women's Correctional Centre at Dutton Park in Brisbane.

No new correctional centres other than SEQ1 and SEQW are planned for the Wacol Prison Reserve.

(2) Construction has not started.

The capacity of SEQ1 will be for 600 male prisoners and the capacity of SEQW will be for 150 female prisoners with the design to expand to 200.

At present, construction is programmed for completion in December 1998.

(3) I have given a written undertaking to local residents that Moreton A and Moreton B Correctional Centres will be demolished within one year of the completion of SEQ1 and SEQW.

(4) No. The location of prison sites is not related to demographic projections but to the general acceptability of a proposed site.

405. Environmental Management Plans, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Environment (2/5/97)—

With reference to environment management plans (EMPs) provided for under the Environmental Protection Act and with reference to the Lytton Electorate—

- (1) Which companies/organisations currently have EMPs with the department?
- (2) What are the environmental issues covered in each of these EMPs respectively?
- (3) What is the objective stated for each issue?
- (4) What was the commencement date for each of these EMPs?

- (5) What monitoring process does the department have to ensure the terms of these EMPs are being complied with?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

- (1) The following companies operating in the Lytton Electorate currently have EMPs with the Department of Environment.

1. Brisbane City Council Sewage Operations Branch
2. Edgell Birds-Eye
3. Simplot Australia Pty Ltd

- (2) The issues covered in the EMPs are, respectively:

1. Contamination of land and water from sewerage overflow.
2. Contamination of land and water from wastewater discharge.
3. Contamination of land and water from wastewater discharge.

- (3) The objectives stated in the EMPs are, respectively:

1. To comply with the licence condition that all pump stations be fitted with alarms.
2. To reduce the risk of waste water entering the environment due to electrical or mechanical failure of pumps and/or control devices associated with the transfer of waste water between treatment plants.
3. To reduce the risk of waste water entering the environment due to blockage or other malfunction of the pipeline associated with the transfer of waste water between treatment plants.

- (4)
1. 28 August 1995
 2. 25 September 1995
 3. 28 December 1996

- (5) All companies conducting EMPs are required to submit reports to the Department to indicate progress with the implementation of the undertakings in the EMPs. These reports are assessed by the Department to confirm compliance with the EMPs. Site inspections by the Department are conducted as appropriate to confirm compliance with the EMPs.

406. Electricity Depots, Cash Receipting

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (2/5/97)—

With reference to MEB media release dated 21 April regarding the closure of cash receipting at Sarina, Proserpine and Ness Street Depots—

- (1) Does the Government support this policy of closure of cash receipting in electricity depots throughout Queensland?
- (2) Will he guarantee that all electricity depots will remain open and fully staffed to provide the range of high level services that were provided for electricity consumers?
- (3) Will he guarantee the guarantee given by the CEO of the Mackay Electricity Board that there

will be no add-on cost to the industry in the future for electricity consumers to pay their accounts at banks, building societies or post offices?

- (4) What provisions will he make to ensure that electricity consumers will still have the right to pay their electricity accounts in electricity depots if they elect to do so?

Mr Gilmore (26/5/97):

- (1) To ensure they remain competitive in the emerging national market for electricity, Queensland's electricity corporations are presently reviewing their operations with the aim of improving their efficiency and satisfying customers' needs and expectations of a faster and more efficient range of services. The Government is supportive of organisational changes that achieve this aim, on the understanding that the overall level of service enjoyed by the community involved is not reduced.

(2) While some organisational changes are necessary to achieve improved efficiency, I have specifically requested the electricity corporations to ensure that any change to the ways in which they provide their services does not reduce the level of those services. The electricity corporations have assured me that there will be no reduction in the level of services and, in many cases, the changes will result in improved levels of service to customers. Arrangements introduced for payment of accounts, such as the greater use of agencies and payment by telephone, have generally been well accepted by customers because of the increased convenience.

(3) The greater use of agencies will enable the electricity corporations to provide these services more efficiently and effectively than at present, resulting in reduced costs to the electricity corporations as well as improved service to customers.

(4) As stated earlier, some organisational changes are necessary to achieve improved efficiency. However, I have requested that no particular change is to proceed unless the electricity corporation concerned ensures that the change does not reduce the overall level of service previously enjoyed by the community involved. While customers may no longer be able to pay their accounts at electricity depots, they will be able to pay their accounts in person at any one of the electricity corporation's agencies or by mail or over the telephone.

407. Basil Stafford Centre

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (2/5/97)—

With reference to ongoing complaints of abuse and neglect at the Basil Stafford Centre—

- (1) How many complaints of official misconduct have been referred to the CJC since March 1995?
- (2) How many of these complaints have been resolved, and what was the outcome in each case?
- (3) How many complaints are under current investigation and how many staff are

suspended on pay as a result of these investigations?

- (4) What is the current weekly cost of wages being paid to officers suspended under investigation?
- (5) How many, if any, complaints have been referred to the police since March 1995?

Mr Lingard (13/5/97):

- (1) 6.
- (2) Of these, five (5) have been resolved.
- (3) 1 and 0.
- (4) There are two staff members who are suspended pending the outcome of the police investigation of the allegation of neglect, and this is at a weekly cost of \$1,620.
- (5) 6.

408. Bowen Marina Project

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (2/5/97)—

- (1) What is his department doing to advance the future development of the Bowen Marina site?
- (2) What expressions of interest has his Government sought to ensure this important project proceeds to the benefit of the boating community of the region?
- (3) Is his Government prepared to invest infrastructure or commit itself to proceeding along the lines of the Goss Government to ensure the project's future?

Mr Borbidge (2/6/97):

(1) Queensland Transport, as manager of the boat harbour, has recently called for expressions of interest for the development of the Bowen Marina site within the larger Bowen boat harbour area. The guideline document states that any proposed development should include a 200 berth walk on/walk off marina, on-shore commercial support facilities and public open space. The Office of the Department of Economic Development and Trade has been consulted and has had initial discussions with potential developers.

(2) Following the failure of a developer to complete the construction of a marina adjacent to the Bowen boat harbour, the State created the marina basin and extensive areas of reclaimed land in 1992. Expressions of interest were subsequently called in late 1992 from parties interested in developing the site.

One expression was received and upon examination, it was revealed that whilst the physical aspects of the proposal were satisfactory, the financial details were unacceptable. A revised proposal was received which included a large scale residential development using additional land outside the boat harbour. As this revised proposal had moved away from the original marina proposal, it was not considered appropriate.

Queensland Transport had received a number of inquiries in 1996 from potential developers regarding the availability of the Marina site for development. Accordingly, expressions of interest were called on 9 April 1997 and close on 30 June 1997.

(3) The State has progressively improved the boat harbour by the provision of breakwaters, dredged basins, navigation channels, moorings, road and public boating facilities. Indeed, the State has recently approved maintenance works within the boat harbour to the value of approximately \$250,000 which are currently under way. In addition, individual lessees have further developed the boat harbour by the provision of infrastructure from which to operate their commercial activities.

Similarly, the State has improved the Bowen Marina site by providing a dredged basin and extensive areas of reclaimed land.

The Government is pleased to facilitate the development of the Bowen Marina site by the calling of expressions of interest from the private sector. The expressions of interest process seeks proposals to provide a fully integrated marina development and associated on-shore commercial facilities according to market demand.

409. Airtrain Citylink; Brisbane Airport Rail Link

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (2/5/97)—

With reference to the initial advice statement from Airtrain Citylink Pty Ltd in relation to the Brisbane Airport Rail Link Impact Assessment Study and as part 6 of the initial advice statement outlines an anticipated patronage of 7,500 passengers per day or 2.75 million passengers per year—

- (1) What percentage of visitors to the airport would these figures require to travel by the proposed rail link?
- (2) How does this compare with other airports across the world?
- (3) What advice has his departmental experts provided to him on these patronage levels?
- (4) What work has been done to analyse the likelihood of usage of a rail link to the Brisbane Airport compared with similar sized airports?
- (5) Have Airtrain Citylink provided any detailed studies to support their assertions or are any such studies planned?
- (6) What further checks will his department do to assess the credibility of Airtrain Citylink Pty Ltd's claims for levels of patronage?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

(1) In its proposal of October 1996, Airtrain estimated there would be approximately 20.7 million trips per annum to the Airport by about the year 2000. Airtrain further estimated that, of these trips somewhere between 2.86 million and 2.3 million would travel by train. A figure in the middle of these represents about 12.5%.

(2) Relative to United States airport rail experience the figure seems moderately high. Relative to major European cities' airports serviced by rail, this figure is low. It is difficult to make direct comparisons as catchment populations vary considerably along with fares, frequency of rail service, percentage use of public transport and catchment penetration by the rail system.

(3) Patronage levels contained in Airtrain's Proposal of 31 October 1996 have been reviewed by independent consultants. Since that time Airtrain has refined its figures and these are currently being reviewed for the Department by independent consultants.

(4) Two independent studies reported in 1995 by leading Brisbane consultants regarding rail to the airport consider examples from Europe and America and suggest upper limits for rail mode share for Brisbane of between 12% and 15%.

(5) The Government, in its document "Airport Rail Link: Government Brief" requested certain information in relation to patronage estimates. Airtrain, in its Proposal of 31 October 1996 provided patronage estimates prepared by a recognised transport planning consultant. Airtrain has further refined these estimates.

(6) The financial viability of the Brisbane Airport Rail Link project as a commercial enterprise is dependent on the results of the financial modelling work carried out by Airtrain which is being monitored and reviewed by Treasury and Queensland Transport officers. Rail patronage is but one of several factors which will be taken into consideration in the financial analysis.

410. Nilsson Corporation Pty Ltd

Mr PEARCE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (2/5/97)—

With reference to investigations being undertaken by the Department of Justice into selling of land that did not have clear title to persons from Nauru by Nilsson Corporation Pty Ltd, is he in a position to provide details of their investigations with respect to provisions in the Land Sales Act 1984 and the Fair Trading Act 1989?

Mr Beanland (6/6/97): The honourable member for Fitzroy raised his concerns about Nilsson Corporation Pty Ltd in this House on 14 November and 3 December 1996. Mr Pearce then wrote to me about this matter in March 1997 and I directed the Office of Consumer Affairs to investigate the matter. The Office of Consumer Affairs is investigating the activities of Nilsson Corporation Pty Ltd and the activities of David Nilsson and Clairview Developments Pty Ltd. A liquidator was appointed for Nilsson Corporation Pty Ltd on 14 November 1996. Clairview Developments Pty Ltd, however, appears to still be trading. Honourable members would appreciate that it is not appropriate for me to release details of the Office of Consumer Affairs' investigations into the activities of Mr Nilsson and the two companies at this stage as to do so could prejudice those investigations.

411. Dugongs, Cooloola Coast

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (2/5/97)—

With reference to coastal development on the Cooloola Coast between Hervey Bay and Tin Can Bay—

- (1) Is he aware that a recent University of Queensland study linked the decline of 1,400 dugongs from waters adjacent to the Cooloola Coast to the impacts of this development?
- (2) What action is he taking to address this and other impacts of unsustainable development of the region?
- (3) What action is being taken to protect the 14 threatened terrestrial vertebrate fauna identified by a recent EIA undertaken by consultants WBM Oceanics as "expected to be negatively affected" by further water mining of the Noosa River system?
- (4) Will the Government require comprehensive environmental impact studies into the loss of dugongs and further water extraction from the Cooloola National Park before any further development of the region?
- (5) Will the Government review regional planning schemes for development of the Cooloola Coast in light of the weight of scientific evidence relating to this matter?
- (6) Has he advised community representatives that he and his department are not responsible for protecting the environment and that the environmental impacts of planning decisions are not his concern?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) I am advised by my Department that no references relating to a University of Queensland study directly linking the deaths of 1400 dugong in the Great Sandy Straits to any specific coastal development between Hervey Bay and Tin Can Bay can be found.

It would appear that the member might be alluding to a study conducted by Dr Anthony Preen and Prof. Helene Marsh of James Cook University in Townsville, entitled "Response of Dugongs to Large-scale Loss of Seagrass from Hervey Bay, Queensland, Australia" which was published in 1995 in the Journal Of Wildlife Research.

This study linked the dramatic declines of Hervey Bay dugong populations in 1992, to large-scale loss of seagrass beds, primarily resulting from the flood and cyclone events earlier that year. The study found that the Hervey Bay dugong population had fallen from approximately 1753 individuals in late 1988 to 71 individuals in late 1992. However, nothing was done by the Labor Government in the period since then.

There is no disputing that care must be taken with these highly vulnerable dugong populations. The State and Commonwealth Governments are now addressing the issue of protection measures for dugong.

(2) Coastal waters between Hervey Bay and Tin Can Bay will receive special attention during current preparation of a Wide Bay Regional Coastal Management Plan. As well the Cooloola Shire Planning Scheme is currently being reviewed with Department of Environment input. The Department is also working closely with Cooloola, Hervey Bay and Maryborough local authorities in formulating

Development Control Plans for the Great Sandy Region. This Government believes it is important to work closely with local government generally, an attitude apparently not shared by the Member, as demonstrated on more than one occasion.

(3) WBM Oceanics Australia prepared a scoping study of the potential impacts of water supply extraction from the Cooloola section of the Great Sandy National Park. The title of their study was "Preliminary Assessment of the Ecological Effects of the Upgrading of Cooloola Region Water Supply Scheme".

The study was not an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It indicated potential impacts but did not quantify the impacts which may result from increased water extraction above existing licence capacity. Should the Cooloola Shire Council wish to consider an increase in extraction licences the Department of Environment will require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Study (IAS) to demonstrate its sustainability. The (IAS) would be required to assess impacts on and means to protect rare and threatened fauna and flora.

(4) An IAS may be triggered under S29 of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act—usually for projects of state interest or proposed by public authorities such as roads, dams, etc.—or under S8.2 of the Local Government (P&E) Act.

S8.2 of the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 requires Local Governments to take into account environmental effects when considering any development application. Any proposals referred to the Department will be closely scrutinised to determine if an EIS is warranted before such proposals can proceed.

(5) See above.

(6) No.

412. Narangba Industrial Estate

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (2/5/97)—

With reference to the development of the Narangba Industrial Estates—

Will he ensure that (a) the bridge over the Bruce Highway links the two estates as part of the development and (b) if a bridge upgrade is needed, that it occurs concurrently with the development of the industrial estate?

Mr Davidson (3/6/97):

(a) Construction has commenced for a further stage of development at the Narangba Industrial Estate. This project includes an extension of Potassium street to link with the existing bridge over the Bruce Highway. A design check has concluded that prior to construction of the bridge approaches structural modifications will be required to the bridge to meet current standards.

(b) My department has programmed sufficient funds in its 1997/98 capital works program to allow for the design and construction of the bridge approaches. It is anticipated that work will commence in October 1997. When upgraded the bridge will provide an alternate access to service the estate.

413. Ambulance Stations, Call-outs

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (2/5/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that many ambulance stations now receive their first alert for call out via radio rather than telephone?
- (2) Is he aware that this is a cost saving measure, forced on the ambulance service by budgetary stringency?
- (3) Is he aware that the reception via radio is not as clear as the reception by telephone?
- (4) Is he aware that static and unclarity on the line could prevent the ambulance officer at the station from receiving accurate information, and therefore put somebody at risk?
- (5) Will he take action to ensure that the ambulance service can afford the cost of an initial telephone call to advise ambulance officers of the necessity of a call out?

Mr Veivers (3/6/97):

(1) In stations where it has been determined that it is operationally efficient to instigate first contact via the radio network, the network has been designed to selcal the station first. This also is common practice in other states of Australia.

The selcal facility is an alarm system fitted to station and vehicle radios whereby the radio receiving the call sounds an alarm and the officers know the call is specifically for their response. Once the station has been selcalled, the officers respond to the call out whilst in an ambulance vehicle and call the communications centre for the call out's specific details. This results in an enhancement of response times whilst at the same time ensuring that a response is not delayed by a station's telephone system being engaged.

(2) Please refer to answer one.

(3) Radio reception in the majority of cases is clear.

(4) The QAS is not aware of any poor radio reception at any QAS station. The QAS radio workshop is in constant contact with the operational units to ensure a high quality radio network is in place at all times.

(5) There are no budgetary constraints placed on the (QAS) regarding telephone calls. Many ambulance stations now receive their first alert for call out via radio rather than telephone.

With the introduction of new radio technologies and dispatching systems, in many cases the radio network will be far superior to the telephone network in advising officers of case details.

414. Helens Hill School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (2/5/97)—

With reference to reports that he intends to close the school at Helens Hill near Ingham which was destroyed by fire on 28 February and to concerns among parents of children who attended Helens Hill school that young school children will be forced to

spend even more time travelling on school buses to get to school—

Will he show some decency and replace the old school with a transportable classroom building or is the Government intent on causing students and parents at Helens Hill enormous anxiety and inconvenience by closing the school?

Mr Quinn (4/6/97): Despite scaremongering from the honourable member for Cook that the Helens Hill State School was to be closed, I am pleased to once again place on record the fact that the Helens Hill State School, which was destroyed by fire, is to be rebuilt at an estimated cost of \$250,000, with a further \$50,000 allocated for the provision of new equipment and resources.

This building will have all the modern facilities, including fibre-optic cabling and air-conditioning.

If the Member for Cook had his way, Helens Hill would have been provided with a transportable classroom, at best. This is an absolutely appalling suggestion, which is typical of Labor's "quick-fix, cheapskate" attitude towards education.

Unlike the Opposition, the Coalition Government does not believe in bandaid solutions and I am certain the honourable member would agree that the stated outcome is in the best interests of all involved.

415. Currumbin Valley and Tallebudgera Valley Rural Fire Brigades

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (2/5/97)—

With reference to the allocation of new fire fighting equipment and uniforms for rural fire brigades—

Will he outline what new equipment has been provided to the Currumbin Valley and Tallebudgera Valley Rural Fire Brigades over the past 15 months?

Mr Veivers (29/5/97):

The records of the Rural Fire Division of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority show that the following equipment has been issued to Currumbin Valley Rural Fire Brigade since March 1996:

7 pairs of overalls; 4 helmets and chinstraps; and 1 dress shirt and dress hat.

For Tallebudgera Valley Rural Fire Brigade, the records show the following issues:

One pump primer and 2 pairs of overalls.

416. Cannon Hill Sale Yards Site

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (2/5/97)—

With reference to the Government's Expressions of Interest on the sale of the Cannon Hill Saleyards which closed on 16 April—

- (1) How many Expressions of Interest were received on (a) Parcel 1 (65.85ha) and (b) Parcel 2 (12.95ha)?
- (2) What are the names of the businesses/developers who lodged an Expression of Interest?

- (3) For what purposes did each applicant wish to use the site/s?
- (4) When will a decision be made on the saleyards site?
- (5) Will he give a guarantee that I and my constituents will be given an opportunity to have input into the future development of the site before it is sold?
- (6) Will he assure the Bulimba Electorate that this site will not be sold for development of industry?
- (7) Will he rezone the two parcels of land to housing before selling the land?
- (8) Will he give guarantees that public housing will be made available to Bulimba constituents on those parcels of land as waiting time for public housing is approximately four years in the Bulimba Electorate?
- (9) Will he give guarantees that money from sale of land and housing in Bulimba Electorate be used in Bulimba Electorate for further provisions of public housing?

Dr Watson (3/6/97):

- (1) 12 Expressions of Interest were received. Eight were significant expressions from major developers. Seven of these were for both parcels 1 and 2. One was for parcel 1 only. Four were a letter only and were for specific uses on small sites on either parcel 1 or 2.
- (2) The Expressions of Interest applicants lodged the Expressions of Interest in confidence. The release of information regarding the contents of these submissions before the process is complete could severely jeopardise the sale of the property and leave the Government open to legal action by the applicants.
- (3) As for (2) above.
- (4) As soon as due process appropriate to an Expression of Interest for a property of this nature is complete.
- (5) The property was marketed by calling for "Expressions of Interest". The reason this method was selected was that it did not precommit the Government to any predetermined course of action. Also it allowed the total involvement of the private sector and permitted the Government to take into consideration the representations of all parties (Brisbane City Council, local community groups, residential groups, retailers, neighbours and Federal Airports Commission) with an interest in the site before a decision is made.
- (6) The development of the site will be mixed residential. However, the development of any areas of the site where noise levels from air traffic are above the noise level thresholds recommended for residential development, will require further investigation following review of the Expressions of Interest received.
- (7) To make any commitments that could reduce the effectiveness of the outcome of the Expressions of Interest process would be presumptuous at this stage of the process.

(8) The placing of public housing depends on a number of factors with the availability of land being one factor.

(9) The proceeds of sales from all individual electorates are presently redirected into the public housing program and allocated on a priority need basis, throughout the State. As part of this State-wide program the Bulimba electorate has had three detached houses constructed, nine apartments purchased and \$56,180 spent on refurbishment works during 1996/97.

417. Regional Forest Agreement

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (2/5/97)—

With reference to this Government's signing of a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) with the Federal Government to reserve 15 per cent of the State's native forests and to this agreement's proposed flexibility which has created uncertainty in the timber industry in the Maryborough district—

Will he let the industry know what the quota in this area will be: will it be 20 per cent, 30 per cent, 40 per cent or will it be cut back to 5 per cent?

Mr Hobbs (16/5/97): It is not possible, or proper, to anticipate the outcomes of the RFA process since they will be determined as a result of a study of the social and economic factors and a scientific study of conservation requirements. These studies are currently in progress.

The State Government remains opposed to the arbitrary imposition of a 15% reservation rule and has successfully negotiated with the Commonwealth to ensure the reserve selection process will be based on science, not an arbitrary area rule.

Clause 16 of the RFA scoping agreement for Queensland specifically includes the statement that:

"In Queensland, the application of the criteria to achieve a dedicated and secure Comprehensive Adequate and Representative reserve system will be based upon scientific assessment not upon the arbitrary application of benchmarks. It goes on to say: Both parties acknowledge that social and economic factors may preclude the achievement of all national reserve criteria within the reserve system."

418. Mr K. Hamburger; Corrective Services Commission

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (2/5/97)—

With reference to his recent sacking of Keith Hamburger as the Chief Executive Officer of Corrective Services—

- (1) Will Trevor Carlyon, presently Chair of the Corrective Services Commission get Mr Hamburger's previous position through a sham selection process?
- (2) Will Sir Max Bingham then get Mr Carlyon's old position as a payoff for his backing of yourself

and the Coalition Government and his criticism of the Criminal Justice Commission?

- (3) Which other National Party hack does he have in mind to fill Sir Max Bingham's position?

Mr Cooper (30/5/97): Your fatuous and insulting question is a slur on two men of the highest integrity and can only be based on your familiarity with the "sham selection" processes utilised by you and your colleagues whilst in Government.

It is my and their intention that both Trevor Carlyon and Sir Max Bingham will continue to serve with distinction in their current positions.

419. Policing, Woodridge Electorate

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (2/5/97)—

With reference to the recent increase in crime in Woodridge in particular, and Logan in general—

- (1) What community suggestions to combat this crime have been investigated by the police service?
- (2) Have any of these suggestions been adopted; if so, which ones?
- (3) When was the last time licence and registration checks were carried out in high risk areas?
- (4) When was the last time railway station car park surveillance was carried out as a specific duty in the Woodridge Electorate?
- (5) What specific duty has been allotted as preventive policing in high risk areas?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

- (1) In Logan Police District there have been several suggestions to combat crime, the more significant suggestions include:

The development of the Neighbourhood Watch program in the Woodridge area;

A proposal to develop a hybrid of the Police Beat Shop Front scheme and the Criminal Justice Commission program—Sector Beat Policing for the Woodridge area.

- (2) In the Logan Central Police Division there will be a launch of two Neighbourhood Watch areas on the 25 May 1997. Investigations are continuing into the possibility of the opening of a further two Watches in the Woodridge area.

The Logan Central Community/Police Consultative Committee has been lobbying for the commencement of a Police Beat Shop Front/Sector Beat Policing presence in the Woodridge area since the idea was presented at a meeting of that committee. This concept of policing was fully investigated and in consultation with the chairman of that committee it was determined that the committee should submit an expression of interest to the Queensland Police Service, Police Beat Shopfront Section.

In the Marsden area it was determined that a crime prevention program be initiated and include local media coverage and Crime Prevention displays. This

initiative has been extended to include shopping centres in the Woodridge area up until 9 June 1997.

(3) This form of policing is ongoing throughout the Logan Police District including Woodridge. By way of example, checks conducted by using the MINDA system in Logan Central Police Division for the period 14/4/97 to 14/5/97 were in excess of 1450 checks made on either registrations, licences, Persons of Interest or other inquiries

(4) There has been no specific static surveillance carried out of railway station car parks at Woodridge or Trinder Park; however, car parks at both stations are targeted for attention in ongoing daily tasking to patrol crews, divisional and district operations against unlawful use of motor vehicles, stealing and offences against the person. The Railway Squad and Mounted Police are assisting at the present time in policing these areas in Woodridge.

Railway station platforms at Woodridge and Kingston are subject to 24 hour per day electronic surveillance, monitored by Queensland Rail. Video evidence of suspected problems are reported to Police for attention by patrols.

(5) The ongoing identification of high crime areas has resulted in the policing initiatives being varied from time to time. Currently highly visible policing strategies including crime prevention displays at major shopping centres throughout the district, Mounted Police Units patrolling the precincts of the railway stations and associated use of media presenting public awareness of this campaign are all part of the Logan District's strategies to reduce crime in high risk areas.

The development of new neighbourhood watch areas in the recognised high risk areas is continuing.

420. Cairns Mulgrave Pistol Club

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (2/5/97)—

With reference to the campaign being waged by Peter Bosanquet on behalf of a group calling themselves "Affected Landowners" to have the Cairns Mulgrave Pistol Club relocated from its present site at Sikh Temple Road, Yatee and as the lease was granted by the Cairns City Council on the basis it would provide a permanent home for the club; all the appropriate town planning approvals are in place; the Weapons Licensing Branch has granted approval No. 810000501 "Approval of a Range"; police themselves use the range for practice, and the club abides by all safety and noise requirements—

- (1) Has he had political approaches to have the "approval as a range" revoked?
- (2) Has he put pressure on his department to have the approval revoked?
- (3) Will he give a guarantee that the rights of this lawfully constituted and public spirited club will not be sacrificed to meet the commercial and selfish needs of the aforementioned property owners?

Mr Cooper (27/5/97):

(1) Local residents have exercised their democratic right to complain about safety issues at the range to various authorities including Queensland Police and Parliamentary representatives. Police are naturally obliged to inquire into complaints about range safety.

(2) No

(3) Compliance with safety regulations at pistol club ranges is a matter for the Queensland Police Service Weapons Licensing Branch. Police have advised that the Club is making modifications to the range to comply with safety requirements of the Weapons Act.

421. Karawatha Forest; Integrated Regional Transport Plan

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Environment (2/5/97)—

(1) Is he aware of the importance to the environment of South Eastern Queensland and the people of this region, of Karawatha Forest and adjacent wildlife corridors, with which I have had a close association?

(2) Is he aware that proposals put forward by the Department of Transport through the Integrated Regional Transport Plan and previously rejected by the Labor Government, would seriously jeopardise the integrity of those environmental areas?

(3) Has he been consulted by the transport planners on the environmental aspects of their planning; if not, will he investigate the environmental aspects of the proposal as put forward in the plan?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) The ecological importance of Karawatha Forest and the diversity of plant and animal life it supports is well recognised.

Responsibility for managing Karawatha Forest rests with Brisbane City Council. Council has recently prepared the Karawatha Forest Environment Management Plan.

(2) I have been advised by my colleague the Minister for Transport that the Integrated Regional Transport Plan contains no specific proposals of the nature mentioned by the honourable member. The Integrated Regional Transport Plan recognises the management of freight movements for Brisbane is a major transport planning challenge and proposes the issue be approached by studying rail freight demand, system constraints and upgrading options for Brisbane.

(3) My Department has been closely involved with Queensland Transport in the development of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan, and will continue to be involved in the examination of environmental issues that arise as the various actions of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan are investigated and implemented.

422.Transport Pilot Projects

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (2/5/97)—

- (1) What accessible transport pilot or trial projects are currently under way in Queensland?
- (2) What funding has been allocated to these projects by his department and how much has been spent in 1996-97?
- (3) What projects and funding are planned for future years?
- (4) What goals has he set for his department to achieve equality of access to transport across Queensland?
- (5) What benchmarks have been set to measure his success in providing accessible transport?
- (6) Are any legislative changes proposed that will alter the requirements for the provision of accessible transport?
- (7) What negotiations are currently proceeding with Federal and other State Governments in relation to accessible transport?

Mr Johnson (29/5/97):

- (1) The Accessible Bus Pilot (ABP) Program is currently under way. This initiative seeks to establish an appropriate balance and structure of incentives to encourage commercial scheduled bus operators to invest in new buses and provide an initial impetus for operators to meet their obligations under both Queensland and Commonwealth anti-discrimination legislation.

The program provides financial assistance equal to 25 percent of the total purchase price of accessible buses to urban operators in various electorates throughout Queensland if they agree to purchase accessible buses and participate in twelve months trials. These trials will allow information to be gathered on the benefits, costs and operational problems associated with a range of accessible urban scheduled bus operations under diverse operating conditions throughout the state.

Operators are eligible for up to a maximum of \$150,000 per contract or urban area under the guidelines for this year. Guidelines for 1997/98 are in the process of being finalised.

- (2) \$1.5 million has been allocated under the program in 1996/97. A further \$3 million is allocated for expenditure in 1997/98 and 1998/99.

\$1.2 million has been committed or expended to date in 1996/97 to provide subsidy towards the purchase of 23 buses. Applications for the remaining \$0.3 million are expected by the end of the financial year.

- (3) Though it is still early in the current ABP program, I would be favourably disposed towards approaching the Treasurer to seek to extend the current program beyond 1998/99, subject to funding being available.

Queensland Transport is currently exploring the benefits of retrofitting existing buses to make them accessible in response to an anti-discrimination claim in Townsville.

Queensland Rail (QR) currently has in progress an \$8 million project to provide disabled access including the following:

- Installation of lifts at Central, Eagle Junction, Toombul and Petrie stations;
- Installation of overhead bridge at Petrie station;
- Construction of access ramps to platforms at Wynnum North, Dakabin, Booval, Wacol and Holmview;
- Provision of accessible toilets at limited stations.

The project is to be undertaken over four financial years and commenced in 1996/97.

In addition, QR has had discussions with Surfside Buslines in relation to providing a more suitable integrated bus/rail service when the Gold Coast rail line is extended to Nerang in December 1997 and later to Robina in April 1998. At this stage, broad agreement has been reached by QR and Surfside that the buses to provide this integrated service will be accessible to people with disabilities.

The Intermodal Facilities Program receives ongoing annual funding increased each year in accordance with CPI. \$1.72 million is allocated for this program in 1997/98. The Intermodal Facilities Program provide funding to improve bus stop infrastructure. Installation of any required accessible bus stops occurs as part of this program.

- (4) Queensland Transport has a target of 10% of the taxi fleet within each taxi service area to be accessible taxis. There are 150 accessible taxi licences throughout Queensland. Recently a further 10 accessible taxi licences were released within the Brisbane region, bringing the number of accessible taxi licences in Brisbane to 59. More than 70 applications were received for these Brisbane licences with the licences being sold for an average price of \$92,000. This high demand is evidence of the scope and commercial potential of providing accessible taxis. Subject to monitoring of the performance standards for response times it is expected another 10 licences in Brisbane may be released in the second half of 1997.

Where feasible and funding is available, QR is incorporating features suitable for people with disabilities into rail facilities.

I understand that Queensland is the only state currently providing assistance to urban bus operators to assist in the purchase of accessible buses.

- (5) While there are currently 25 accessible buses in route service in Queensland and over 24 on order, there are no specific benchmarks being adopted at this stage in Queensland.

We are currently adopting a cautious approach to the draft Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport.

Buses have a working life of 25 years, and therefore a responsible approach to implementing Standards must be taken. In this regard, more research is required on the potential loss of capacity of the bus fleets and financial impact imposed on bus operators.

A report produced by the Australian Bus and Coach Association has assessed the cost implication of adopting the draft standards at \$3 billion. This includes future additional capital and operational costs. The report also projects that the private route bus industry will not be financially viable after the fifth and sixth year of implementing the draft Standards in their current form.

The cost to QR is estimated to be between \$180 million and \$350 million depending to some extent on how the Standards are interpreted. The draft Standards will impact heavily in the following key areas:

Access onto and between all station platforms, requiring either long ramps structures or lifts.

Possible raising of platforms to reduce the step from platform to train.

Visual information displays to all rollingstock.

Rollingstock door modifications.

Modification to station buildings to provide required amenities such as disabled toilets, handrails, tactile strips, etc.

Provision of improved signage and audible communication.

Rollingstock modification, particularly to Traveltrain rollingstock, to provide required aisle widths and appropriate sleeping berth, shower and toilet facilities.

(6) I do not propose to bring legislation to the House concerning accessible transport.

(7) In June 1996 Australian Transport Council (ATC) endorsed in principle the draft Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport as a technically feasible way of making public transport services accessible and agreed to forward them to the Attorney-General to prepare a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS).

In November 1996, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department was advised that Queensland Transport could not support authorisation of the Standards at this stage. This was until funding issues were resolved and a detailed analysis undertaken of the potential demand for accessible transport services by people with a disability to ascertain the necessity of full compliance and whether other practical options could be explored.

Acceptance of the draft Standards would be made easier if Federal funding was available to assist with the capital cost impacts.

423. Peace and Good Behaviour Act

Mr ROBERTS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (2/5/97)—

With reference to orders issued under the Peace and Good Behaviour Act—

(1) How many orders have been issued under the Act for each of the years 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 respectively?

(2) How many cases involving a breach of such orders occurred for each year respectively, and how many prosecutions or penalties were applied as a result of such breaches?

(3) How many orders involved or were granted on the basis of threats or fear of violence against the complainant?

(4) How many breaches of orders involved violence?

(5) What type of penalties were applied for each breach dealt with by the court?

Mr Beanland (3/6/97):

(1) Statistics are not available for the years 1992, 1993, and 1994. Statistics for 1995 and 1996 are available from the Case Register System which includes 65% of the State Magistrate Courts. This shows that in 1995, 294 orders were issued and in 1996, 420 orders were issued.

(2) In 1995 there were 14 breach cases, with 10 penalties issued. In 1996 there were 17 breach cases, with 2 penalties issued.

(3) This information is not available.

(4) This information is not available.

(5) In 1995 the penalties included 1 fine, 1 compensation order, and approximately 9 general orders made with 1 case discharged. In 1996 the penalties included 2 fines, 1 compensation order and 2 general orders made. An order made by the Court can consist of a mixture of a fine, a compensation order or a general order for one breach of the Act. A general order consists of an order made by the Court that is not financial in nature.

424. Rural Fire Brigades, Breathing Equipment

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (2/5/97)—

(1) Will he confirm that if a Rural Fire Brigade needs to change an "O" ring in breathing equipment, a procedure which takes 20 seconds, it is necessary for them to take the equipment to town and pay \$140.00 for its repair?

(2) Will he explain reasons for this inefficient and inequitable practice which penalises Rural Fire Brigades, whose members are supposed to pay these sums of money out of their own funds?

Mr Veivers (29/5/97):

(1) The cost of repair and the location of an approved repair technician varies from place to place.

(2) Breathing Apparatus (BA) sets must be serviced every 12 months, in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. The annual service includes the replacement of all "O" rings and seals.

In accordance with the approved Australian Standard, the manufacturer has specified that any repair or service must be carried out by an authorised technician.

The critical role of BA in the safety of fire fighters requires precise attention to operational tolerances and reliability and therefore requires the highest level of technical expertise and resources.

As a consequence, brigades are required to take equipment to their nearest authorised technician for maintenance or repair.

No rural brigade is required to have BA. Any brigade in possession of BA has obtained it as a brigade initiative.

425. Cyclone Justin

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Premier (6/5/97)—

Will he detail the applicant and amount of each claim submitted for disaster relief arising from losses and damages caused by Cyclone Justin, divided into those claims which were successful and those which were not?

Mr Borbidge (5/6/97): To 30 May, 1997 disaster relief assistance payments amounting to \$58,907.50 have been made by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care to 221 applicants who sustained losses and damage during Cyclone Justin. Additional payments will be made as repairs to dwellings are completed and invoices received. Respect for the confidentiality of applicants' personal details precludes me from providing the names of individual applicants and the amounts paid to them.

426. Gateway Motorway

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (6/5/97)—

With reference to his decision to encourage more heavy vehicles to use the soon to be opened extension to the Gateway Motorway between the Pacific Highway and the Logan Motorway—

- (1) Prior to making his decision, (a) what estimates were done by his department to determine how many vehicles will use the motorway extension beyond the estimates outlined in the 1993-94 environmental impact assessment, (b) what noise testing or evaluations have been done on these new traffic levels to ensure that noise levels do not exceed the guarantees given as a result of lengthy consultations with the community which arrived at agreed noise outcomes and heights of noise barriers along the motorway route and (c) what estimates were done by his department to determine the impact of his decision on traffic numbers currently using Kessels Road?
- (2) What financial assessments were done prior to his decision to change the tolls on the Gateway Motorway extension/Logan Motorway and what are they?
- (3) Did he or his department consult local transport companies prior to making his decision to determine whether their vehicles would increase their usage of the Gateway Motorway Extension and decrease their usage of Kessels Road?

- (4) Will he provide me with a copy of the results of these tests/evaluations so that consultations with the local community can continue?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97):

(1a) No further modelling or analysis has been carried out to estimate vehicle use of the motorway extension. However, extensive classified traffic counts were taken prior to the opening to determine existing traffic patterns. In two to three months after new traffic patterns have been established, further classified traffic counts will be taken and analysed.

(1b) Noise predictions for the design of noise reduction measures have taken into account growth in traffic in accordance with normal design procedures. However, it should be noted that even if the truck traffic should be double the early predictions, the difference in noise levels would not be perceptible to the human ear.

(1c) As indicated in question 1(a), no further modelling or analysis has been done to estimate the changes in traffic on the various major routes that are likely to benefit from the opening of the Gateway Extension. The traffic counts taken and proposed will measure the real benefits achieved.

(2) Financial modelling was carried out for the Logan Motorway Company to assess the impacts of investment and subsequent net revenues on the debt profile. The resulting debt profile has been approved for long-term financial planning.

(3) The Department has not consulted with the transport industry outside the consultations that were part of the South-East Queensland Freight Study.

(4) There are no results/evaluations available in a form that can be handed to the Member for Sunnybank. However, officers of the Department of Main Roads will be pleased to assist in any further community consultation, especially in the area of heavy vehicle travel patterns.

427. Electricity Tariffs

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (6/5/97)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 90 on Government policy on electricity tariffs, in which he stated, "in real terms, domestic consumers across the State will not pay any more for their electricity in the future than they pay now"—

- (1) As the price caps on domestic power prices will expire within five years (ie. at the end of 2001), what evidence is there to categorically prove that consumers will not be paying any more in real terms beyond 2001 than they are now?
- (2) As Table 5.3 on page 57 of the Queensland Electricity Industry Structure Task Force shows that the proposed removal of uniform tariffs will result in domestic price increases in some distribution areas of up to 28 per cent, is he suggesting that efficiency improvements of that quantum will be achieved through his reforms such that prices will not have to rise when the price caps are removed in 2001?

- (3) As Queensland domestic prices are still 33 per cent lower than those in Victoria, and at around the same level as prices in NSW recorded after their reforms have been put in place, is it not possible that the scope for price reductions in an already efficient industry is more limited than has been the experience of other States?

Mr Borbidge (5/6/97):

(1) The Government's electricity reform strategy aims to achieve long-term delivery of efficient, low-cost electricity to Queenslanders; and not just a five-year "hit" on lower prices. Underpinning this outcome is the creation of competition in the contestable sectors of the market—generating and retailing; and also independent economic regulation of the natural monopoly sectors of transmission and distribution. The imposition of a price cap is essentially a transitional measure to give certainty to consumers until such time as the new competitive environment takes effect throughout the State. Eventually, the price cap will become irrelevant to all consumers except those in the remote zone because competitive forces in the electricity market will act to keep prices low.

(2) The Honourable Leader of the Opposition, like his Opposition colleagues, has great difficulty in understanding the context of Table 5.3 on Page 57 of the Task Force report. Simply put, this table estimates the impact of both full cost reflective pricing and the removal of the uniform tariff on average retail prices in various areas of the State. As both the Minister and I have previously stated on a number of occasions, it has never been the Government's intention to adopt this approach. Rather, in addition to what will be significant productivity gains in the industry from competition, the Government has adopted a number of measures to protect those customers who are disadvantaged by high transmission and distribution costs. These measures include the establishment of a remote zone to "house" those customers who because of their remoteness would not benefit from a competitive market and within which prices would be permanently capped at the existing level in real terms. For customers outside this zone the Government will be putting in place the best possible price signals while protecting those customers disadvantaged by higher cost of supply.

(3) Comparison of Queensland domestic prices with those applying in Victoria is not the complete benchmark. Victorian prices were inflated by the Victorian government in response to the high debt position of that State and these prices underpinned the privatisation process. Prices to Victorian domestic customers will no doubt fall considerably as a result of competition reform when the existing price regulatory arrangements expire. However, prices to contestable Victorian business and industry users are already tracking below those available in Queensland. The competition reforms proposed by the Government are aimed at delivering competitive prices to Queensland business whilst at the same time ensuring domestic prices will remain at a low level compared to other States. This will enhance Queensland's attractiveness as a location for new

projects as well as providing low cost power to all Queenslanders.

428. Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (6/5/97)—

With reference to the grazing homestead perpetual leases administered by the Department of Natural Resources—

- (1) How many such leases exist in Queensland?
- (2) Who are the lessees of each of these holdings?
- (3) What is the area of each holding?
- (4) What rent is paid to the Crown in respect of each holding?

Mr Hobbs (27/5/97):

(1) There are 2968 Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases.

(2) The names of the lessees of each Grazing Homestead Perpetual Lease are available by searching the leasehold land register maintained by the Registrar of Titles. I am not prepared to divert my Department's resources into producing a listing of lessee names. However, I have provided the member with a list of the title references to each Grazing Homestead Perpetual Lease (attached) which will assist him to perform a search of the leasehold land register.

(3) The total area of land contained within all Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases is approximately 21,933,095 hectares. The area of each Grazing Homestead Perpetual Lease is available by searching the leasehold land register maintained by the Registrar of Titles. I am not prepared to divert my Department's resources into producing a list of lease areas.

(4) I am not prepared to provide the amount of the annual rent charged for each lease under the Land Regulation 1995, as this information is confidential. For the 1996/97 financial period the total rent levied for all Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases amounted to \$3,135,871.

429. National Trail

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Natural Resources (6/5/97)—

With reference to his plans to promote the National Trail—

- (1) How much of this trail passes through existing or proposed national park?
- (2) How does he intend to allow horses to pass through these parks in contravention of the national park management policy of exclusion of domestic animals?
- (3) Does he believe this plan should be changed; if so, to what?
- (4) Does he believe the National Trail should be excised from those national parks it traverses?

Mr Hobbs (27/5/97):

(1) I am informed that the Bicentennial National Trail traverses a short section of approximately 3km in the Daintree National Park and a further 5km in the Hann Tableland National Park. In a number of other instances the trail follows gazetted roads through national parks at Cedar Bay, Homevale, and Main Range. The only proposed national park that I am aware of the trail traversing is at Goodnight Scrub near Bundaberg.

(2) (3) & (4) In my Ministerial Statement of 30 April 1997 I stated that ministerial responsibility for matters affecting the Bicentennial National Trail recently passed to me as Minister for Natural Resources. This responsibility is primarily one of coordination of actions associated with the trail.

These parts of the question are primarily about the National Parks policy and as such should be directed to my colleague the Minister for the Environment.

430. National and Environmental Parks, Bundaberg Area

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Environment (6/5/97)—

What is the number of staff and expenditure for all National Parks, Environmental Parks and other areas under his management for the Bundaberg district for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and budgeted for 1996-97?

Mr Littleproud (3/6/97): Details of "On Estate" expenditure and staffing numbers for the Bundaberg District for the years 1993/94, 1994/95, 1995/96 and budgeted for 1996/97 are as follows.

(A) Staffing Details

1993/94	7
1994/95	8
1995/96	8
1996/97	9

(B) Expenditure Details

1993/94	\$942,570
1994/95	\$689,283
1995/96	\$606,025
1996/97	\$652,468

Note: Year 1993/94 is significantly higher due to "one-off" funding.

431. Pacific Highway

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (6/5/97)—

With reference to the Pacific Highway between the Gold Coast and Brisbane—

Has a review of the 100km an hour speed limit been conducted; if so, when was the review carried out and what were the recommendations?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97): The Department of Main Roads has been undertaking a review of speed limits on all State-controlled roads as a part of implementing the Queensland Speed Management Strategy.

A review of the speed limits on the Pacific Highway was completed in December 1996. This review was completed through the application of enhanced

engineering guidelines which evaluate a range of criteria associated with prevailing vehicle speeds, the road and speed environment, the road type or function, and the history of crashes. The review recommended that the existing speed limits be retained except where roadworks were occurring.

There have been some concerns expressed to me regarding the speed limits that apply at roadwork sites on the Pacific Highway. Speed limits at roadworks are determined with the safety of both the roadworkers and motorists in mind. Speed limits at these sites during non work hours are the responsibility of the contractor who has control of the site and is liable for the safety of motorists in such potentially hazardous environments.

The aim of the speed limit review was to improve the consistency and credibility of speed limits. This government is fulfilling its commitment to the Queensland public that speed cameras will not be operated on a road where the speed limit has not been reviewed. Given that the speed limit review on the Pacific Highway has been completed a number of sites have been approved, and are currently being used, for speed camera operations.

Finally, the speed limit on the Pacific Highway will be reviewed again following the implementation of the Government's major upgrading program of the highway to the Pacific Motorway.

432. Townsville Port Authority, Rail Loop

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (6/5/97)—

- (1) Have negotiations between Queensland Rail and the Townsville Port Authority for the new rail loop been completed?
- (2) When were these negotiations completed or when are they expected to be completed?
- (3) What are the details of the arrangements between Queensland Rail and the Townsville Port Authority?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97):

(1) The commercial negotiations between Queensland Rail and the Townsville Port Authority regarding the new loop are completed. There remains to be finalised one issue only and that relates to benchmark soil contamination results around the balloon loop.

(2) The commercial negotiations were essentially completed late 1996 with final documentation awaiting the benchmark contamination study. Draft final documents have been prepared, with executable documents pending advice on contamination. It is expected that documents will be executed by the end of the 1996/97 financial year.

(3) The details of the arrangements between Queensland Rail and the Townsville Port Authority are commercially confidential, however the broad context of the agreements is as follows:

There are essentially 2 agreements.

The first covers the arrangements that apply to the existing balloon loop infrastructure currently

being used for the transport of nickel ore on behalf of Queensland Nickel Pty Ltd.

The second deals with access to the land on which the existing balloon loop sits and also provides for the establishment of the duplicated balloon loop which will predominantly be used for the unloading of mineral concentrates.

433. Wynnum Hospital

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Health (6/5/97)—

With reference to health facilities at the Wynnum Hospital—

- (1) What facilities are available at Wynnum Hospital for the conduct of day surgery and/or minor operating procedures?
- (2) What would be the cost of installing such facilities?
- (3) Is it possible to share the cost/amortise the costs between the hospital and private doctors and/or dentists who might wish to use the facilities?
- (4) Will not provision of such day surgery/minor operative facilities greatly compliment a specialist out patient facility by virtue of their encouragement of private specialists to use the premises and make themselves available for public patient treatment?

Mr Horan (5/6/97):

(1) Minor operating procedures are carried out as part of Wynnum Hospital's outpatient role.

(2 & 3) I am pleased to inform the House that approval in principle has been given for the development of a free-standing private Day Surgery facility in Bay Terrace at Wynnum. I am advised that this new facility is likely to absorb those private practitioners who would otherwise be interested in participating in a similar venture on the Wynnum Hospital site. This would leave any similar venture uneconomical.

(4) The Bayside District Health Service in conjunction with medical staff from the Princess Alexandra Hospital is currently exploring a range of proposals as to how Specialist outreach services may be best provided to residents of the Bayside District.

434. Cairns Base Hospital

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Health (6/5/97)—

What new specialities and what upgraded specialities will be included in the re-development of Cairns Base Hospital?

Mr Horan (5/6/97): I welcome the opportunity to inform the House, and the people of Cairns, of the improvements to service afforded by the Coalition's Cairns Hospital Redevelopment. On 4 April 1997, I announced an additional \$5 million for the redevelopment, bringing the total hospital project cost to \$105 million.

About \$3.2 million of the new funding will be used for the establishment of a 12 bed rehabilitation unit,

complete with hydrotherapy pool, which will be used for treating young brain damaged patients, long-term stroke patients and spinal injury patients.

The remaining \$1.8 million will be allocated to the Hospital's new clinical services building for increased facilities and space for oncology and haematology specialities, and for education and research.

I would like to place on record my appreciation for the outstanding work of the honourable members for Barron River and Mulgrave, who have worked strongly to ensure the rehabilitation unit would be included in the redevelopment.

The former Labor State Government, of which the honourable member for Cairns was Treasurer, promised a rehabilitation unit for the redevelopment project but did not provide the funding. Labor had only provided \$70 million, a figure well short of the health needs of Cairns and District. The Coalition has had to clean up this Labor mess through the injection of an additional \$35 million to the project. As a result, the redevelopment of Cairns Hospital can now provide the majority of services at Level 5, with a number of tertiary Level 6 services.

Generally, the proposed role delineation of individual services to be provided are identified below:-

	CURRENT	PROPOSED
Pathology	5	5/6
Pharmacy	4	5
Medical Imaging	5	5
Nuclear Medicine	4	5
Anaesthetics	5	6
Intensive Care	5	6
Coronary Care	4/5	5
Operating Suite	5	5/6
Emergency Services	5	5
General Medicine	5	6
- Cardiology	5	5
- Dermatology	5	5
- Endocrinology	5	5
- Gastroenterology	5	5
- Haematology	3	5
- Immunology	3	4/5
- Infectious Diseases	3	5
- Neurology	3	5
- Oncology (Medicine)	4	5
- Oncology (Radiation)	4	4
- Renal Medicine	5	5
- Respiratory Medicine	5	5
- Rheumatology	4	5
General Surgery:	5	5
- Burns	3	3
- Day	3	4/5
- Ear Nose & Throat	-	4
- Gynaecology	5	5
- Neurosurgery	4	4/5
- Ophthalmology	3	5
- Orthopaedics	5	5
- Plastic/Reconstructive Surgery	5	5
- Urology	-	5
- Vascular Surgery	5	5
Obstetrics	5	5
Neonatal	4	5
Paediatric Medicine	4/5	4/5
Paediatric Surgery	4	4
Rehabilitation	3	5

435. Primary Producer Organisations, Trade Unionism

Mr MULHERIN asked the Premier (6/5/97)—

With reference to his comments regarding the rights of individual workers to freely choose whether they join a trade union organisation or not—

Will his Government amend the Primary Industries Act to outlaw compulsory membership to primary producer organisations; if not, why does he support double standards?

Mr Borbidge (5/6/97): The statute to which I assume the honourable member is referring is the Primary Producers Organisation and Marketing Act (PPO&M Act), which in fact was introduced by the Forgan Smith Labour Government in 1926. The Act provides for the payment of a funding levy by producers to statutory bodies established under the Act. The statutory bodies are established for, and represent the interests of producers in the sugar cane, dairy, pork and commercial fishing industries.

This arrangement ensures that the Government is able to consult with the relevant industry through a single representative organisation and that such an organisation has sufficient financial resources to represent the views of its constituents effectively and facilitate a proper and timely flow of information in both directions.

The funding of these bodies by way of the compulsory levy ensures that these objectives are met and provides significant benefits to all members of the industries in question.

If any producers in these industries have a specific problem with the way in which the relevant representative body is representing their interest, that they have two main options.

Firstly, they can pursue the matter through the appropriate channels within each Organisation.

Secondly, under the provisions of the PPO&M Act which the Honourable Neville Harper introduced when he was the Minister in 1987, it is possible for thirty percent of the producers in any of the four industries covered by the Act to effect a review of the Organisation. If this thirty percent petition for a poll, then a poll of the entire producer membership in that industry would be conducted by DPI, and if fifty percent voted and sixty percent of these were in favour of abolition, the Organisation would cease to exist.

This is a democratic process which is available to the membership of each of the four bodies operating under the Act, namely Canegrowers, the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, the Queensland Pork Producers' Organisation and the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation.

I would add that the PPO&M Act and a similar statute relating to the fruit and vegetable industry, the Fruit Marketing Organisation Act, are to be reviewed and the matter of the compulsory producer funding of the statutory producer representative bodies operating under these Acts will be addressed during these reviews. I do not intend to pre-empt the outcome of the reviews but I can assure honourable

members that all producers will have the opportunity for input.

Finally, can I suggest that if the honourable member for Mackay really wants to improve his knowledge of primary industries and primary industry legislation he should make the time to consult with his predecessor in that electorate, Mr Ed Casey.

Mr Casey was a strong supporter of the PPO&M Act and certainly the compulsory levy provisions of that Act were untouched during the six and a half years of the Goss Government.

436. National Australia Bank, Petrie

Mr HAYWARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/5/97)—

With reference to the proposed closure of the National Australia Bank at Petrie, and the consequent disadvantage which will occur to local people and small business operators in the local area—

What action will she take to ensure that this bank, the only bank at Petrie, remains open for business?

Mrs Sheldon (11/6/97): Whilst the closure by National Australia Bank of its Petrie branch is regrettable, it appears to be a commercial decision taken by National Australia Bank and, therefore, is not a matter over which this Government has influence. The activities of banks are regulated under Commonwealth legislation and it is not the role of the State Government to oversee the level of services provided by banks in Queensland. Accordingly, community representatives may wish to approach the Federal Member for the region.

In addition, I am advised that some banks can be accessed via the Australia Post Office in Petrie. Australia Post operates an electronic system called "Giropost" which connects most of its offices with subscribing banks. The Giropost system is available to all banks and currently is accessed by Commonwealth Bank, Suncorp/Metway, Advance Bank, Bank of Melbourne, Bank of Adelaide, Macquarie Bank, Challenge Bank, Citibank and the Hongkong Bank of Australia. Deposits to, and withdrawals from, accounts at each of these banks can be carried out through the post office, although services commonly are limited to transactions on passbook and keycard/cashcard accounts.

437. Landfill, Gladstone Area

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Environment (6/5/97)—

With reference to a proposal to develop a major landfill to serve both Calliope Shire and Gladstone City—

- (1) Which sites are being examined for this facility, what size of landfill is being suggested and what lifespan is it projected to have?
- (2) Why are these plans not currently being made public and what level of public consultation is planned before the project gets its necessary approvals?
- (3) Will the landfill be designed for only putrescible

waste or are other wastes being planned for the facility; if so, which ones?

- (4) What sort of costs are envisaged for the facility, how will these costs be shared and will the State Government be subsidising the facility; if so, to what extent?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) There is no firm proposal to develop a major landfill site to serve both Calliope Shire and Gladstone City. However, a consultancy has been let jointly by the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry and local authorities to assess the type and quantity of solid and liquid wastes generated in the region and the current disposal methods for such wastes. The consultant must also identify options for the cost effective treatment and disposal of municipal and industrial hazardous wastes.

(2) See (1).

(3) See (1).

(4) See (1).

438. Queensland Health, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (6/5/97)—

With reference to recent Government advertising campaigns—

- (1) What is the department's advertising and promotional budget?
 (2) How much to date has been spent on advertising and on promotional work by the department?
 (3) Will he name the various advertising campaigns and quantify the cost of each campaign?

Mr Horan (5/6/97):

(1) Although advertising expenditure is closely controlled, there is no set advertising budget for the Department of Health. Expenditure on advertising is incorporated into programs (for example health promotion programs). The life cycle of the program determines the amount of funding allocated to advertising and promotion as opposed to other requirements such as research and training programs.

(2 & 3) Labor's health promotion structure proved to be an expensive operation, with administration and support consuming resources at the expense of direct health promotion.

Accordingly, the function of the Queensland Health Promotion 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.

The new Council 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/scalds prevention, immunisation, skin cancer,

nutrition, designer drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, local programs, influenza, food safety, and promoting health in the workplace will be priorities for the new Council and are already the subject of specific projects.

Within these projects, I am advised that the following amounts have been identified as expenditure this financial year on advertising for particular campaigns:

Injury

'Hot Water Burns Like Fire' scalds prevention

Expenditure: \$250,000

Immunisation

'Please don't forget to protect' campaign

Expenditure: \$383,000

Tobacco

Tobacco Cessation campaign

Expenditure: \$250,000

Women's Cancer Screening Services

BreastScreen Queensland Campaign 'You must remember this'

Expenditure: \$50,000

Cervical Cancer—'Excuse Me' campaign

Expenditure: \$130,000

Mental Health—Mental Health Advertising and Promotion

Youth At Risk Program—Wide Bay

Expenditure: \$54,000

Queensland Health also incurs classified advertising costs as a normal costs borne by all Government departments. As the honourable member is aware, an amount of \$50,906.30 was spent in December 1996 on an advertising campaign which was designed to forestall, and succeeded in forestalling, further industrial action.

439. Education Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (6/5/97)—

With reference to recent Government advertising campaigns—

- (1) What is the department's advertising and promotional budget?
 (2) How much to date has been spent on advertising and on promotional work by the department?

Mr Quinn (4/6/97):

(1) The Public and Media Relations Unit of Education Queensland has a budget of \$961,800 for the 1996-97 financial year.

(2) Year to date expenditure, as at 31 May 1997, against the budget for the Public and Media Relations Unit is \$838,480. Expenditure related to advertising for operational activities such as, recruitment and selection, has not been included in this amount.

440.Importation of Meat from Victoria

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (6/5/97)—

With reference to the recent spate of meat-related food poisoning outbreaks in Victoria—

What steps is he taking to prohibit the importation of meat and meat products produced in Victoria under the deregulated domestic system of self-inspection by company employees in place of Government inspection?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. To my knowledge there is no evidence that the recent spate of meat-related food poisoning outbreaks in Victoria can be associated with the system of company inspection within a quality assurance environment.

2. I also understand that there is no evidence that any possible contamination of such meat can be attributed to processing procedures at the abattoirs where an audited system of company inspection is in place.

3. The Chairman of the Victorian Meat Authority has stated that the food poisoning incidents had their origin in a breakdown in food hygiene at some point after meat products were cooked—either within manufacturing premises or further along the chain of transport, storage, wholesale/retail sale and meat preparation. In Victoria, those processes remain subject to direct supervision by food safety inspectors, usually from local government.

4. I have no intention to seek to prohibit the import of meat and meat products from Victoria as the honourable member suggests.

5. It is significant that, even though meat products from a number of the further manufacturing establishments involved in the incidents were distributed to other States, the only known related food poisoning outbreaks occurred in Victoria.

6. Effective recall procedures in these States were put in place by the relevant authorities—the State Health Departments.

7. The honourable member would be aware that the Queensland Meat Industry Act of 1993, introduced by the previous Government, provided for domestic abattoirs to operate with full company inspection under approved quality assurance arrangements. A number of domestic abattoirs have successfully made this transition with auditing oversight provided by qualified meat safety officers employed by the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority. More domestic abattoirs will move this way in due course.

441.Meat Workers, Merinda

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (6/5/97)—

(1) What role or negotiations did he or his cabinet proceed in an endeavour to save the jobs of 250 meat workers at Merinda?

(2) When and with whom did these occur?

(3) When did he receive confirmation that the jobs were to be sacrificed by Borthwicks?

Mr Borbidge (5/6/97):

(1) & (2) The closure of the abattoir at Merinda was a management decision of the abattoir's owners.

(3) My Office was advised by the Officer of the Minister for Primary Industries on the day the public announcement was made.

442.Environmental Management Plans, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (6/5/97)—

With reference to environment management plans (EMPs) provided for under the Environmental Protection Act and with reference to the Bulimba Electorate—

(1) Which companies/organisations currently have EMPs with the department?

(2) What are the environmental issues covered in each of these EMPs respectively?

(3) What is the objective stated for each issue?

(4) What was the commencement date for each of these EMPs?

(5) What monitoring process does the department have to ensure the terms of these EMPs are being complied with?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) The following companies operating in the Bulimba Electorate currently have EMPs with the Department of Environment. Meadow Lea Foods Limited is listed five times to enable later answers to be related to separate EMPs.

1. Queensland Abattoir Corporation
2. Meadow Lea Foods Limited
3. Meadow Lea Foods Limited
4. Meadow Lea Foods Limited
5. Meadow Lea Foods Limited
6. Meadow Lea Foods Limited

(2) The issues covered in the EMPs are, respectively:

1. Contamination of air from rendering plant baghouse emissions.
2. Contamination of land and water from wastewater leaking from an anaerobic treatment pond.
3. Contamination of water from wastewater overflowing due to plant mechanical failure.
4. Contamination of land from wastewater overflowing due to plant mechanical failure.
5. Contamination of land and water from wastewater leaking from a tradewaste pit.
6. Contamination of land and water from wastewater overflowing from a clarifier during a storm event.

(3) The objectives stated in the EMPs are, respectively:

1. To prevent further occurrences of fires in the baghouse.
 2. To cease using and decommission the effluent treatment ponds by 30 September 1997. To manage the existing effluent treatment ponds in the interim period to ensure that they do not overflow. To remediate the ponds and surroundings to an appropriate standard acceptable to the Contaminated Sites Section of the Department of Environment and report on measures taken.
 3. To undertake the necessary works/plant modifications to obviate a recurrence of the wastewater overflow event. To implement the necessary documentary and staff procedural changes following modifications to the operating system/s. To regrade/form-up/bund the ground/soil adjacent to the surge tank and existing in-ground collection pit.
 4. To undertake the necessary works/plant modifications to obviate a recurrence of the wastewater spill event. To implement the necessary documentary and staff procedural changes following modifications to the operating system/s.
 5. To reform the tradewaste pit.
 6. To bund and remediate the wastewater treatment area and surrounds as set out in the environmental management plan to an appropriate standard acceptable to the Department of Environment and report on the measures taken.
- (4)
1. 12 June 1995
 2. 30 September 1996
 3. 24 November 1996
 4. 24 November 1996
 5. 27 February 1997
 6. 3 May 1997

(5) All companies conducting EMPs are required to submit reports to the Department to indicate progress with the implementation of the undertakings in the EMPs. These reports are assessed by the Department to confirm compliance with the EMPs. Site inspections by the Department are conducted as appropriate to confirm compliance with the EMPs.

443. Woodford Correctional Centre

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (6/5/97)—

With reference to the recent riot at Woodford Prison—

- (1) Was at least \$500,000 worth of machinery earmarked for Woodford prisoner employment training not operational for the prison's opening?
- (2) Was it the lack of this equipment that led to the high level of prisoner inactivity "that contributed to the riot at the prison"?

- (3) Why wasn't this equipment available at the time of the prison opening; was it the result of funding cutbacks in the 1996-97 Coalition Budget?
- (4) Have both the woodwork shop and the sheet metal area now been fully equipped and made available for prisoners?
- (5) What work is now available for prisoners aside from that in the canteen or cleaning work?

Mr Cooper (28/5/97):

- (1) Yes
- (2) The Inspectors investigating the incident found that the lack of equipment was a contributing factor to the "high level of prisoner inactivity".
- (3) The equipment was not available at the time of the opening of the Correctional Centre due to a number of factors. There were no funding cutbacks.
- (4) The woodwork shop and sheet metal area will be fully operational by mid June.
- (5) There are currently more than 140 prisoners employed throughout the Centre, 30 of these within the Industries blocks. Apart from these prisoners employed in the industries blocks, the jobs include the kitchen, laundry, library, activities, barbers, landscaping, peer tutors and full time students.

444. Asbestos in Schools, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (6/5/97)—

With reference to asbestos roof sheeting at schools within the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) Which blocks in which schools contain asbestos roof sheeting?
- (2) What is the timetable for the removal of this sheeting?

Dr Watson (4/6/97):

(1) The attached spreadsheet details all schools in the Nudgee Electorate and indicates their current status in terms of audit and the existence of asbestos roof sheeting. Those that have not been audited will be audited during the 1997/98 financial year. However, the schools that have not yet been formally audited have been subjected to a visual audit. The Pre School Centres at Northgate, Nudgee, Virginia and the Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre were not subjected to visual audit as the type of construction does not include asbestos roof sheeting.

(2) Only in the case of deteriorated material which represents a danger to health is there a clear timetable for removal of asbestos roof sheeting. There are no such instances regarding asbestos roof sheeting in the Nudgee electorate.

445. Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court), Torres Strait

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (6/5/97)—

- (1) Is he aware of concern in the Torres Strait over the Government's failure to provide ongoing Justice of the Peace training?

- (2) What steps will the Government take to provide extra training to ensure that there are a sufficient number of Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court) to enable Magistrates Courts to be held in each Torres Strait Island?

Mr Beanland (3/6/97):

(1) No. In fact, the Department has arranged for refresher courses to be held in the communities of Thursday Island and Kowanyama. The courses are being undertaken as part of a Pilot Program to use trained Justices of the Peace in the local Magistrates Courts within these communities. An amount of \$60,000 has been set aside in the budget to conduct the program. Unfortunately, when the training scheme began, some three years ago, proper discussions had not taken place with the Magistracy or the Police to ensure that Justices of the Peace, who had completed the training, would actually be called upon to sit on the bench. This has limited the use of Justices of the Peace in the Magistrates Courts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. The Pilot Programs in Kowanyama and Thursday Island will establish procedures for Justices of the Peace to work with the Magistracy and Police and study the effect of culturally appropriate processes and sentencing. Consultation has taken place with the Kowanyama Aboriginal Community via the Aboriginal Co-Ordinating Council in Cairns. Discussions have taken place with Council Chairpersons in relation to Thursday Island. Training dates have been arranged for refresher training in June 1997. This Government has not only continued the training but will ensure that the training is put to good use.

(2) Once the Pilot Programs in Kowanyama and Thursday Island have been completed and a system is put into place where Justices of the Peace will be used in Magistrates Courts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, further training will be considered. The Member should be aware that it is not possible for Magistrates Courts to be held on each Torres Strait Island because Magistrates Courts, presided over by Justices of the Peace, can only be held where a Clerk of the Court is stationed, as provided for in the Justices Act 1986. This is why the Pilot programs are being conducted at Kowanyama and Thursday Island. Training has taken place in 38 communities with 161 persons being trained and 112 Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court) being appointed. I am sure that there are currently sufficient numbers of Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Courts) to enable Courts to be conducted in those places that have the ability to do so.

446. Diversionary Centre, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (6/5/97)—

With reference to the "Blue Hills" type saga about the siting of the proposed diversionary centre for Townsville and in view of his last visit to Townsville when nothing was resolved—

- (1) When can people of Townsville expect him to bite the bullet and make a decision, any

decision, about the permanent location of the long-awaited facility?

- (2) In view of the fact that funding for the facility originated from a Federal Government agency allocation of \$700,000 and on which interest has been accruing for some years, what is the present value of that original \$700,000 allocation?

Mr Lingard (16/5/97):

(1) An announcement in respect to the permanent Diversionary Centre site will be made prior to 30 June, 1997.

(2) Allocation of funding to the Diversion from Custody Program in terms of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody was an initiative of the Queensland Government. The allocation of \$700,000 remains within budget and is not interest bearing.

447. Fitzroy Development Road

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (6/5/97)—

With reference to the community concern in the unsafe condition of sections of the Fitzroy Development Road, also known as the Dingo Mt Flora Road, between Middlemount and the Peak Downs Highway—

Does he through the Department of Main Roads intend to approve a funding program for the upgrade of single lane sections of the road to double lane bitumen seal?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97): The current Roads Implementation Program (1996-97 to 2000-01) provides a total of \$6.35 million over five years for the widening of 32 kilometres single-lane sections to two lanes. However, the Dingo—Mt Flora Road has suffered extraordinary damage from the recent wet weather and the cartage of heavy materials to mining areas. As a result, additional maintenance of the road shoulders has been scheduled as a matter of urgency. It is expected that these works will be completed, subject to weather conditions, within the next month.

After inspecting the road and as a result of the increasing traffic and safety issues, I recently announced the approval to accelerate the rebuilding of the road from its current one-lane width to a two-lane bitumen seal. This will result in the complete widening of the highest priority 50 kilometre section within three years.

By accelerating these works it now is expected that the widening of the whole of the Dingo-Mt Flora Road to two lanes can be completed in five years, with emphasis being given to completing sections traversed by the school buses within the first three years. The program will involve a total expenditure in excess of \$13 million.

448. Chermside Regional Centre

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (6/5/97)—

With reference to the Development Control Plan for the Chermide Regional Centre (CRC) which has been gazetted by the State Government, and taking into account that this regional centre will be on the third highest rung of the planning hierarchy under the SEQ 2001 plan for south-east Queensland—

What steps is his department currently taking to develop a long-term accommodation plan to co-locate compatible Government agencies in the CRC, what Government agencies have been identified as most suitable for location in the CRC and will he continue the excellent community consultation process that took place in the initial formation of the DCP?

Dr Watson (4/6/97): The Department of Public Works and Housing (DPWH) has identified the Chermide Regional Centre (CRC) as a strategically significant centre in the management of the Government Office Accommodation portfolio.

An integrated office accommodation strategy will be developed for the centre within the next 12 months incorporating the principles contained in the Development Control Plan for the Chermide Regional Centre and comprising the following steps:

Extensive consultation with all Government Agencies will be undertaken, in order to identify the current and projected demand for Government office accommodation in the Chermide Regional Centre;

Consultation with the Brisbane City Council will be undertaken to ensure that the accommodation strategy is consistent with the Council's objectives and planning requirements; Consultation within the local property market will be undertaken in order to maximise the opportunity for private-sector participation;

Government Agencies will be consulted in order to establish affinities and compatibility for potential collocation;

Accommodation options including acquisition of office accommodation through construction or purchase and/or leasing of suitable office space from the private sector will be identified.

Currently, the Departments of Health, Training and Industrial Relations, Public Works and Housing, Transport, the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Corrective Services Commission occupy office accommodation in the Chermide Regional Centre. The potential for other Agencies to locate in this centre will be identified in the course of the development of the office accommodation strategy.

The procedures involved in the establishment of this integrated office accommodation strategy will ensure that the important community consultation process in continued as a logical extension of the consultation process undertaken in the formation of the Development Control Plan for the Chermide Regional Centre.

449. Families, Youth and Community Care Minister, Cairns Office

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (6/5/97)—

With reference to his ministerial office in Cairns—

- (1) When did this office open to the public?
- (2) How many times has he visited this office since it opened?
- (3) On what dates did he visit this office and how long did he spend there on each occasion?
- (4) How many delegations has he received in this office and which organisations and/or members of the public made up these delegations in each case?
- (5) What activities, other than delegations, have taken place in the office since it opened?
- (6) How many staff are employed in this office and at what level are they employed?

Mr Lingard (16/5/97):

(1) 11 November 1996.

(2-5) I visit the office on each occasion that I am in Cairns and meet with community deputations as required; as well as transacting normal departmental business.

(6) Two (2)— One Administration Officer Class 6(4); One Administration Officer Class 3(1).

450. Leading Schools Program, Archerfield Electorate

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education (6/5/97)—

With reference to my previous question regarding the effect of the Leading Schools proposal on schools in Archerfield Electorate, which received an incomplete answer—

- (1) Which schools in Archerfield Electorate are eligible to become a Leading School?
- (2) Which schools are being considered by the Education Department for inclusion?
- (3) Which District Headquarters will include the schools in Archerfield, and will it be equally accessible to the present excellent services and facilities provided by Southern Vale Support Centre?

Mr Quinn (4/6/97):

(1) The following schools in the Archerfield electorate were eligible for selection as a Leading School in the pilot phase of this initiative:

Band 10: Algester SS

Band 9: Forest Lake SS

Band 8: Acacia Ridge SHS, Acacia Ridge SS, Calamvale Special School, Calamvale SS, Salisbury SHS

(2) All schools in bands 8 to 11, will enter the Leading Schools program over the next three years. However, no schools in the Archerfield electorate have been selected to participate in the Leading Schools pilot, which will commence on 1 July 1997.

(3) The Coopers Plains District will service schools in the Archerfield electorate, providing a continuation of the services presently available from Education Queensland.

451. Cultural Centre; Theatre

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (6/5/97)—

With reference to construction of a new theatre to compliment the present Cultural Centre?

- (1) What were the projected costs for this theatre and its capacity?
- (2) What are the new projected costs and the reason for the blowout?
- (3) Does she accept that costs of this magnitude for a theatre of this capacity are well in excess of similar theatres constructed recently in other Australian capital cities; if not, why not?

Mrs Sheldon (11/6/97):

(1) The approved Planning Brief provides an auditorium with a maximum seating capacity of 850, plus two large rehearsal studios with recording capability, and has a total project budget of \$56 million, including allowances for specialist theatre fitout and control equipment—all to the highest current international standards.

(2) The current projected cost for the approved Planning Brief remains at \$56 million.

(3) There have been no similar State Drama Theatres constructed within other Australian capital cities recently. The \$9 million (approx.) Canberra Playhouse, currently under construction, has a seating capacity of 600, no rehearsal studios, and only minimal back of house and public facilities. The previous auditorium was unsuitable and too large for drama, and has been gutted and reconfigured within the existing building.

The Planning Brief and the project budget for the new Southbank Playhouse at the Queensland Cultural Centre were established by the previous government after a review of the need for the new theatre, and of its scope and costs in comparison with other performing arts venues within Australia and overseas.

The Planning Brief approved by the previous administration provides only limited food and beverage facilities within the theatre, and excluded the cost of fitting out these facilities from the project budget.

452. Ambulance Service and Fire Service, Response Times

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (6/5/97)—

With reference to his answer to questions numbered 228 and 235—

Will he provide, in the format the March 1996 figures were provided, the most recent figures available to him, together with the monthly statistics since March 1996, or whatever periodic statistics may be available?

Mr Veivers (5/6/97): With regard to Question on Notice number 228, the Queensland Ambulance Service at this stage still does not have the figures available for March 1997.

The average response times for March 1996 to February 1997 (the latest complete month of data) is as per the attached table.

Please note that response times for Code 3 cases do not reflect waiting times as these cases are often pre-booked days ahead.

In response to Question on Notice number 235, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has provided the following figures:

(a) April 1996

Greater Brisbane Region	6.56 minutes
Rest of Queensland	7.39 minutes
Whole of Queensland	7.01 minutes

(b) May 1996

Greater Brisbane Region	6.56 minutes
Rest of Queensland	7.43 minutes
Whole of Queensland	6.98 minutes

(c) February 1997

Greater Brisbane Region	6.21 minutes
Rest of Queensland	7.1 minutes
Whole of Queensland	6.68 minutes

(d) April 1997

Greater Brisbane Region	6.89 minutes
Rest of Queensland	6.41 minutes
Whole of Queensland	6.75 minutes

453. Overseas Students; Trade Delegation to Shanghai

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (7/5/97)—

With reference to the April edition of Education Australia which contains statistics from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs showing a slowing in growth of student numbers from Asia and actual reductions in student numbers from Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, The Philippines, and Taiwan between 1996 and 1997 and with respect to overseas students attending Queensland tertiary education institutions—

- (1) How many overseas students did Queensland attract to study in this State in the first quarters of 1995, 1996 and 1997?
- (2) What were the countries of origin of these students and how many students came from each of these countries in the years 1995, 1996 and 1997?
- (3) What is the estimated economic value to our economy of overseas students studying in Queensland for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997?
- (4) Has his department undertaken any analysis of the above figures to determine what impact the current racism debate in Australia is having on current overseas student numbers and those in the future?
- (5) What actions has his department taken via its overseas offices to counter the perception that

Queensland or Australia may be becoming a less attractive place for overseas students to study?

- (6) Will the trade delegation to Shanghai address the issue of overseas students studying in Queensland during its meetings with Government representatives?
- (7) Who is participating in the trade delegation to Shanghai and what companies are they representing?

Mr Slack (3/6/97): Although the Queensland Government is naturally concerned at the possible negative implications from the current "racism debate" for international student numbers in Queensland, there is simply insufficient hard information available at present to adequately determine the impact (if any) of this debate on Queensland's international student market.

Trend data of the nature referred to in the Honourable Minister's question is simply not available for Queensland.

Nevertheless, in answer to the honourable member's question, I can say that—

(1) 19,286 overseas students studied in Queensland in calendar year 1995 and 24,475 studied in Queensland in calendar year 1996. Comparable figures are not available from the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) or Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) for the March quarter of 1995, 1996 or 1997. Although DIMA monitors visa issue from each of its posts on a monthly basis, this is not desegregated to the State level.

(2) According to preliminary statistics from DEETYA, 83.68% of these students in 1995 and 84.20% of these students in 1996 came from Asia. The largest source countries for Queensland in these two years were—

Source Country	Total Number (Preliminary Figure)	
	1995	1996
Republic of Korea	2,328	3,947
Japan	3,531	3,939
Taiwan	2,976	3,715
Malaysia	1,613	2,124
Singapore	1,497	1,744
Indonesia	1,102	1,340
Hong Kong	1,074	1,207
Thailand	756	954

(3) According to preliminary statistics from DEETYA, the expenditure by overseas students in Queensland was \$377M (\$168M in fees and \$209M in goods and services) in 1995 and \$501M (\$224M in fees and \$277M in goods and services) in 1996.

(4) The Department of Economic Development and Trade has consulted closely with DEETYA and DIMA, and will continue to closely monitor the possible impact of this debate on Queensland's valuable international student market.

According to DIMA, although there has been a slight downturn in Visa applications (to Australia as a whole) from some Asian posts in March 1997, this

cannot be necessarily attributed to the race discussion. In fact, I am advised that since the Member for Oxley's Maiden Speech in 1996, the number of applications for student visas has continued to increase compared to the same period in the previous year.

Indeed, in those instances where there has been a decline in the issue of student visas in March 1997 (figures only available for Australia as a whole), there are a number of possible contributing factors other than the "racism debate", for example:-

- (a) The 21% decline in March 1997 in student visa grants from Korea could in part be due to—
 - the increased popularity of working holiday visas, particularly for ELICOS students;
 - procedural changes in the timing of student visa grants; and
 - frugality campaign by the Korean Government which is moving to reduce the flow of funds out of the Country.
- (b) The 23.5% decline in March 1997 in student visa grants in Hong Kong could be due to the impending changeover to Chinese control in June 1997.
- (c) The 39% decline in March 1997 in student visa grants in Taiwan could in part be due to—
 - increase in the student visa application fee;
 - streamlined visa issue by the USA over past 12 months; and
 - the stated view of the Taiwanese Education Minister indicating that it is preferable for students to seek education aboard at the Postgraduate level and not before.
- (d) The 1.3% decline in March 1997 in student visa issue in Malaysia could in part be due to—
 - changes to the Malaysian academic year; and
 - an unusually high number of New Year celebrations (Ramadan).

(5) The Queensland Government recognises the significant value of the international student market to Queensland—both in direct and indirect terms.

As a consequence, I had great pleasure in officially launching a comprehensive and fully integrated International Marketing Strategy for Queensland Education and Training on 14 May 1997.

This Strategy is fully supported by the Queensland Education and Training Industry and is designed to give Queensland a greater presence in overseas student markets. A copy of my speech at this launch is attached.

(6) As part of this strategy, Queensland Management Education was actively promoted at the recent Queensland-Shanghai Business Forum on 19 May 1997.

To support this promotion, my Department funded the production of a folder with eleven (11) loose leaf inserts outlining the Management Education options

available at Queensland's Higher Education and TAFE Institutions.

(7) The trade delegation that I led to Shanghai from 18 to 22 May consisted of more than 40 Queensland firms covering a number of priority sectors in the Queensland economy.

Education services formed part of the traded services sector, one of the three sectors targeted in Shanghai. The following education service providers formed part of the Queensland trade delegation to Shanghai:

Company, Representative—Profile

1. Medetek Pty Ltd, Mr Frank Hodges—Training on the operation and technical support of medical equipment to medical, nursing and technical staff
2. The Bensons Group, Mr Colin Lang—Education and Training for the hospitality, health, retail, business, office, clerical, communications, information technology and education industries
3. The Hospitality Training Company Australia Pty Ltd, Mr Jeremy McNamara—Education and Training for the Hospitality Industry
4. AUSTA Electric, Mr John Harten—Management operation and maintenance training for Electricity generation industry
5. ELMS Pty Ltd, Mr Ian Brown and Mr David Purvis—Providers of learning software for educational institutions and industries providing in-house training
6. Forte School of Music, Ms Gillian Erskine and Ms Joyce Bennett—Music Training and Education
7. SEQEB, Mr John Counter—Management operation and maintenance training for Electricity generation industry
8. North Point TAFE, Mr Mel Dunn—Industrial Training
9. Phoenix Asia Pty Ltd, Ms Denise Bradford—Higher Education Services
10. Asia Direct, Ms Alys Matovic—Student Study Tours into Australia
11. Sunshine Coast University, Dr Paul Ivory—Higher Education Services
12. Central Queensland University, Professor Cheung Soo-May—Higher Education Services

454.TAB

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/5/97)—

With reference to the possible privatisation of the Queensland TAB—

- (1) In the event of privatisation, will the Queensland Government entertain selling a sizeable portion, such as 25 per cent, of the Queensland TAB to a single buyer or would they follow the example of the NSW

Government in capping individual shareholdings at 5 per cent?

- (2) Has there been any discussions between himself, his office or the Queensland TAB with the Sky Channel Racing TV Service, jointly owned by Mr Kerry Packer's Publishing and Broadcasting and News Corporation, in regard to possible privatisation of the Queensland TAB; if so, what was the nature of these discussions?
- (3) What discussions have occurred with the Jupiters Casino operation or long running racecourse tote operators AWA regarding the possible sale of the Queensland TAB?
- (4) What other investors have shown an interest in purchasing part or all of the Queensland TAB?
- (5) What value does he place on the Queensland TAB with poker machine operators excluded?

Mr Cooper (5/6/97):

1. It is premature to discuss options for a possible privatisation of the TAB.
- 2, 3 & 4. As the Member is aware—a decision on the privatisation of the TAB has not yet been made. However, should any discussions with potential purchasers or investors take place at any stage the parties to, and nature of, those discussions would be commercial in confidence.
5. It is premature to canvass possible values for the Queensland TAB.

455.Prince Charles Hospital, Cystic Fibrosis Clinic

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Health (7/5/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that parents are concerned about the future emotional and physical health of their children who have Cystic Fibrosis?
- (2) Is he also aware that the Mater Hospital is facing a crisis situation in that they are having to cope with the influx of young adults with Cystic Fibrosis that are no longer being accepted by Prince Charles Hospital?
- (3) Will he, as a matter of urgency, provide more medical positions and fund a properly coordinated Cystic Fibrosis Clinic at the Prince Charles Hospital with unrestrained access to Cystic Fibrosis sufferers?

Mr Horan (10/6/97):

- (1) Yes, as is this Government.
- (2 & 3) I am advised that there is increased demand and service delivery, but not a crisis. The number of patients treated at the Prince Charles Hospital has increased from 44 to 100 over the last five years. Over 30 patients are now treated at the Mater Hospital. The increase in the numbers of young adults requiring services relates to the improved treatment and service provided to young Cystic Fibrosis patients who now survive to adulthood consequently placing extra pressure on all available services.

In recognition of this increasing demand for services, the Coalition is currently considering the options for improved service provision to Cystic Fibrosis patients statewide. Service priorities are now being determined in the context of these options and the 1997/98 budget, and this important health issue is being given due consideration.

456. Security at Nightclubs

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (7/5/97)—

With reference to yet another knife attack on security staff at a Brisbane nightclub and to his comments following the last attack in which he foreshadowed possible legislation to introduce metal detectors if club management refused "to go that way"—

- (1) At what stage is the legislation presently at?
- (2) When can we expect it to be presented to Parliament?
- (3) If legislation has not yet been prepared, what discussions have occurred, with which nightclubs, over this matter and what decisions have been taken to address these attacks?
- (4) Have police calls for all nightclubs to install security cameras and compile a register of unruly patrons been met; if so, is this register being constantly updated and circulated around all City hotels and clubs; if not, why not?
- (5) Were these calls made by him following the previous attack yet another example of this Government talking tough on crime but in reality doing little?

Mr Borbidge (6/6/97):

(1) to (3) inclusive. Following the incident on 13 March 1997 a meeting occurred between the Chief Superintendent Metropolitan North Region, night club owners, security providers and other stakeholders at the Liquor Licensing Commission. Agreement was reached to form the Central City Licensing Management Committee (CCLMC).

The objectives of that Committee were to reduce alcohol related violence and disorder in and around licensed premises within the central city and improve the image of Brisbane's Central Business District as a safe dining and entertainment area.

The CCLMC formed itself into three working groups to specifically examine issues concerning (1) safety in public spaces, (2) police and the security industry, and (3) licensed venue management.

I am advised that these three working groups have reported back and that they will shortly forward to me a comprehensive report detailing a global approach to the issues involved.

(4) Of the 26 night clubs in the central city are, 18 are fitted with security cameras. All night clubs are required by statute to complete a register. The adoption of a preliminary recommendation has seen the establishment of a communication network between the night clubs and the Conrad Treasury Casino. When a person is evicted from the premises or is a person of concern, the Crowd Controller completes the register and also contacts a person at

the Conrad Treasury Casino who then passes this information onto other night clubs in the immediate vicinity. Further, there is a direct telephone link between the Conrad Treasury Casino and the William Street Police Post.

(5) The establishment of the CCLMC is consistent with my Government's policy on law and order. I look forward to receiving the report and will examine closely the recommendations made.

457. Capital Works Program

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (7/5/97)—

With reference to her Budget Speech and her statement that the overall capital works program of the Government would total \$4 billion in 1996-97—

In respect of each department, what was the allocation for capital works from (a) the Consolidated Fund and (b) Trust and Special Funds, and what proportion of these funds were spent on capital works by each department or agency at 30 April?

Mrs Sheldon (6/6/97): Details of expenditure against the 1996-97 Capital Works program are available in Budget Paper No. 3—Capital Outlays which was released on 27 May.

458. Redcliffe Hospital

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Health (7/5/97)—

With reference to Redcliffe Hospital—

- (1) Is there any truth in rumours spread by the Member for Redcliffe that services have and will be lost, particularly those delivered in wards 3A, 5A and 8, or are these rumours absolutely false?
- (2) What services have been transferred from Caboolture Hospital to Redcliffe Hospital or vice versa?
- (3) Does the Government support the suggestion by the Member for Redcliffe that public patients should receive less service than intermediate patients?
- (4) Is it true that, far from losing their jobs, staff affected by changes at the hospital are still employed, and have had the opportunity to improve their skills and future career prospects?
- (5) What improvements to service delivery have resulted from his establishment of the Redcliffe Peri-Operative Centre?
- (6) Will the Government act on the suggestion by the Member for Redcliffe that it should abandon its "obsession" with waiting lists and what achievements of the Surgery on Time initiative would be threatened by this action?

Mr Horan (10/6/97):

(1) These are rumours absolutely false; in fact, services have increased at Redcliffe Hospital. Changes to the location of services at Redcliffe have enabled the establishment of the highly successful Redcliffe Peri-operative Centre.

27 Gynaecology and Antenatal beds, formerly housed in Ward 8, have been transferred to Ward 5A. No beds have been lost.

I am surprised that the Member for Redcliffe would want to see a continuation of gynaecology in Ward 8. The ward has no piped oxygen or suction and therefore can only be used for minor cases.

The Peri-Operative Centre, on the other hand, has been developed to enhance patient care. It has allowed the development and implementation of a coordinated care approach aimed at the efficient provision of high quality elective surgery service for the Redcliffe community. The outcome has been the streamlining of specific key Surgery on Time processes to improve quality and patient care outcomes.

Another positive outcome of the establishment of this centre is that patients are provided with detailed information on the procedures that will be undertaken. This enables them to have a better understanding of both their condition and how it will be managed.

(2) No services have been transferred from Caboolture Hospital to Redcliffe Hospital or vice versa, nor will any be.

In fact, in order to provide treatment closer to where services are required, an orthopaedic specialist visits Caboolture Hospital from Redcliffe Hospital on a weekly basis to undertake an outpatient and fracture clinic. This is a new service (not a transferred one) which has been specifically implemented to service the needs of the Caboolture/Bribie Island community.

(3) I absolutely reject any suggestion that public patients should be treated as second class citizens. Redcliffe Hospital accommodates both public and private patients. In line with current clinical practice and the highest standards of care, no distinction is made between public and private patients in the treatment they receive at the Hospital. The significant difference is that private patients elect the treating medical officer of their choice, whereas public patients receive treatment from Hospital appointed medical staff. The honourable member should stand condemned by his electors for his suggestion of a second class health system.

(4) Yes. In all instances the staff have been successfully relocated to other areas of the Hospital. During this transition process they were offered choices as to where they would like to be located and where identified, additional training has been provided.

(5) Prior to the establishment of the Peri-Operative Centre only 60% of elective surgical patients were being admitted on day of surgery. The establishment of this centre has resulted in the level rising to 90%. This means that demand on beds has decreased while occupancy rates and separations have increased to a level higher than previously. This in turn means better services and shorter waiting times for the patient.

(6) No. I stand by my commitment to reducing surgical waiting times. Surgery on Time has reduced waiting times for elective surgery for Queenslanders

requiring urgent surgery. This Government has been extremely successful in this regard and have reduced the percentage of Category 1 patients waiting longer than clinically desirable from 49% to less than 5%. This success would be unsustainable if, like the Member for Redcliffe, a Queensland Government abandoned its commitment to elective surgery. I cannot speak for the ALP—but this Government will not abandon its commitment.

459. Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (7/5/97)—

With reference to the now withdrawn Natural Resources Amendment Bill that, amongst other matters, confers selective benefit status on about 3,000 holders of GHPLs—

- (1) What is the median (or average) size of the GHPL leases proposed for freeholding entitlement?
- (2) What is the present median (or average) annual lease rental per hectare for these properties?
- (3) What is the present median (or average) lease rental per hectare per annum of all grazing leases?
- (4) If all 3,000 leaseholders elected to convert to freehold and pay the properties off over 30 years, what would the annual loss of departmental revenue by way of lease rentals be using 1997 valuations?
- (5) How many leased parcels have been converted to freehold since the interest-free concession was withdrawn by the previous Government?
- (6) What would be the loss of revenue if owners of freeholding leases presently paying 6 per cent were relieved of that obligation?
- (7) What is the percentage of the total area of existing GHPLs where native title claim has been lodged?
- (8) What is the percentage of the total area of existing GHPLs where native title expression of interest has been lodged?
- (9) What is the total area of all tree-clearing applications, both approved and under departmental consideration over GHPLs ?
- (10) What is the total area of tree-clearing applications rejected over land held as GHPLs?

Mr Hobbs (4/6/97): A (withdrawn) bill which confers so-called "selective benefit status" as the Member suggests cannot in fact do so, by virtue of the fact it is withdrawn. I have already provided your parliamentary colleague, Mr Hamill with a detailed list of GHPL holdings (ref: QON 428), as well as providing other information which could satisfy queries relevant to the Land Act 1994 amendment components of the Natural Resources Legislation Amendment Bill.

460. Michaelmas Cay

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (7/5/97)—

With reference to the world famous Michaelmas Cay in the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park off Cairns—

- (1) What decline has been recorded in the nestling sea birds on the island over recent years, both before and after Cyclone Justin?
- (2) What advice has he received from his department regarding the cause of that decline?
- (3) What does he intend to do to arrest this decline, and when?
- (4) Which of the sea birds nesting on the island depend on it as their main nesting rookery in the Great Barrier Reef region?

Mr Littleproud (3/6/97): I am advised that monitoring data collected by Department of Environment staff from 1984 to 1996 showed the following trends for the four main seabird species nesting on Michaelmas Cay:

The total population of breeding pairs of Common Noddies declined by approximately 40 per cent;

The total populations of breeding pairs of Sooty Terns and Crested Terns declined by approximately 26 per cent; and

Prior to the cyclone the adult population of Lesser Crested Terns was approximately 500 individuals. The numbers were too low to enable valid analysis of population declines.

Since Cyclone Justin passed through the area on 22 March this year, the Department's population surveys of these species have shown that:

The numbers of Sooty Terns and Common Noddies remain at approximately pre-cyclone levels;

The number of adult Crested Terns on the Cay has been largely unaffected, but the number of juvenile birds has declined by approximately 80%;

There have been no Lesser Crested Terns recorded on Michaelmas Cay since the cyclone.

The decline in bird numbers prior to the cyclone is likely to be related to some extent to human disturbance. However, natural populations of seabirds fluctuate considerably, and other factors may also be involved.

The decline in bird numbers since the cyclone is due to a combination of the extreme weather at the time of the cyclone, habitat destruction (much of the vegetation on the Cay was buried in sand) and starvation.

The Department has developed new management arrangements for Michaelmas Cay in consultation with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, reef tourism operators and conservation groups. Under these arrangements the area to be used by visitors will be significantly reduced so as to minimise disturbance of the birds, at the same time allowing the tourist industry to continue to use the Cay.

These restrictions have now been implemented in respect of commercial tourism operations. A regulation under the Marine Parks Act 1982 will be

prepared as a high priority to give legal effect to the necessary controls.

Michaelmas Cay is one of the largest colonies of Sooty Terns, Lesser Crested Terns and Common Noddies in the Great Barrier Reef Region.

461. West Tropics Management Plan

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (7/5/97)—

With reference to the delays in the implementation of the Wet Tropics Management Plan—

- (1) What changes to the plan did the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils make or seek?
- (2) Will the plan go back to the Wet Tropics Management Authority for approval; if so, when?
- (3) Will the plan go to Ministerial Council before it goes to cabinet; if so, when?
- (4) When is it expected to go to cabinet and when is the plan expected to be fully implemented?

Mr Littleproud (2/6/97): The Member's utter disdain and lack of regard for local authorities in Far North Queensland is already on the record. Local authorities in Far North Queensland and the people they represent have every right to be disgusted with you and the Labor Party for wanting to deny them a say on the finalisation of the Wet Tropics Plan.

Through the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (FNQROC), local authorities in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area are entitled to have input into a plan that will have an impact upon them and their ratepayers. Yet, the Labor Party has come out publicly saying the councils have no right to have a say, an attitude typical of the Labor Government in power in Canberra that imposed World Heritage without proper consultation.

Local Members such as the Member for Cairns, Mr De Lacy, must be upset with the attitude of their party in showing disregard and disdain, and no recognition for the credibility of local authorities in the area. Contrary to what you have claimed previously, I have not handed over development of the plan to FNQROC. However, I do believe it was important this organisation has discussions with the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and I imagine they have had discussions on a number of issues.

FNQROC through its members certainly represents all the people of the region, and their opinion is at least as important as that of special groups. Your distrust of FNQROC again demonstrates that the National/Liberal Coalition Government certainly has more respect and regard for local government than the Labor Party does, and will only adopt a management plan that is acceptable to the vast majority of the people of the region.

You might be aware of a report in The Cairns Post on 22 May headed "Wet Tropics Plan set to get go-ahead", referring to the success of consultation between FNQROC and WTMA, as well as an

editorial which reads "Common sense appears to have prevailed in the preparation of the proposed Wet Tropics Management Plan. The originally proposed plan was prepared by bureaucrats and conservationists with almost no thought given to the need of burgeoning populations which live all around the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and will require access to and through those areas for vital future infrastructure. Despite the fondest wishes of conservationists, the Wet Tropics area cannot be regarded as a total no-go area for humans".

The plan is not approved by the Wet Tropics Management Authority, but by the Governor in Council. It will also be considered by Cabinet at an appropriate time as well as by the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council. It is listed for discussion at a meeting of the Ministerial Council on 14 June.

Labor was unable to finalise a plan for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area in five years. The Coalition Governments now at Commonwealth and State levels will have succeeded in less than two years.

462. Kangaroo Quota

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Environment (7/5/97)—

With reference to the annual kangaroo culling quota—

- (1) What are the reasons behind decisions to limit kangaroo skin shooters to 55 per cent of the 1997 quota?
- (2) What consultation did the Government hold with the kangaroo skin industry before this decision was made?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97): Following discussions between shooters and dealers representing the kangaroo industry, I decided that 45% of the commercial quota for each of the three—eastern grey kangaroo, red kangaroo and wallaroo—should be identified for pet food and human consumption in the 1997 harvest period.

This has been done to provide the carcass industry with a reliable minimum supply of product throughout the year. It has always been intended that should the carcass industry not utilise this 45% allocation, it will be made available to the skin shooting sector of the industry.

The Department of Environment closely monitors the commercial harvest of kangaroos every year. From information to date it is unlikely that the carcass harvest will reach the 45% level as the total harvest is currently below 10% of quota for all species.

Given the wet weather conditions during the early part of this year, and the depressed state of skin markets, the rate of harvesting of kangaroos is not likely to place pressure on the 1997 quotas. However, should skin shooting approach 55% of the quota, and carcass shooting fail to reach 45%, a reasonable part of the remaining allocation for carcass shooting will be made available for skin shooting.

463. Primary Industries Department Officers, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (7/5/97)—

With reference to the redeployment of former Department of Primary Industries' officers into the Department of Natural Resources in Rockhampton—

- (1) How many and what are the duties and classification of officers from the Department of Primary Industries in Rockhampton who have been moved into the Department of Natural Resources?
- (2) How many of these officers have been or will be moved from the DPI offices at Parkhurst into the Suncorp premises in Quay Street?
- (3) What removal and outfitting costs have been either paid or will be paid to effect this move?
- (4) Will he give an assurance that relocated staff, especially those involved in research, will be properly accommodated in the new Department of Natural Resources premises?
- (5) What use does he intend for the now vacant workplaces at the DPI Parkhurst premises?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. Sixty four (64) staff were transferred from the Department of Primary Industries in Rockhampton to the Department of Natural Resources. Their duties and classifications are outlined in the attached list.

2. I am advised by the Minister for Natural Resources that the vacant lower floor and existing first floor of the Suncorp premises in Quay Street, are being refurbished to accommodate 75 positions in total. Of these 75 positions, 18 will be moved from Parkhurst. This arrangement is necessary to assist in consolidating the Department of Natural Resources at two locations in Rockhampton from the previous four locations, and will enhance client service delivery as well as creating resource efficiencies within the Department.

3. I am advised by the Minister for Natural Resources that the estimated cost for total refurbishment to existing offices and to outfit additional office requirements at the Suncorp premises to accommodate 75 Departmental employees including 18 employees currently located at Parkhurst, is \$300,000.

This overall cost also covers any expenses associated with the removal of the 18 employees from Parkhurst to the Suncorp premises. The expenditure of these capital funds will result in lower annual operating costs for the Department.

4. I am advised by the Minister for Natural Resources that the refurbishment at Quay Street is being undertaken with the assistance of the Department of Public Works and Housing's Project Services Group and incorporates the latest in accommodation design and fit-out. All occupants will therefore experience a considerable upgrading from their existing accommodation arrangements.

The space will be used to:

accommodate the Queensland Beef Industry Institute headquarters;

free up laboratories which are currently being used for offices;

and allow for better co-location of workteams and new positions.

464. Mines and Energy Department Officers, CJC Recommendation

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (7/5/97)—

With reference to a CJC recommendation that two Department of Mines and Energy officers, Messrs Morrissey and Matheson, be disciplined over the alleged doctoring of departmental files—

- (1) Have these two officers been disciplined; if so, what form did this disciplinary action take; if not, why not?
- (2) What changes have been made to procedures in the Department of Mines and Energy to prevent a recurrence of such an incident?
- (3) Is he, as Minister, satisfied that this matter has been adequately addressed by his Director-General, Dr Day?

Mr Gilmore (26/5/97):

(1) Messrs Morrissey and Matheson have been formally disciplined by the Director-General and this has been placed on their personnel records. Their work performance will be monitored over the next twelve months. Messrs Morrissey and Matheson will also be required to participate in the quality assurance of tenures processing and to take training in the requirements of Public Sector Ethics.

(2) The Department has accelerated the process of gaining quality assurance for its tenures procedures. This will ensure that administrative problems discussed in the CJC report will be minimalised. There will be detailed and accountable directions to be followed in accepting and processing all tenure matters in the future. It is expected that the Department will gain independent accreditation for its quality assurance process by 31 March 1998. The quality assurance process is being managed by a respected consultant and the detailed documentation is being prepared by an experienced tenures manager in the Department supported by two full time staff. All Departmental staff who deal in tenures administration will be involved in the quality assurance accreditation.

(3) The Minister is satisfied that the matter has been adequately addressed by the Director-General, Dr Day.

465. Treasury Tavern Hotel

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (7/5/97)—

With reference to plans to refurbish the heritage listed Treasury Tavern Hotel on the corner of George and Elizabeth Streets in the City—

- (1) Has the Heritage Council approved this refurbishment; if so, what changes were requested from the original proposal?

(2) Do the plans by the developer to "completely restore it to its original state" cover the exterior only or include the interior as well?

(3) If the interior is included how does this accommodate a basement nightclub called the 'Lost City of Atlantis' in a building built in 1885 in Victorian Italianate style?

(4) Is this to be yet another example of his misguided commitment to the preservation of Brisbane's heritage?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97):

(1) I am advised that no application for approval under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 for any proposed refurbishment of the Treasury Tavern Hotel, George Street, Brisbane, has yet been submitted to the Heritage Council.

(2) See (1)

(3) See (1)

(4) Rubbish.

466. Mount Isa Mines

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (7/5/97)—

With reference to claims by the Environmental Defender's Office that Mount Isa Mines has been granted a licence under the Environmental Protection Act by the Department of Mines and Energy without a submission explaining how it would manage the environmental impact of its mining operation—

(1) Is this true and does the licence cover the company's smelter and mining operations at Mount Isa, including emissions such as lead?

(2) What other mining operations does he know of where a licence has been issued before an Integrated Environmental Management System has been submitted?

(3) Where does such a provision exist in the Environmental Protection Act?

(4) Do the licences issued for Mount Isa Mines smelter operations and power station contain the necessary national standards or could they be invalid?

(5) Is he satisfied that his department is handling its environmental responsibilities properly or is this an aspect of the department that he also wants to see a broom put through as indicated following his confrontation with the Queensland Grain Growers' Association over damage to rural properties by longwall mining?

Mr Gilmore (26/5/97):

(1) Nearly eighteen months ago a number of mines which had previously held water or air discharge licences under the Clean Waters Act or Clean Air Act faced the prospect of operating illegally if they were not issued with licences under the Environmental Protection Act by 29 February 1996. Mount Isa Mines Limited was one of these companies.

The pressure was compounded by protracted negotiations between the then Department of Environment and Heritage and the then Department

of Minerals and Energy. These negotiations were trying to establish the extent and nature of delegations so that the DME could administer the Environmental Protection Act for mining projects. Because there was no decision on the administrative arrangements, MIM lodged all its licence applications with DoE on 30 January 1996. After the delegations were provided to DME on 5 February 1996 and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Departments was signed on 6 February 1996, the application for a licence for the Mount Isa mine was transferred to DME. The 28 day period from the application date (2 February 1996) in which a licence had to be issued ended on 29 February 1996.

There were additional complications arising from the relatively recent commencement of the Environmental Protection Act. These included uncertainty regarding the nature of conditions that were appropriate in licences for the various environmentally relevant activities found on mine sites and a lack of experience by some DME officers who were issuing environmental licences for the first time. Some of these officers had only been in the Department for a few weeks. The MIM licence issued by DME relied heavily on DoE officers who were obliged to assist DME under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

It is worth noting that at that time this Government had been in power for one week but had recognised that licensing under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 was causing problems for all industries in Queensland. We had taken steps to alleviate this problem by introducing a moratorium on licensing which applied from 1 March until 30 June 1996.

The documentation for the MIM licence was in excess of 200 pages and included brief statements that addressed the specific requirements of section 42(2) of the Environmental Protection (Interim) Regulations 1995 relating to Integrated Environmental Management Systems.

A draft Environmental Management Overview Strategy (EMOS) for the Mount Isa mine had been completed almost 12 months before the environmental licence was issued and was available during the licensing process. There is no doubt that this EMOS was an adequate submission explaining how the company would manage the environmental impacts of the mining operation.

On 29 February 1996, MIM was issued one licence by DME for its Mount Isa mine and one licence by Department of Environment for its smelters. The DME licence covered 24 different environmentally relevant activities conducted on the mine site.

The licence issued by DoE regulates smelter emissions such as lead.

(2) Unlike other industries, all operating mines in Queensland have a comprehensive Environmental Management Overview Strategy.

By 30 June 1996, DME had issued 86 licences, most of which were for more than one environmentally relevant activity (ERA) at the mine site. I am not aware of any of these multiple ERA licences that were issued for a mine that did not have an approved EMOS, or a draft EMOS.

(3) The question is irrelevant. The provisions governing applications for multiple ERA licences are contained in section 42(2) of the Environmental Protection (Interim) Regulation 1995. Sections 42 and 43 of the Regulation indicate that the application must be accompanied by a submission about the integrated environmental management system and not the system.

(4) This is a matter for the Minister for Environment. But I am informed that there are no national standards for air emissions, which is what I think the honourable member is asking. The Environmental Protection (Interim) Regulation 1995 refers to the National Health and Medical Research Council Ambient Air Quality Goals that are to be used in the transitional period until the Environmental Protection Policy for Air is approved.

These numbers are not standards, they are goals. To try to enforce long term goals as rigid standards would close many fuel burning industries.

The Environmental Protection Act recognises this fact and requires the decision on conditions for an environmental licence to be made after considering all the standard criteria which include: principles of ESD; applicable standards; any impact studies or reports; character and resilience of the environment; best practice environmental management; financial implications; and the public interest.

There are many legal outcomes for licences issued after considering these various criteria. These include:

- a National or State standard (if there was one) could be included.

- an international standard could be adopted.

- a performance limit could be based on best practice.

- a statistical approach could allow the exceedence of some standard or limiting value during a stated percentage of the time.

- the present situation may be allowed to continue for a period of time during which the environmental performance would have to be improved.

- the total amount of production could be limited.

- the standard could be reviewed.

All of these procedures are used somewhere in Australia at present and most are in use in Queensland.

(5) With regard to how DME is handling its environmental responsibilities, I am on record as stating that I vigorously defend the calibre and the integrity of DME staff and that I have absolute confidence in the DME and its people.

Don't believe what you read in the newspapers.

467. Queensland Rail

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (7/5/97)—

With reference to Queensland Rail—

(1) What was the value of livestock related business carried by Queensland Rail for the

Teys Group of Companies in 1995-96 and what is the value during 1996-97?

- (2) Where does the Teys Group of Companies rate as one of Queensland Rail's freight customers?
- (3) What was the value of consultancy work let to Connell Wagner Pty Ltd during 1995-96 and what is the value during 1996-97?
- (4) Where does the Connell Wagner rate when compared with other engineering consultancy groups in terms of work obtained from Queensland Rail?
- (5) Which five legal firms obtained the most work from Queensland Rail during 1995-96 and what was the value of that work?
- (6) What are the figures for 1996-97?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97):

(1) During 1995-96 the Teys Brothers ledger account was worth \$1.713 million to Queensland Rail and for year-to-date April 1996-97 was worth \$838,000. This includes livestock business railed to their abattoirs at Beenleigh and Biloela and containerised meat railed from Biloela.

(2) Within the Freight Group of Queensland Rail, Teys Brothers were ranked as the 22nd highest paying ledger account for 1995-96. There were also 31 Coal and Minerals Group customers (who contributed in excess of \$1 billion in revenue including royalties) ranked ahead of Teys Brothers.

(3) Total value of payments to Connell Wagner for consultancies during 1995/96 and 1996/97 to 30 April 1997 is:

1995/96—\$773,013
1996/97—\$1,517,112

Major consultancies and amounts paid to Connell Wagner during these years were—

	1995/96 \$000s	1996/97 \$000s
Inner City Tunnels—contract supervision	158	-
Mainline Upgrade Deviations—contract supervision	287	48
QCL Spurline—IAS design	278	1,269
Standard Gauge Link—contract supervision	37	-
TOTAL	\$760K	\$1,317K

Payments for consultancy services during any one financial year reflect the status and progress on individual projects at the time. The payments during 1994/95 were \$3.513m and included major activities on the inner city tunnels, standard gauge link and Main Line Upgrade. The 1995/96 total involved a winding down of work on these projects. The 1996/97 figure reflects the completion of major design activities on the QCL Spurlines project near Gladstone. Fees payable are assessed on nominated contract rates applicable to individual consultancy briefs, normally in accordance with ACEA Guideline Fee Scales (at agreed hourly rates or as a percentage of contract cost).

(4) Connell Wagner Pty Ltd (CW) was ranked No. 4 on the basis of engineering staff numbers based in

Queensland (in survey by Business Queensland—September 1996). It is multi-disciplinary with a strong specialist railway engineering section.

Major works undertaken by CW for Queensland Rail over the past 5 years have been:

Mainline Upgrade Project—CW was one of five major consultants appointed in late 1992 to design and administer bridge and deviation contracts. The other four consultants were CMPS&F, Kinhill, BHP Engineering and GHD. The CW package covered works between Bundaberg and Gladstone. Selection utilised ACEA's value selection criteria process, with the five firms appointed from a shortlisted group of consultants submitting detailed proposals. The shortlist was assessed from suitably experienced and resourced consultants, utilising an established QR Consultancy Register in conformance with State Purchasing Policy guidelines. Total fees paid to CW for their works was \$6.27m, out of a total fee of \$36.3m paid to the five major consultants.

Inner City Quadruplication—CW was appointed as specialist tunnel designer in 1989 and for contract supervision and administration in early 1990. CW was selected from a shortlisted field of applicants, primarily on the basis of the contemporary experience of their nominated tunnelling experts, which was a very limited field in Australia at that time. Total fee for these works was \$8.3m.

Standard Gauge Link—CW was one of four consultants appointed in May 1992 to design and administer civil works along the route. The others were Kinhill, GHD and McIntyre and Associates. Selection process was similar to that for the Main Line Upgrade project works. Total value of CW's fee for this work was \$1.54m.

QCL Spurline—CW was appointed to undertake the IAS for the overall project by QCL and subsequently by QR to carry out detailed engineering design of the two spurlines. Total estimated fee is \$1.27m.

Befitting CW's position within the Queensland consulting engineering industry, and the specialist railway and tunnelling expertise of a number of its staff, the firm has received a reasonable share of major engineering consultancies from QR over the past 5-6 years. As evidenced by the above, it certainly has not enjoyed an excessive share with the workload being shared between a number of the major consultants and many of the smaller consultants.

(5) and (6)

	Cost 1995/96	Cost 1996/97
Solicitor		
Corrs Chambers	\$449,148	\$249,643
Crown Law	\$392,140	\$233,495
Minter Ellison	\$263,655	\$257,888
Clarke & Kann	\$78,067	\$32,693
Swanwick Murray	\$60,384	\$109,908

468.Hinchinbrook Island, Repeater Station

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (7/5/97)—

With reference to further calls from boat owners and boating associations to install a marine radio repeater station on Hinchinbrook Island—

- (1) Does he intend to allow this to happen; if so, what damage will be done to the island?
- (2) Where is the desired location of the repeater station?
- (3) What emerging technological alternatives are becoming available that would provide the same coverage without the need for the Hinchinbrook Island Repeater Station?
- (4) Why isn't he fast-tracking the implementation of this technology rather than persevering with a high impact, low technology solution?
- (5) When will work on installing the repeater station start?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) No decisions will be made on whether or not any communication facilities should be installed on Hinchinbrook Island National Park until the detailed information required as part of the application from the Cardwell Coastguard has been received and has been properly assessed; similarly no assessment can be made of the potential impacts until this detailed information is submitted.

The information required is detailed in the terms of reference which have been prepared consistent with Section 35 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Hinchinbrook Island National Park draft management plan.

(2) The location of any proposed communication facilities will be determined as part of the formal process of addressing the terms of reference.

(3) The terms of reference also require the proponent to address any technological alternatives which would provide the same coverage without the need for communication facilities on Hinchinbrook Island.

(4) Completion of the requirements of the terms of reference will assist both the proponent and the Department to determine which are the appropriate technologies and the optimum solution to address the concerns raised by the Coastguard, boat owners and boating associations.

(5) If, after assessment of the detailed information provided as part of the application, it is determined that communication facilities on Hinchinbrook Island are appropriate, work will only commence once all necessary approvals have been granted.

469. Lake Eacham Nursery

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment (7/5/97)—

With reference to the future operations of the Lake Eacham Nursery—

- (1) What level of core funding does he see the nursery continuing to receive from the department budget in coming years and what does he see this core funding being directed to?
- (2) What level of funding does he see being raised from community and corporate sector funding on an annual basis and on what nursery aspects does he see this funding being spent?

(3) Who does he see raising these funds in North Queensland and if it is nursery staff, who does he envisage will be running the nursery while these staff are on fundraising exercises?

(4) To what extent did concerns expressed by the private nursery industry on the Atherton Tableland influence his decision to withdraw funding from the nursery in the first place and which private nurseries expressed these concerns?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

1. It is anticipated that the Department would allocate in the order of \$90,000 to \$100,000 (present worth) each year as core funding to the Lake Eacham Nursery in forthcoming years. These funds would be likely to be used to employ two rangers, including a nursery manager, and would also contribute to the operating expenses of the nursery.

2. It is not possible to specify precisely the annual level of funding which would be obtained for the Lake Eacham nursery, from the community and corporate sectors, in forthcoming years as such contributions will vary from year to year.

Funds obtained from these sectors would be used to supplement Department of Environment core funding and to fund particular projects, involving revegetation of wildlife corridors, replanting along stream banks and ecosystem rehabilitation. In addition, the community group, Trees for the Eacham and Atherton Tablelands (TREAT), would be likely to contribute in the order of \$7,000 per annum to the nursery for the purchase of potting materials.

3. I understand Departmental employees likely to be involved in raising funds from the corporate and community sectors would include the nursery manager and (to a lesser extent,) his supervisor and other senior regional staff. I have now made arrangements for the employment of a second permanent staff member to take some of the load off the nursery manager. As Mr. McElligott would be aware, up until this year, the nursery manager was the only permanent position at the nursery. As the nursery manager has been involved in fundraising for the nursery for many years it is not expected that there would be a need for either significant changes to his duties or reallocation of staff time.

4. I am advised that such concerns had no influence on any decision by the Department to reduce funding to the nursery.

470. East Coast Otter Trawl Fisheries

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (7/5/97)—

With reference to a list of licences for East Coast Otter Trawl Fisheries which was distributed for a number of years to licence holders (the last in 1993) and as this document is most helpful for vessel identification and verification—

- (1) Why have plans been made to cease publication as access to the 924 entries must now be made through the QFMA by a Freedom of Information type process which is both impractical and costly?

- (2) In order to ensure transparency and accountability in the industry, why shouldn't the publication continue to be available to licensed fishermen?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. The decision by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to publish lists of commercial fishing boats, including the licence holder's names, was mainly to counter speculation in the fishing industry concerning various ownership situations.

Following the publication of "Licences for East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery" in May 1993, concerns were raised that the publication of names of persons holding a licence issued under the then Fishing Industry Organisation and Marketing Act 1982 was a breach of confidentiality. As subsequent legal advice supported that view, the then Queensland Fish Management Authority decided not to publish licence holders' names in any further publications.

The new Fisheries Act 1994 addressed this matter by requiring the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to establish and maintain a Register of authorities which may be accessed by any person upon lodgement of the relevant application form and payment of a (cost recovery) fee. It should be noted that the Register is updated on a daily basis and that details about authorities change over time.

2. Commercial fishers have the opportunity to access the Register of authorities in the manner prescribed.

471. Indigenous Advisory Council; Mr N. Bonner

Mr BRISKEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (7/5/97)—

With reference to the appointment of Mr Neville Bonner as Chairman of the newly formed Indigenous Advisory Council—

- (1) Does he agree with Mr Bonner's call to decriminalise public drunkenness to reduce the number of indigenous people in custody; if so, what new arrangement does he see being put in place?
- (2) Does he agree with Mr Bonner's call for traditional forms of punishment to be administered by tribal elders rather than the mainstream court system for juveniles; if so, how would he see this operating?

Mr Beanland (23/5/97):

(1) The decriminalisation of public drunkenness would require amendments to some or all of the following provisions:

Section 164 (Conduct causing public nuisance) Liquor Act 1992;

Section 37A (Conduct causing public nuisance) South Bank Corporation Act 1989;

Section 20 (Offences) Brisbane Cricket Ground By-law 1993;

Section 7 (Alcohol) Transport Infrastructure (Rail) Regulation 1996; and

Section 4(1)(c) (Habitual drunkard behaving in a riotous, disorderly or indecent manner in a

public place) Vagrants Gaming and Other Offences Act 1931.

None of these Acts or provisions are within my portfolio.

The honourable member does not state whether he advocates the decriminalisation of drunkenness in public places such as the Brisbane Cricket Ground or South Bank, where families with children often go to enjoy sport and other recreational or leisure activities. Perhaps he should do so if he intends to take the matter further with my Ministerial colleagues.

(2) The question of allowing appropriate indigenous people of recognised authority to deal with local justice issues in Aboriginal and remote areas is currently being examined by my Department. A proposal under consideration would allow Justices of the Peace, appropriately trained and authorised, to summarily determine indictable offences committed in the local communities where Magistrates are not available and to impose up to 6 months imprisonment (as opposed to 3 years for a Magistrate).

472. Moreton Bay Marine Park

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Environment (7/5/97)—

With reference to the Moreton Bay Marine Park which was declared a marine park by the Goss Government in February 1993—

- (1) Has his department yet finalised the zoning plan for the Moreton Bay Marine Park; if so, how long has he had the zoning plan as finalised by his department?
- (2) Given that the Goss Government released its draft zoning plan for public comment in December 1993 (some 3¹/₂ years ago), what is the current reason for the delay in the proclamation of the zoning plan?
- (3) When will he present the zoning plan to cabinet for its final approval?
- (4) Will he give a commitment to an over-arching marine park authority to ensure the appropriate and necessary expert and community oversight for this extremely valuable and socially important environmental and natural resource?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97): Given the abysmal record of the Goss Government, we could hardly be expected to accept without question such a document inherited from them. The Goss Government had not finalised the plan in over two years. We will in much less time. Cabinet is likely to consider the plan mid year, when details such as in (4) will be revealed.

473. Power Station, Gibson Island; Gateway Port Project

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (7/5/97)—

With reference to a recent report from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute which criticised the Borbidge Government for failing to

support a \$1 billion co-generation and waste ecology district in South East Queensland—

- (1) What is the likely fate of Sithe Energies' gas fired power station at Gibson Island and its association with major paper recycling and chemical production industries?
- (2) What stage is the current study of industry opportunities in the Gateway Port area at and why was this third study of opportunities in this area required?

Mr Gilmore (26/5/97):

1. Sithe Energies proposal is only one possible project 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 first tested in a competitive market to ensure the best outcome for Queensland. Once a competitive market starts in Queensland, generators will be free to enter the market and operate at the location of their choice. Under this regime, and subject to normal planning and environmental approvals, there will be no barrier to Sithe Energies or any other Independent Power Producer establishing a power facility in Queensland.

2. The Brisbane Gateway Ports project is a result of the Better Cities II Program initiated by the Commonwealth Government in 1995, funding for which is split between the Commonwealth and the State. The objective of the Gateway Ports project is to create an environment for attracting private sector investment in value adding, high employment generating, export orientated industries. Earlier studies undertaken in the area focused solely on the provision of infrastructure with the expectation that development will follow. This study gives a more comprehensive analysis of infrastructure development requirements and includes a detailed demand-side study for the area. The Brisbane Gateway Port area has the potential to be the only gateway in Australia, and one of the few in the world, which can offer fully integrated air, sea, rail and road freight interchange facilities connected to all mainland capitals. Much of the progress of the current study has been of a technical nature relating to the gathering of information on land use and environmental factors, infrastructure requirements, and identifying the types of industry that would benefit from locating in the area. The study will now focus on community consultation, strategy development and management and partnership building, together with refinement of the technical work. A community consultation plan has been formulated and a professional consultant engaged to manage the consultation program. This will involve community newsletters and the production of public discussion papers to facilitate community and business input into the study. The first public discussion paper is due for release in late May 1997.

474.Public Housing, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (7/5/97)—

With reference to the recent sale of 15 blocks of land in the Bulimba Electorate—

- (1) Will the proceeds of these sales be used for public housing projects in the Bulimba Electorate; if so, how many dwellings will be built; if not, why not?
- (2) What will happen to proceeds from proposed sale of houses under Brisbane Airport flight paths?
- (3) Will the proceeds of these sales be used for public housing projects in the Bulimba Electorate; if so, how many dwellings will be built; if not, why not?
- (4) Will he give wait times for public housing, suburb by suburb, for the Electorate of Bulimba for one, two, three, four and five bedroom houses, units and dwellings?
- (5) What dwellings for public housing are currently being built or are on the drawing board, in planning stage, or estimated to be built and rented in the next 18 months in the Electorate of Bulimba?

Dr Watson (6/6/97): To date, only 13 blocks of land have been sold in the Bulimba Electorate. These sales occurred in the "Somerset Green" Joint Venture development at Wynnum.

- (1) The proceeds of sales from individual electorates are presently redirected into the public housing program and allocated on a priority needs basis throughout the State. As part of this State-wide program, the Bulimba Electorate has had three detached houses constructed, nine apartments purchased and \$56,180 spent on refurbishment works during 1996/97.
- (2) Proceeds of sale will be directed to the public housing program.
- (3) Priority will be given to funding eligible clients with disabilities.
- (4) As mentioned above, funding for 1997/98 is prioritised for the provision of housing for applicants with disabilities, an area not generally catered for by the private sector.
- (5) No projects are presently programmed in the Bulimba Electorate.

475.Public Housing, Whitsunday Electorate

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (7/5/97)—

- (1) What numbers for housing are listed for the following towns and what are the waiting times for (a) Bowen, (b) Proserpine, (c) Calen (d) Bucasia and (e) Northern Beaches?
- (2) How many of these will be for the elderly and disabled?

Dr Watson (6/6/97):

- (1) The numbers listed for housing on the wait list for each town are as follows:

Bowen—There are a total of 69 households on the wait list:- 16 for seniors' units, 23 for one bedroom accommodation, 21 for two bedroom

accommodation, 5 for three bedroom accommodation, 3 for more than three bedroom accommodation and 1 not stated.

Proserpine—There are a total of 33 households on the wait list:- 7 for seniors' units, 10 for two bedroom accommodation, 14 for three bedroom accommodation and 2 for more than three bedroom accommodation.

Northern Beaches Zone (including Black Beach, Bucasia, Eimeo, Nindaroo, Northern Beaches and Shoal Point)—There are a total of 25 households on the wait list:- 19 for three bedroom accommodation and 6 for more than three bedroom accommodation.

There is no wait list for Calen.

The minimum estimates wait times for each area are as follows:

Bowen—7 months for one bedroom accommodation, 3 months for two bedroom accommodation, 1 month for three bedroom accommodation, 12 months for more than three bedroom accommodation and 21 months for seniors' units.

Proserpine—2 months for two bedroom accommodation, 30 months for three bedroom accommodation, 13 months for two bedroom accommodation, 30 months for three bedroom accommodation, 13 months for more than three bedroom accommodation, and 21 months for seniors' units.

Northern Beaches (including Black Beach, Bucasia, Eimeo, Nindaroo, Northern Beaches and Shoal Point)—27 months for three bedroom accommodation and 18 months for more than three bedroom accommodation.

(2) Bowen—16 households are listed for seniors' units. 5 households have nominated a requirement for disability modifications.

Proserpine—7 households are listed for seniors' units. 5 households have nominated a requirement for disability modifications.

Northern Beaches (including Black Beach, Bucasia, Eimeo, Nindaroo, Northern Beaches and Shoal Point)—There are no applications for seniors' accommodation or nominations for disability modifications.

NB:

1. The waiting times detailed above are the times spent on the waiting list by the last applicant for whom housing was provided.

2. These figures are for the minimum estimated wait times. These relate to bedroom size of a dwelling not dwelling type such as detached, attached, apartment, etc.

476.Cairns Base Hospital

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (7/5/97)—

With reference to the redevelopment of Cairns Base Hospital—

(1) How many operating theatres have been planned for in the current redevelopment proposal?

(2) How many operating theatres has he, or Cairns based Coalition Members, promised the electorate and why?

Mr Horan (10/6/97):

(1 & 2) 8 plus 2 endoscopy procedure rooms. The Members for Barron River and Mulgrave are constant and strong in their representations for the people of Cairns. For example, their work recently saw \$5 million added to the Cairns Base Hospital redevelopment, bringing the total hospital project cost to \$105 million. About \$3.2 million of this new funding will be used for the establishment of a 12 bed rehabilitation unit, complete with hydrotherapy pool, which will be used for treating young brain damaged patients, long-term stroke patients and spinal injury patients.

The remaining \$1.8 million will be allocated to the Hospital's new clinical services building for increased facilities and space for oncology and haematology specialities, and for education and research.

If the Members for Barron River and Mulgrave are seeking more services, then it is to their continuing credit and the benefit of the people of Cairns. However, to the best of my knowledge, they have promised, and this Government is planning, 8 theatres plus 2 endoscopy procedure rooms.

I am also pleased to note that in addition to the Calvary Private Hospital, a new private day theatre facility has recently opened and provides 4 main theatres, 1 endoscopy room, 1 minor theatre and 1 dental theatre, further enhancing services and choice for the people of Cairns.

477.Townsville Watchhouse

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/5/97)—

With reference to the current outbreak of scabies in the Townsville Watchhouse—

(1) What strategies are being put into place to address this scabies outbreak?

(2) How many inmates have been infected in the current outbreak?

(3) Is the current outbreak the result of over crowding as a result of cells not being available due to renovation of the watchhouse?

(4) How many cells does Townsville Watchhouse have in total and how many have been available during renovations?

(5) How many inmates per day have been held in how many cells, during the period of the current scabies outbreak?

(6) Has he investigated reports that inmates "were forced to sleep on filthy mattresses in overcrowded cells", and what has been the result of these investigations?

Mr Cooper (27/5/97):

- (1) Prisoners are being removed from the watchhouse to enable fumigation; and ointment has been issued to treat the scabies.
- (2) Four.
- (3) The current outbreak is a result of an infected prisoner entering the watchhouse.

478.Crisis Accommodation, Caboolture Shire

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (7/5/97)—

With reference to the extreme shortage of crisis accommodation for youth and families—

Will he provide extra funding for short term crisis accommodation in the Caboolture Shire; if so, when will the funding be available?

Mr Lingard (16/5/97): In respect of short term crisis accommodation, this Department administers the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) in Queensland. SAAP is a jointly funded Commonwealth/State program which provides transitional supported accommodation and related support services for people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Under SAAP, growth funds are offered by the Commonwealth Government and States are then requested to match these additional funds on a \$ for \$ basis. The Commonwealth Government has not offered any growth funds to Queensland or any other States since 1993-94. This Department currently funds a service in the Caboolture Shire under SAAP which provides short to medium term supported accommodation for families in crisis. In addition a number of other SAAP services providing emergency accommodation for young people are located in neighbouring Pine Rivers Shire and Redcliffe City.

This Department has funded under SAAP a Local Area Planning strategy in five localities across Queensland including the Caboolture, Redcliffe and Pine Rivers area. Under the pilot strategy SAAP services have come together to review current service provision in the targeted areas, identify gaps in service delivery and develop strategies to better utilise existing resources to meet client needs. The pilot project in the Caboolture, Redcliffe and Pine Rivers area is expected to finalise their planning within the next three months and provide a report to the Department with their recommendations.

479.Victims of Crime, Support Services

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (7/5/97)—

With reference to his pre-election promise of an extra \$1m in support services for victims of crime—

- (1) What action has he taken to provide extra funding for support services for victims of crime?
- (2) What further action will he take to ensure the availability of support services for victims of crime?

Mr Beanland (17/6/97):

(1) During the current financial year, payments to victims of crime both under Chapter 65A of the Criminal Code and the Criminal Offence Victims Act (COVA) are expected to be \$8.2M. The majority of those claims are still under the Criminal Code. This should be compared to the 1994-95 year where only \$4.16M was paid and the original budget by the then Government for the 1995-96 year was only \$3.617M. In relation to families of homicide victims the current budget is \$2.49M.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) operates a Victim Support Service (VSS) with funding of \$1.075M in 1996-97. This compares with \$0.853M in 1995-96. VSS base funding will increase to \$0.872M in 1997-98.

(2) In 1997-98, VSS plans to increase accessibility to victim support by expanding regional services to include Maroochydore, Townsville and Cairns.

Service availability also depends on effective communication. Hence brochures on the victim services available will be widely disseminated in five languages early in 1997-98 and videos designed to assist indigenous and non-indigenous victims are currently at the pre-production stage.

VSS is presently examining the feasibility of implementing a community outreach program which, subject to the outcome of that study, could involve incorporated community organisations in remote regions providing victim support services under contract to DPP.

VSS is also strengthening the victim support skills of DPP's legal staff through training in areas such as cross-cultural awareness and working with people with intellectual disabilities.

As well as providing direct services, VSS actively develops its statewide referral directory so that victims can be referred to professionals in the non-government sector who can in some circumstances more appropriately meet their counselling and associated needs.

480.Palm Beach Community Health Centre

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (7/5/97)—

With reference to the proposed Palm Beach Community Health Centre and Dental Clinic—

- (1) What steps have been taken to begin work on the project?
- (2) Have tenders been called; if so, when?
- (3) When is it anticipated (a) construction work will begin, (b) the centre will open and (c) the dental clinic will open?

Mr Horan (11/6/97): I am advised that:

(1 & 2) Design consultants, Conrad & Gargett Pty. Ltd., have completed a Design Brief; concurrently,

design and construction tenderers were short listed. Fee proposals will be sought from the four short listed tenderers on 23 June 1997. Consultants have also completed a geotechnical, site and contour survey of the site at 9-15 Fifth Avenue, Palm Beach.

(3)(a) August 1997

(b & c) April 1998.

481. Post-School Options

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (7/5/97)—

With reference to his recent announcement of funding for post-school options—

- (1) How much funding, in total, will be spent on post-school options in 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (2) Is it the case that only those students who turned 18 in 1996 will be eligible for funding and/or entry to programs prior to December 1997?
- (3) What arrangements will be made for those disabled students requiring post-school programs in regional and remote areas of Queensland?
- (4) Will he guarantee that all students whose enrolment is terminated at the end of the 1997 school year will be provided with appropriate post-school options?

Mr Lingard (20/5/97):

- (1) The present recurrent allocation to post-school services for young people with severe disabilities is \$2.6m.
- (2) Education Queensland have identified 106 young people who turned 18 in 1996 or in a previous year, were enrolled in special educational programs, and accepted the option to remain at school until June 1997. These 106 young people will be provided with appropriate post-school services by 1 July 1997 through the Moving Ahead Post-school Services Program.
- (3) The Moving Ahead Program has as its basic principle choice and flexibility for young people and their families. This principle will assist young people and their families in rural and remote Queensland in developing creative and individualised services. Parents and young people will have the opportunity to consider a range of options and an appropriate service provider. Service providers may include a range of community organisations including Neighbourhood and Community Centres. At present staff of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care are working with the 106 young people and their families to identify appropriate service providers and to assist families in negotiations with these organisations.
- (4) The question of availability of the post school services program for students whose enrolment ceases at the end of the 1997 school year will be considered in the context of the State budget.

482. Paramedics

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (7/5/97)—

With reference to the Government's claim, in the propaganda document entitled "A Safe Queensland", that provision has been made to increase the number of paramedic officers to 400—

- (1) What are those provisions?
- (2) How many paramedics are now employed by Queensland Ambulance Service?

Mr Veivers (6/6/97):

- (1) The paramedic program was approved for introduction into the QAS in 1995. Funding has been provided in successive QAS budgets for the training and employment of paramedics and their equipment. It is anticipated that additional paramedics up to a maximum of 400 will be trained over the next 5-10 years.
- (2) There are currently 28 qualified paramedic ambulance officers employed by the QAS with an additional 21 student paramedics due to complete their year long program in early September. An additional 14 student paramedic ambulance officers commenced their training program on Monday 26 May 1997.

483. Education Department, Suspension of Students; Drug Education Program

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (8/5/97)—

With reference to reports in the Gold Coast Bulletin that 69 students have been suspended/excluded from South Coast region schools for drug related offences—

- (1) What number of students have been suspended from schools so far in 1997 in each Education Department region?
- (2) What number of students have been excluded from schools so far in 1997 in each region?
- (3) What are the comparable figures for suspensions and exclusions for the same period in 1996?
- (4) How much has the Education Department allocated to spend on the drug education program announced by him during the week ending 3 May?
- (5) How much of this has been allocated to each Education Department region?
- (6) What classroom resources will be provided through the program?
- (7) How many staff will be allocated to run the program?
- (8) What professional development will be provided to teachers to accommodate the new program and when will the professional development be conducted?

Mr Quinn (4/6/97):

(1), (2) & (3)

Region	Suspensions		Exclusions	
	Term 11996	Term 11997	Term 11996	Term 11997
Capricornia	200	155	16	5
Darling Downs	321	151	5	15
Metropolitan East	412	492	46	23
Metropolitan West	499	431	41	21
North-Western	52	40	6	2
Northern	196	198	17	8
Peninsula	161	181	10	11
South-Coast	395	342	40	28
South-Western	66	53	3	0
Sunshine Coast	496	445	45	6
Wide Bay	203	102	21	18

N.B. New legislation relating to suspensions and exclusions was proclaimed on 7 April 1997.

A comparison has been compiled for term one of this year, against term one last year. Last year there were ten weeks in term one, this year there were nine weeks in term one.

(4) The budget for school drug education in the 1996-97 financial year is \$1,106,000. This funding comprises \$716,000 for Education Queensland based programs and \$390,000 to support Life Education Centre Queensland Incorporated.

(5) Regions were able to apply for a grant of up to \$24,000 for drug education in the current financial year. Grants have been approved to six regions, with the other regions to receive funding during the next financial year.

(6) A number of resources relating to this matter, have been developed and acquired by Education Queensland, over the past year, for use in classrooms.

(7) Three officers employed centrally and a further eleven regional consultants are available to provide support for schools.

(8) A statewide forum was conducted in October 1996 involving state and non-state teachers, parents, police, students, health personnel and non-government organisations. The first of a series of regional forums was conducted in Metropolitan East Region on 1-2 May 1997 involving a similar gathering. It is intended that these forums will be conducted in all regions, or district clusters over the coming year.

This strategy has been designed to equip schools and their communities with the skills to design and support specific drug education programs.

484. Boating and Fisheries Patrol

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (8/5/97)—

- (1) What are the budgets for 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 for the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol?
- (2) What are the funding sources for this service?
- (3) How many officers were employed by the above service in the above years?

- (4) Where are these officers stationed?
- (5) How many boats or similar craft are owned by the above service?
- (6) Where are these stationed and what is the annual operation cost of these?

Mr Perrett (29/5/97):

1. 1993/94 \$8,469,000
1994/95 \$9,346,000
1995/96 \$9,421,000
1996/97 \$10,067,000

2. Funding for QBFP is by way of base funding ex Treasury as well as new initiative funding in 1995/96 and 1996/97. Other funds are contributed by Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, Department of Environment Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for specific projects.

Above costs exclude funding from the vessel replacement program—an ongoing cumulative fund of approximately \$800,000 per annum.

3. 1993/94 101 staff
1994/95 103 staff
1995/96 115 staff
1996/97 120 staff

Current staff at 120 including vacancies, but excluding corporate support paid for in the above funds.

4. Metropolitan—Forestry House Brisbane (9 staff)
South East—Caboolture (1 staff), Pinkenba (15 staff), Gold Coast, Southport (12 staff), Mooloolaba (6 staff), Noosa (4 staff), Quick Response Unit (Maryborough) (2 staff), Urangan (4 staff), Bundaberg (4 staff), Wondai (2 staff)
Southern—Roma (2 staff)
West—Longreach (2 staff)
Central—Gladstone (6 staff), Rockhampton/ Yeppoon (5 staff), Mackay (3 staff)
North—Townsville Operations Manager (1 staff), Quick Response Unit (Townsville) (2 staff), Townsville District (6 staff), Bowen/Whitsunday (5 staff), Ingham (3 staff), Cairns (14 staff), Port Douglas (2 staff), Thursday Island (6 staff), Weipa (2 staff), Karumba (2 staff)

5. 93 boats including small dinghies, punts and tenders.

6. (1) At the places mentioned in Q4. Excepting Metropolitan and Caboolture.
(2) \$710,000

485. Stolen Vehicles; Security at Railway Station Car Parks

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/5/97)—

- (1) How many cars or vehicles were reported stolen in the last available reporting period in Queensland?
- (2) How many were in Logan?
- (3) How many were reported stolen from railway station car parks?
- (4) How many were reported stolen from Kuraby, Trinder Park, Woodridge, Kingston and Loganholme stations?
- (5) What action is being implemented to address thefts from railway car parks?

Mr Cooper (30/5/97):

(1) The number of reported Motor Vehicle Theft Offences for the 1995/96 financial year for Queensland was 19,529.

(2) The number of reported Motor Vehicle Theft Offences for the 1995/96 financial year for Logan Police District was 2726.

The number of reported Motor Vehicle Theft Offences for the 1995/96 financial year for Logan Central Police Division was 857.

(3) The number of reported Motor Vehicle Theft Offences from Queensland Rail premises for the 1995/96 financial year for Queensland were 861.

(4) The number of reported Motor Vehicle Theft Offences for the 1995/96 financial year from the specific railway stations are as follows:

Kuraby Railway Station—27

Trinder Park Railway Station—26

Woodridge Railway Station—28

Kingston Railway Station—31

* Please note there are no railway stations at Loganholme.

(5) Since the re-formation of the Railway Squad in December 1992, monthly analysis of car theft from railway station car parks has been undertaken. Certain stations are targets for vehicle theft and this information has been forwarded to Queensland Rail on the premise they use this information to prioritise the implementation of car park security at Railway Stations.

During this time, the information has been shared with regional police and a coordinated policing approach has been undertaken to target problem areas. During the past 4 years, a number of proactive and covert operations have been conducted in the Logan/Beenleigh areas targeting car theft and crime at railway stations.

In addition, a number of strategies have recently been implemented by the Railway Squad in an effort to reduce vehicle theft at target stations (those stations with a high incidence of vehicle theft) and to identify offenders.

The strategies include:

Operation "Thomas"—an operation where the Railway Squad, Police Mounted Unit and the Police Dog Squad conduct high profile patrols

and undercover patrols at target stations. Activities included physical checks of vehicles to ensure they were secured. At one station (Darra), 63 vehicles were checked and a large number were found unsecured. Notices (prepared by the Community Policing Unit) advising the owner of the vehicle of security issues were left on the vehicles. The Police Mounted Unit conducted hourly proactive patrols of station car parks, alternating patrols between two or three target stations.

The exchange of information between the Railway Squad and the regional police has been enhanced in an effort to identify and prosecute offenders. This has been achieved by having relevant and timely information and intelligence.

Operation Trainsafe, a joint initiative of the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Rail commencing in June, will also target vehicle theft, crime and anti-social behaviour on the rail network.

486. Bremer TAFE, Diploma of Management Courses

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (8/5/97)—

- (1) Why were courses for the Diploma of Management cancelled at Bremer TAFE in 1997?
- (2) Why were students only notified in April that Bremer courses were cancelled?
- (3) Is Bremer TAFE suffering a cash crisis; if so, what is the extent of that problem?
- (4) What alternative arrangements are being made for Bremer Diploma of Management course students?
- (5) How many students have been affected by this decision?
- (6) Is he aware that the management course at Yeronga TAFE in most subjects is already full?

Mr Santoro (2/6/97):

(1) An initial decision was made to discontinue the management stream of courses for Semester 2 in 1997, however the decision was reversed following concerns expressed by students. The management stream of study will continue to be offered at the Bremer Institute in Semester 2, 1997.

(2) Students were given notice of the initial decision on 17 April 1997, allowing students seven weeks to make alternative arrangements for Semester 2, 1997.

(3) No. There is no cash crisis at The Bremer Institute.

(4) As the decision has been reversed, there was no need to make alternative arrangements for students. All management students were informed of the decision by personal letter from the Acting Institute Director.

(5) Nil.

(6) I am advised that this is not the case.

487. Public Sector Enterprise Bargaining Agreements

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/5/97)—

With reference to the recently concluded enterprise bargaining agreements with public sector employees in Queensland—

- (1) What is the cost in 1996-97 of the agreements reached with (a) the State Public Services Federation Queensland and the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers' Union in the Education and Health Departments, (b) unions in respect of the "core" public service and (c) unions in respect of the Main Roads Department?
- (2) What is the estimated full year cost for 1997-98 in respect of each of these agreements?

Mrs Sheldon (11/6/97): This question should be directed to the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations, Mr Santo Santoro.

488. South East Freeway, High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/5/97)—

With reference to his failure to adequately answer Question on Notice No. 286, where I referred to costings by his department that demonstrate that his preferred option to construct high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes along the South East Freeway between the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway and extend the dedicated busways along this section of freeway at a later date will cost taxpayers an extra \$150m in today's terms—

- (1) Did the department's analysis of the Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) for building dedicated busways between the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway exceed that for constructing HOV lanes?
- (2) Will the estimated annual maintenance costs on the HOV lanes exceed the estimated annual maintenance costs for busways?
- (3) What are the estimated annual maintenance costs per kilometre for HOV lanes and busways?
- (4) Has his department estimated the present value of benefits associated with the construction of busways between the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway; if so, what are the estimated value of benefits with respect to (a) travel time savings for public transport, (b) travel time savings for private vehicles, (c) operating benefits to bus operators, (d) operating benefits to private vehicles and (e) reduced externalities such as pollution, accidents and urban sprawl?
- (5) Has his department compared the estimated reduced travel time between the HOV lanes and busways between the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway for bus users; if so, what are they?

- (6) Has his department compared other estimates of passenger benefits between HOV lanes and busways between the Gateway Motorway and Logan Motorway such as reduced travel time for (a) private vehicle users, (b) increased service frequency, (c) improved service frequency, (d) improved service reliability, (e) bus operating cost savings, (f) improved access to public transport and (g) improved public transport facilities; if so, what are the results?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97):

- (1) Cost Benefit analyses for the South East Transit (SET) Project were carried out for projects originating in the CBD and extending to Gateway Motorway and to the Logan Motorway respectively. No analysis was prepared for the section Gateway Motorway to Logan Motorway as a separate stand alone project. These analyses relate to a comparison of improvements between the Brisbane CBD and the Logan Motorway since most trip making includes the CBD as an endpoint.

The analysis completed to compare the construction and operation of a busway or High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes between the CBD and the Logan Motorway along the South East Freeway has illustrated that similar Benefit Cost Ratios (BCR) of approximately 6-7 can be expected with these approaches to improving corridor operations to the future. The reported BCRs are 6.5 for the busway and 6.3 for the HOV lanes, but these values are insufficiently different to discriminate between the two projects.

Both projects are economically robust. The final combination of busway and HOV lanes has been selected as part of a deliberate strategy to provide a balance in the project between increasing public transport usage on the adjoining busway, and to encourage greater vehicle occupancy of private motor vehicles using the corridor, and to enhance the economic case through improved urban/residential amenity, improved public transport reliability and accessibility, and wider transport network benefits.

(2) The analysis of (1) above used estimates of annual maintenance costs on HOV lanes that are less than for the busway since maintenance costs for the busway include station maintenance and electrical system maintenance associated with modern technologies to provide illumination, security and real time schedule information to patrons.

(3) It has been estimated that HOV lanes can be maintained for approximately 10% higher costs than for general traffic lanes (for enforcement activities, additional signage and additional pavement markings). This works out to \$4400/kilometre per lane annually and excludes other longer term high cost maintenance activities, which is estimated to be \$130,000 per kilometre per lane every 10 years. The busway maintenance has been estimated to cost \$3 million per annum based on experience with the Ottawa busway in Canada; that is \$100,000 per kilometre per year for the approximately 30 kms of busway.

(4) The present value of benefits derived from busway operations between the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway have been estimated within the overall analysis which considered the Brisbane CBD to Logan Motorway section. That analysis concluded that the busway would provide overall Present Value Benefits of \$1,582,000,000. This includes bus and private vehicle operations savings, travel time savings for bus passengers and other roadway users, and reductions in accident and other indirect costs such as with pollution and urban sprawl.

(5) The Strategic Cost Benefit Analysis reported on above did not identify specifically travel time differences expected between buses running on a busway or on HOV lanes between the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway. Either of these were expected to produce travel time reductions of approximately 8 per minutes per trip over the length of the analysis section between the CBD and the Logan Motorway. This is in large part the result of increased bus frequency, reduced waiting times and higher travel speeds. The analysis did not include time required for buses operating on the HOV lanes to leave and return to the Motorway to pick up and set down passengers.

(6) Passenger benefits have not been specifically distinguished between the HOV lane scenario as compared to the busway scenario between the Gateway Motorway and the Logan Motorway, however, it is well recognised that either scenario will produce reduced travel times over current operating conditions. These are in large part as a result of increased and improved service frequency, improved service reliability, bus operating cost savings, improved access to public transport and improved public transport facilities. It is important to note that improved service along the freeway corridor as a regional facility is not only hinged on use of busways and HOV lanes but also an integration of bus services and HOV into the communities along the freeway. The provision of a bus or HOV with opportunities to bypass congestion at or closer to the CBD end of the trip will provide a key competitive advantage for those modes over single occupancy car travel for journeys originating in Logan City.

489. Rural Industries and Development Corporation Report

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (8/5/97)—

With reference to a recent report commissioned by the Rural Industries and Development Corporation which criticises small to medium sized Australian food companies for failing to fully exploit South East Asian food markets—

- (1) Does he agree with the report's findings that it is simply the unwillingness by these companies to devote the time and effort to access these markets that is the problem?
- (2) To what does he attribute this alleged unwillingness in a time of high imbalance of

trade, high unemployment and a depressed rural sector?

- (3) What is he doing to address this supposed unwillingness and what results is he achieving?
- (4) Is it true that even after the report was made available to more than 250 Australian food producing companies, none acted on its recommendations?
- (5) Is part of the solution to encourage Australian rural groups to change in order to produce products of high and emerging demand in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia?

Mr Slack (10/6/97):

1. The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation commissioned Dr Norman Philp, School of Business, Charles Sturt University to produce the Report, Why Some Firms Successfully Export Processed Food and Beverages, referred to in this Question on Notice. This Report, which sought to examine the export behaviour of food and beverage processing establishments located within the rural regions of New South Wales and Victoria, was not critical of the export performance of regional small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Its focus rested, rather, on the identification of those factors that highlighted the differences between the firms in the region that were exporting and those that chose to remain domestic. These factors included:

- a commitment by managers to export;
- a decision to devote resources to this endeavour;
- a recognition of the importance of price in relation to a product's market competitiveness; and
- access to managers with export specific experience and skills and tertiary qualifications.

The Queensland Government is aware that small to medium sized food companies confront enormous challenges in their efforts to become competitive in the international market and it is committed to addressing the needs of this industry sector.

2. The Government acknowledges that small and medium sized food firms often experience difficulties in maintaining adequate cash flow and profit margins. In the current economic climate, therefore, small and medium sized food firms in the rural sector are particularly vulnerable to a range of factors that have the potential to impact adversely on the viability of their businesses. These factors are of particular significance for firms wishing to enter the international market where the up-front costs are considerable.

3. The Queensland Government, in particular, the Department of Economic Development and Trade, Department of Primary Industry and Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry has developed a range of initiatives to develop and promote the export capabilities of the State's small and medium sized food and beverage processing companies.

The State Government is presently formulating a food industry development strategy that will focus on significant initiatives aimed at addressing impediments to industry development, facilitating

investment, promoting the industry's strengths internationally and doubling the value of the Queensland food industry exports by the year 2010.

The particular initiatives developed by the Government include:

- high impact Queensland exclusive food trade promotions;
- development of long term relationships with key buyers and in-market allies;
- inbound buyer missions;
- DPI's Agrilfonet to assist small and medium agribusiness enterprises in searching for new business opportunities in export markets;
- facilitating negotiations between exporting food companies and overseas buyers;
- utilising Government International Secretariats and Overseas Offices to provide expert advice and services to Queensland companies and promotional activities.

Further initiatives introduced by the Government are:

- The Bilateral Business Export Development Scheme to assist member firms of bilateral Chambers of Commerce, which include food companies, to improve their export performance;
- Queensland Trade Assistance Scheme (QTAS) available to Queensland firms, including food companies, to raise their export performance;
- The International Market Development Scheme (IMDS) to raise the status of Queensland's industry sectors in international markets through the implementation of high profile, results driven market development strategies. A two year Food Market Development Program for Korea with the program for South East Asia to commence in September 1997 has been implemented as a result of this scheme;
- Regional International Trade Development Initiative.

To date, many participants in the Queensland food and beverage processing industry, which is dominated by small and medium sized firms, have taken advantage of these initiatives and captured many of the opportunities available in the South East Asian food markets over the last few years. From 1991/92 to 1993/94:

- the annual turnover in the Queensland food processing industry increased by \$1.5 billion (21%);
- exports increased by \$0.9 billion (33%);
- employment increased by 2,700 (8.2%).

In 1995/96, the Queensland food industry was a major contributor to the Queensland manufacturing industry with exports totalling \$3.89 billion. Food exports represented 29.7% of the State's total exports in 1995/96. These figures confirm the increased contribution to the State economy made by the food and processing sector over the last 6 years and they lend support to the decision to continue developing exporting initiatives for this sector.

4. The Report was released in February 1997. Consultation with both Dr Norm Philp, author of the above Report and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation has been undertaken and the Department has been advised that information on the number of firms acting on the recommendations proposed is not available at this time.

5. The Government believes that the export potential of small and medium sized food companies will be developed if these companies are able to turn their comparative advantages into competitive advantages. This goal will only be achieved if firms become more market driven. That is, they become aware of market trends and opportunities and use this knowledge to develop products that meet emerging demands of the international market.

The food industry has been identified by the Government as an important industry that is contributing significantly to export earnings and consequently economic growth. The Government is therefore committed to facilitating the development of this industry. The suite of programs detailed above have been introduced by the Government to ensure small and medium sized food companies will be able to successfully compete in international food markets.

490. Environment Department Officers, Improper Use of Internet

Mr MULHERIN asked the Premier (8/5/97)—

With reference to the recently discovered practice of public servants in the Department of Environment accessing hard pornography on Government computers via the Internet—

- (1) Is he satisfied that this matter is being adequately investigated by the Department of Environment; if so, when does he expect disciplinary action to be taken against the offenders?
- (2) Has he instructed all other Government departments to carry out similar reviews to determine whether improper computer use is occurring in any other areas of Government; if so, when did he issue this instruction?
- (3) When does he expect these reviews to be completed?

Mr Borbidge (10/6/97):

(1) I am satisfied that officers of the Department of Environment have pursued the investigation into unauthorised use of the Internet with vigour and thoroughness. The technical aspects of the investigation are being subjected to a professional peer review to validate the techniques used and to confirm the basis of the investigation.

Five persons have been identified as having been involved with unauthorised use of Internet facilities to varying degrees. The following is the position in respect of those five persons.

One officer has been subject to a completed disciplinary process, the charge substantiated and a penalty imposed;

One officer is the subject of an investigation which is in progress;

Two officers have resigned, one prior to the commencement of investigation and one subsequently; and

One contractor's services have been terminated immediately on his involvement having been substantiated.

The different stages of the discipline process in individual cases reflects the fact that information has become available or has emerged through analysis at different times during the investigation. As soon as evidence supporting disciplinary action has been substantiated appropriate action has been taken to put the disciplinary process in train. Those officers who have resigned are now beyond the reach of a disciplinary process under the Public Service Act 1996.

(2) & (3) No. It is the responsibility of individual Chief Executives to manage the day to day operations of their departments.

491. Mines and Energy Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/5/97)—

With reference to recent Government advertising campaigns—

- (1) What is the department's advertising and promotional budget?
- (2) How much to date has been spent on advertising and promotional work by the department?

Mr Gilmore (26/5/97):

(1) The Department does not have a specific advertising and promotional budget. The Department's Publications, Promotions and Marketing Branch has an operational budget of \$250,000 in 1996-97. Whilst the Branch's activities involve the production of publications and promotional displays, they also have carriage of other corporate publications, such as the Department's Annual Report. Very little of this budget is dedicated to advertising per se. For example, the cost of publishing the Queensland Government Mining Journal is totally offset by the sale of advertising space within the Journal.

(2) The Publications, Promotions and Marketing Branch has spent \$202,000 as at 30 April 1997.

492. Justice Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr BRISKEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (8/5/97)—

With reference to recent Government advertising campaigns—

(1) What is the department's advertising and promotional budget?

(2) How much to date has been spent on advertising and promotional work by the department?

Mr Beanland (3/6/97):

(1) The department's advertising and promotional budget for the recent state-wide information campaign, the purpose of which has been to advise the Queensland public of major changes to the Juvenile Justice Act, the Penalties and Sentences Act and the Criminal Code, is \$250,000.

(2) The expenditure to date in relation to this campaign totals \$208,208 and is represented by media costs of \$178,223, production costs of \$6,733 and public relations activities of \$23,252.

493. Schools, Lytton Electorate; Skin Cancer Prevention

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (8/5/97)—

With reference to the incidence of skin cancer in Queensland and the importance of early intervention and the sun-safe practices in schools—

- (1) How many Sun-Smart kits were distributed to school children in each school in the Lytton Electorate (both State and private) in each year of the Goss Government's Sun-Smart program?
- (2) What was the value of the items distributed to each school in each year?
- (3) Given that the Government has abolished the Sun-Smart program, what measures has it put in place to reduce and combat the incidence of skin cancer and skin damage for our school children?
- (4) With respect to each school within the Lytton Electorate (State and private), what additional monies have been allocated to the school directly as a consequence of the abolition of the Sun-Smart program (and after allowing for adjustment, variations in grant due to other factors such as changes in enrolments etc)?
- (5) With respect to each school in the Electorate of Lytton (State and private), how much money has been allocated for sun-shades and shelters under the Make-Shade program in each year since its inception?
- (6) At what schools in the Lytton Electorate (both State and private) does the Government propose to erect shade-cloth shelters within 1997 and 1998?

Mr Quinn (4/6/97):

(1) Sun-Smart kits were distributed to Preschool and Year 1 students.

State Schools	Number of Kits 1994	Number of Kits 1995	Number of Kits 1996
Lindum SS	59	40	41
Lota SS	67	67	67
Manly SS	62	53	49
Manly West SS	127	166	161
Wondall Heights SS	66	83	83
Wynnum Central SS	19	24	26
Wynnum North SS	120	112	115
Wynnum West SS	97	90	92
Wynnum North SHS	0	0	0
Wynnum SHS	0	0	0
Darling Point Special School	0	0	0
Private Schools			
Guardian Angels Primary School	51	51	47
Iona College (Lindum)	0	0	0
St John Vianney's School (Manly)	35	65	95

(2) The total value of Sun-Smart kits was \$7.27 each.

(3) "William the Bilby, a Sunsafe Story", a beautifully illustrated book which addresses sun safety issues and including suggestions for class activities was distributed to all preschools and early childhood classes in primary schools. Distribution was initially to state schools and is being extended to private schools. .

Similarly, as an ongoing part of sun safety support for schools, workshops have been held with Education, Health and Cancer Fund personnel to inservice the Skin Cancer and Teenagers (SCAT) resource.

Further, I have endorsed the Health Promoting Schools Project, a collaborative project with support funding from Queensland Health. This project assists schools to maintain or enhance the health of the school community.

Many schools which have become part of the Health Promoting Schools Network have begun initiatives to ensure that sun safety is addressed, not only in the curriculum, but through initiatives to increase the provision of protection from the sun. These initiatives include changes to school uniforms, provision of sunscreen, or provision of more shade in the school environment.

This project supports the concept of whole school community involvement, and school based management. Schools receive support for their sunsafety initiatives from the HPS Project Officer in the Health and Personal Development Unit, HPE regional consultants and Queensland Health promotion officers.

(4) State Schools	Additional recurrent funding 1997 \$	Total recurrent funding 1997 \$
Lindum SS	567	774
Lota SS	1129	1424
Manly SS	1875	2334
Manly West SS	2595	3134
Wondall Heights SS	3266	3978
Wynnum Central SS	709	956
Wynnum North SS	2480	3026
Wynnum West SS	1823	2243
Wynnum North SHS	-24	839
Wynnum SHS	-14	949
Darling Point Special School	247	410
Private Schools		
Guardian Angels Primary School	1511	1904
Iona College (Lindum)	3378	4678
St John Vianney's School (Manly)	1276	1508

(5) & (6) Funding has been allocated to shade structures to school in the Lytton electorate, over the duration of the Building Better Schools Program (Makeshade Element 1995-96 to 1997-98), as follows:

Lota SS—\$22,700
 Manly SS—\$15,081
 Wondall Heights SS—\$100,841
 Wynnum Central SS—\$10,000

There is no provision under the Makeshade Program for private schools to receive funding for shade structures However, funding may be available under the Capital Assistance Scheme.

494.Arts Funding, Townsville

Mr SMITH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/5/97)—

With reference to the recent \$2.6m Commonwealth Regional Art Funding allocation and the fact that while Cairns received \$136,000 and Innisfail \$15,700, Townsville received nothing—

- (1) Was the State Government, and in particular the Queensland Office of Arts and Cultural Development, consulted by the relevant Federal agency before the distribution of the grants was determined?
- (2) As the Townsville submission for funding was to help to stage an exhibition of paintings by renowned North Queensland artist, Ray Cook, and is exactly the sort of activity the Visions Australia component of the program is supposed to support, and as the Perc Tucker Gallery is one of the leading galleries in the State's regional network, will she have this matter taken up with the Federal Government with a view to seeking appropriate funding for Townsville?

Mrs Sheldon (11/6/97):

(1) The State Government through The Arts Office is not directly consulted during the assessment process of Commonwealth Government grant programs administered by the Department of Communications and the Arts. Panels of peers are appointed by the Commonwealth Minister to assess applications and provide advice to him on grants. In this instance two members of the Assessment panel on the Visions of Australia Program were from Queensland. The Arts Office was informed of program decisions once panel decisions were ratified by the Minister.

(2) The Perc Tucker Gallery proposal to stage a retrospective exhibition of the work of Ray Cook would have been an eminently worthy recipient of Visions of Australia funding and this is evident in The Queensland Arts Office's allocation of \$10,000 towards the costs of staging the exhibition. However the State Government was not consulted about the matter. I am of course concerned that the Commonwealth Government's funding for Queensland artists is less than can be expected and I can assure you that the issue of increasing funding to regional arts activity in Queensland is being taken up by me personally with the Federal Minister for the Arts and by staff of The Arts Office with their Commonwealth counterparts.

495. Police Citizens Youth Club, Sandgate Electorate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/5/97)—

With reference to his statements in Parliament on 8 May in response to a question without notice from the honourable member for Warwick wherein he advised that the working relationship between Police/Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYCs) and the community was improving under this Government—

- (1) What Government funding is being directed to the PCYC in my electorate?
- (2) Will additional funds be forthcoming for much needed maintenance works at the PCYC in my electorate?
- (3) Will the Government also fund the much needed new amenities block?
- (4) Will the Government also fund the much needed repainting of the PCYC building?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

- (1) The Northern Suburbs PCYC has received:-
 - (a) A \$2,000 grant from the Department of Families Youth and Community Care, Office of Childcare for the repairs to the club's front entrance ramp. This grant was issued on 6 May 1997.
 - (b) Subsidies amounting to \$17,218 were issued from the Department of Families Youth and Community Care, Office of Child Care. These subsidies were issued for the club's Vacation Care Program for holiday periods between May 1996 and April 1997.

(c) An \$8,000 grant from the Gaming Machine Benefit Fund was issued in December 1996 for repairs to the club's roof.

(2) Any grant application made by the Northern Suburbs PCYC will be examined by the grant committees and, depending on the availability of funds and other applications received, grants may be issued to that club.

(3) The Northern Suburbs PCYC has applied for a \$15,000 grant from the Gaming Machine Benefit Fund. This grant is for the upgrade and maintenance of its amenities area.

This grant application will be considered with all other applications.

(4) No grant application has been made for the painting of the Northern Suburbs PCYC and it will be encouraged to apply for a grant for this specific purpose.

496. Public Housing, Currumbin Electorate

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/5/97)—

With reference to public housing waiting lists on the southern Gold Coast—

What are the waiting times for one, two, three and four bedroom units and houses for all areas south of Tallebudgera Creek including Palm Beach, Currumbin Waters, Elanora, Currumbin, Tugun, Kirra and Coolangatta?

Dr Watson (10/6/97): The minimum estimated wait times for each area are as follows:

Coolangatta Zone (including Bilinga, Coolangatta, Kirra and Tugun)—

59 months for one bedroom accommodation, 27 months for two bedroom accommodation and 49 months for seniors' units. There are no public rental housing dwellings three bedrooms or greater in the Coolangatta Zone.

Currumbin Waters Zone (including Currumbin, Currumbin Waters and Elanora)—

32 months for two bedroom accommodation, 40 months for three bedroom accommodation, 50 months for accommodation with greater than three bedrooms and 30 months for seniors' units.

Palm Beach—

53 months for one bedroom accommodation, 54 months for two bedroom accommodation, 60 months for accommodation with greater than three bedrooms and 51 months for seniors' units.

NB:

1. The waiting times detailed above are the times spent on the waiting list by the last applicant for whom housing was provided.

2. These figures are for the minimum estimated wait times. These relate to bedroom size of a dwelling not swelling type (eg detached, attached, apartment, etc).

497. Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/5/97)—

With reference to leasehold house blocks provided through his department and the annual rental and freeholding costs and the proposed reduction in the cost of freeholding and rate of rents for Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases—

Will he offer the same cash discount for freeholding and the same interest rates for the battlers and pensioners for their house blocks as the Government had proposed for GHP Leaseholders?

Dr Watson (10/6/97): My Department currently administers a total of 486 perpetual leases under the State housing Act. Provision exists for freeholding these leases under the State Housing (Freeholding of Land) Act 1957. The existing methodology prescribed allows for freeholding to occur at market value of the land at the date of application. It also permits previous rentals paid by the lessee to be credited against the market value purchase price, up to a maximum limit of 50 per cent. Approximately 20 to 30 lessees pursue this option to freehold annually.

498. Priority Housing Scheme

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/5/97)—

With reference to the priority housing scheme—

- (1) How many applications have been lodged under this scheme by applicants residing within (a) the Nudgee Electorate, (b) the area within the responsibility of the Chermerside office of the department and (c) the State?
- (2) How many applications have been successful in each area?

Dr Watson (10/6/97):

(1) As at 9 May 1997, (a) a total of 2 priority housing applications have been lodged by people residing within the Nudgee Electorate; (b) a total of 16 priority housing applications have been lodged by people residing within the boundaries of the department's Chermerside Area Office; (c) a total of 297 priority housing applications have been lodged throughout the State.

(2) Nil successful applications in the Nudgee Electorate; 9 successful applications for people within the Chermerside Area Office boundaries; 84 successful applications for people throughout the State.

499. Health Capital Works Program

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (8/5/97)—

With reference to his claim that the Health Capital Works program had a budget over-run of \$1.2 billion—

Will he provide an itemised list of projects together with estimated costs which comprise the alleged 12 billion over-run?

Mr Horan (11/6/97): The information sought by the honourable member has been before the House for fourteen months. In April 1996, I tabled in Parliament an independent Report by Cost Management Services Pty. Ltd. which assessed commitments and expectations of the Labor Government with respect to the Queensland Health Capital Works Program.

Key findings of the Report were:-

forecasted final costs of the then Program were approximately \$3.15 billion as opposed to the Cabinet approved allocation of \$1.725 billion after allowing for credits through the sale of surplus properties and assumption that all car parks and centralised energy facilities would be self funding;

a significant number of additional projects had been added to the Program for which no Cabinet approval or endorsement had been given;

the initial 10 Year Hospital Rebuilding Plan did not allow for realistic cost escalations or changes in the scope of works.

Additionally, the Labor Government committed advanced funding of \$10 million to priority minor works for the 1995/96 financial year and intended to repay this amount from the Capital Works Program at \$5 million in each of the years 1996/97 and 1997/98. The Coalition Government reviewed this arrangement and decided that a special 'one off' allocation of \$10 million would be provided but be funded from the Program.

Further, in Labor's last days, an attempt was made by the Labor now Opposition Leader, Peter Beattie, to fund the grossly over expended operational budgets of Regional Health Authorities from the Capital Works Program—to the tune of \$34 million. This action would have resulted in the delay and reduction in scope of projects including Caboolture Hospital Stage 2. On coming to Government, I overturned the Beattie decision—capital funds should not be provided to meet recurrent budgets.

I refer the honourable member to the Report.

500. Far-north Queensland TAFE

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (8/5/97)—

With reference to reports that some casual staff at the Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE are not being paid and that the college has been directed not to make emergency payments because there is no money—

- (1) Is he aware of the difficulties this is causing, especially to part-time casuals who are on low weekly wages?
- (2) Is he aware of the insecurities this is causing to all staff?
- (3) How many casual staff are not being paid or are having their payments delayed because of these financial difficulties?

Mr Santoro (2/6/97):

- (1) All staff of the Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE are being paid and will continue to be paid. Emergency payments are being made when required. Casual staff who experience difficulty can apply for an emergency payment.
- (2) Senior managers have assured staff that all casual salary claims are being processed and will be paid.
- (3) Refer (1) above.

501. Film Production, Woodwark Bay

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Environment (8/5/97)—

With reference to a film production by Roadshow to take place in Woodwark Bay from June to December—

- (1) Is access to the film location on the bay through national park?
- (2) Is the access through previous Dryander National Park, the subject of a performance clause in the Woodwark Bay development?
- (3) Has the filming delayed the resumption of this land from the company whose time has expired and extension granted and expired?
- (4) What environmental guidelines have been imposed on the film company to protect surrounding national park?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

- (1) No.
- (2) As far as the Department of Environment is aware, no access to or through the excised area of national park is proposed by the filming company.
- (3) No.
- (4) The site location manager (of the film production company) has visited the area with Department of Environment staff. The following conditions have been agreed to with regard to environmental protection of adjacent national park and wildlife in general.

A strictly enforced speed limit of 40 km/h will apply on the roadway into Woodwark Bay to reduce the possibility of 'road kills' involving native fauna.

A fire break will be constructed around the filming site to prevent any inadvertent fire escape into national park or other areas. A mobile fire tender/control unit will be on stand-by throughout the filming project.

All filming staff will be fully inducted to ensure awareness of relevant issues including the location of national park boundaries, dangerous wildlife and control of weed species.

502. Police Beats

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/5/97)—

With reference to the announcement by him that a new police beat will begin in Kenmore following the

very successful trials in Toowoomba and West End—

- (1) Does he intend to introduce police beats into other areas in Queensland; if so, what is the current state of planning for the introduction of these police beats?
- (2) What are the locations for these planned police beats?
- (3) What is the time-frame for their introduction?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

(1) There is a proposal to establish a further five Police Beats during the 1997/98 financial year.

(2-3) The location and timing of this proposal is yet to be finalised, but it is expected that three Police Beats will be trialled in the Metropolitan North Region during the upcoming 1997/98 financial year.

503. Port Authorities, Privatisation

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/5/97)—

What work is currently being done, or has recently been completed, within his department or any of the Government-owned enterprises for which he has responsibility in relation to the possibility of the privatisation of any port authority or port related infrastructure or operations?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97): There is no work presently under way in my Department relating to the privatisation of port authorities, port related infrastructure or port operations.

In its 1996 report the Queensland Commission of Audit recommended that the Government should evaluate non-core activities of port authorities and examine the privatisation of ports (and pilotage and conservancy services) and their capital structure to determine the relative merits of them remaining publicly owned.

The Government supports in principle the report of the Commission of Audit, and the implications and direction of the recommendations in relation to port authorities have been considered.

Particular consideration has been given to the marine services of pilotage and conservancy which are currently provided by Queensland Transport. The arrangements for the delivery of these services have been examined, however the option of privatising these services has been rejected.

There are a range of avenues available for a port authority to ensure that necessary port infrastructure is provided. Often the lessee of a port facility funds the infrastructure at the facility, yet there are instances where port authorities have purchased equipment and then leased it to port users.

Port authorities have a number of options available to them on how they deliver port services within their control which, as corporatised bodies, they exercise as they see fit. For example, some port authorities employ marine hydrographers while other port authorities rely on using contracted service providers.

As the Minister for Transport I am unaware of any examples within the State's ports where port authorities are considering the privatisation of port infrastructure currently under their control.

504. Brisbane City Council Bus Service, State Government Subsidy

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/5/97)—

With reference to the Brisbane City Council which operates the best urban bus service in the Australian States and the only one principally financed by ratepayers—

Will he give a guarantee of the Government's ongoing commitment to financial assistance by means of Treasury subsidy of farebox receipts?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97): Through Brisbane Transport the Brisbane City Council provides an extensive range of urban and school transport bus services as well as ferry services primarily within the boundaries of the City of Brisbane.

Subsidy has not been paid to Brisbane Transport on a gross fare revenue basis since 1 July 1994.

On 11 July 1994 the former Labor Government approved of the development of a Heads of Agreement between the Brisbane City Council and Queensland Transport to implement a Public Transport Reform Package.

The Queensland Government agreed to cap the current annual subsidy payment \$26.9 million in 1993/94 plus CPI) for a period of three years linked to the following commitments by the Brisbane City Council:

- the achievement of specified productivity targets of 30% by 3 years;
- the achievement of significant and measurable increases in patronage;
- the delivery of minimum service levels; and
- the introduction of service innovation (e.g. demand responsive services).

Subject to the satisfactory achievement of these targets, the Queensland Government also guaranteed the continuation of capped funding (\$29.5 million in 1996/97 plus CPI) for years 4 and 5 linked to:

- further significant patronage increases to be agreed between the Queensland Government and the Brisbane City Council; and
- the appropriate use of infrastructure (roads) funds for arrangements which enhance the delivery of public passenger transport services.

This Agreement is presently being reviewed by Queensland Transport officers having regard to the achievement of these targets and to the following issues which have arisen since the date of the Agreement:

- (i) Current reforms involving contracting with private bus operators and local authorities for the provision of 5 year exclusive franchise arrangements. At this point in time, Brisbane

area which could raise competition policy issues.

- (ii) The level of private sector involvement in public transport service provision and investment given that private sector operational costs are significantly less than those of the best public transport providers.
- (iii) The level of Government funding paid to private bus operators for the provision of urban bus services under commercial contract arrangements compared to that provided to Brisbane Transport.
- (iv) The level of "integration" already provided in having largely one contract area for Brisbane compared to potential dislocation if alternative arrangements were introduced.

Queensland Transport officers will be holding discussions with the senior management of Brisbane Transport this week to agree on a funding package for Brisbane Transport for the future which will need to be discussed with the Lord Mayor, Council Jim Soorley, and endorsed by me before being submitted to Government for approval.

505. Queensland Health, Debt

Mrs EDMOND asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/5/97)—

With reference to repeated claims by the Health Minister that he has cleared all accumulated Health Department debts (most recently on 4QR-Anna Reynolds) (8/5/97)—

- (1) Does this include the \$600m plus accumulated by Queensland hospital boards prior to 1990 listed in the Queensland Treasury Corporation Annual Report as \$513,824,730 remaining (Appendix A Onlendings 30 June 1996)?
- (2) Will Queenslanders continue to pay approximately \$50m per year for the next 14 years to pay out this Health Department debt?

Mrs Sheldon (11/6/97): Total outstanding debt for the Department of Health, as at 31 March 1997, stood at \$470,167,519. The figures quoted in points (1) and (2) of the question are approximations of the Department of Health's total outstanding debts, and the subsequent debt servicing commitments, as at 30 June 1996.

However, it is clear that either the Health Minister's statement has been taken in the incorrect context, or that the Minister's comment has been misconstrued.

The statement made by the Health Minister, to which the question refers, relates to the over-runs of more than \$75M in recurrent operating Hospital budgets for 1996-97, which was inherited from the previous government. The Health Minister is correct in stating that this over-run, which was incurred by the previous administration, has been fully cleared through budget funding.

506. TAFE Colleges, Recognition of Prior Learning

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (8/5/97)—

With reference to the fees that are being charged at TAFE Colleges for recognition of prior learning (RPL) (8/5/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that students are required to pay a subject fee which is non-refundable and then apply to have the subject graded as an RPL (the subject fee is not refunded whether the application for RPL is successful or fails)?
- (2) Does this mean that a student is paying for the subject twice-once when the subject was first learnt and a second time when applying for the RPL?
- (3) Does he agree that students are supposed to be paying for their education, not for administration and this double charging is unconscionable?

Mr Santoro (2/6/97):

- (1) Yes, I am aware that students are required to pay a fee to be assessed through the RPL process and that this fee is non-refundable.
- (2) No, this does not mean that a student is paying twice for a module. The initial fee the student pays when enrolling for a module is primarily for tuition. The RPL fee is for assessment of the student's current skill level, irrespective of whether that skill level has been achieved through formal tuition, work experience or general life experience. Credit transfer can be gained on the basis of documented evidence of achievement in relevant courses and programs. There are no fees attached to this process.
- (3) Students attending TAFE Institutes pay fees which amount to approximately 10% of the cost of the delivery of the training. The assessment of a student's competence through the RPL process is not merely an administrative process. It involves detailed assessment by a qualified person. The practices of TAFE Queensland in respect of RPL do not involve any form of double charging.

507. Queensland Cultural Centre Trust Board

Mr PURCELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/5/97)—

- (1) Did she consult the Queensland Cultural Centre Trust Board before sacking Mr Des Zagami; if not, by what authority was Mr Zagami stood aside from his position?
- (2) Did she consult the Queensland Cultural Centre Trust Board before appointing Ms Tina Roberts as Acting Director; if not, by what authority was Ms Roberts appointed as Acting Director?
- (3) Will she inform the House and employees of the Art Gallery, Museum, Performing Arts Centre and the State Library of the details of the Government's proposed restructuring of these authorities?

Mrs Sheldon (16/6/97):

- (1) As the Queensland Cultural Centre Trust is to be abolished as part of the restructure of the Arts portfolio announced on 5 March 1997, no consultation was required. Mr Zagami's employment has been terminated with the approval of the Governor-in-Council.

(2) Ms Roberts' temporary role is to manage the Arts Review Implementation Team. In doing this she is responsible for the implementation of recommendations contained in the Arts Program Evaluation report and deals with operational issues relating to the Queensland Cultural Centre Trust, as it is in the process of being restructured.

(3) Consultation has occurred and is continuing with the staff of the Art Gallery, Queensland Performing Arts Trust, State Library, Museum and Queensland Cultural Centre Trust regarding the proposed restructure.

508. Moorooka Police Station; Police Beat Shopfront, Moorvale Shopping Centre

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/5/97)—

With reference to the concerns of Moorooka residents to ensure an effective police presence to combat crime—

- (1) Has there been a downgrading of police strength at the Moorooka Police Station by changing a full-time position to a part-time position?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that the police complement at the Moorooka Police Station will be returned to full strength forthwith?
- (3) In view of the Brisbane City Council upgrading of the amenity of the Moorvale Shopping Centre, will he give further consideration to the establishment of a police shop front facility and a police beat at the Moorvale Shopping Centre as requested by the local business community?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

(1-2) The police strength at the Moorooka Police Station has not been downgraded. All police at the Moorooka Police Station are employed on a full time basis. The Administration Officer is currently on maternity leave on full pay. The Region has allocated further funding to employ a person on a casual basis for 16 hours per week, until the full time employee returns. This is considered to be satisfactory.

(3) The Officer in Charge of the Moorooka Police Station is aware of the upgrading of the amenity at the Moorvale Shopping Centre by the Brisbane City Council which consists of new toilet amenities and surrounding landscaping. Patrols of these amenities will be made along with the patrols currently made of the Moorvale Shopping Centre.

I reiterate my reply to Questions on Notice on 16 April 1996, No 120 and in August 1996, No 625—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 District Officer, Oxley District is aware of the community's concerns and support for such a Shopfront and he will continue to monitor the situation.

509. Woodwark Bay Development

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (8/5/97)—

With reference to the Premier's approval for an extension of the November sunset clause under the agreement for the development of the Woodwark Bay tourist resort—

- (1) Was he consulted regarding the decision to extend the permit for development; if not, why not; if so, did he oppose the decision to extend; if not, why not?
- (2) What advice did he receive from his department regarding this extension?
- (3) Is the extension for nine months rather than the announced six months?
- (4) What is the new expiry date?
- (5) Was a deed of variation or similar document entered into to give effect to the extension?
- (6) What terms of the original agreement were varied other than the extension of time?
- (7) What are the details of any such variation?

Mr Littleproud (3/6/97): With regard to this issue, you will be aware of the Honourable Premier's announcement of 26 May returning land excised by the Goss Government in 1994 back to the National Park Estate.

However, with regard to your question I refer the honourable member to the same questions asked by the Honourable Mr Milliner (Question 1413) at the end of last year.

510. Toxic Waste

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment (8/5/97)—

What work is being done within the department and in conjunction with the CSIRO to develop better technologies for dealing with toxic waste?

Mr Littleproud (6/6/97): Within the Department of Environment staff are developing strategies to deal with toxic wastes. These include keeping abreast of technologies in Australia and overseas, as well as development of the Environmental Protection Policy (Waste), an associated Regulation and guideline documents. Work is continuing on development of a means to monitor movement of specified hazardous wastes for introduction after the EPP (Waste), which will set the strategic direction for waste management in Queensland.

In addition, staff of the Department represent the Queensland Government on national committees dealing with hazardous waste. These include the ANZECC appointed Scheduled Waste Management Group, charged with developing Management Plans for the so-called intractable (Schedule 'X') wastes, and the National Collection Storage and Destruction Scheme Committee investigating a possible collection of unwanted farm and other hazardous chemicals.

With regard to the CSIRO, there are no work programs or contracts with that organisation in regard to developing technologies. Indeed, the

government sees the private sector as being the provider of appropriate technologies operating within the above strategy framework. For your information, CSIRO was involved in the development of the Plasma Arc process to treat hazardous wastes. This process is used by Nufarm in Melbourne to destroy pesticide manufacture wastes, the Halon Bank to destroy recovered and stored ozone depleting substances and shortly here in Queensland by BCD Technologies to destroy PCB and pesticide waste.

511. Seniors Card, South Australian Life Insurance Scheme

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (8/5/97)—

With reference to the recent mail-out to all State Government senior's card holders promoting a life insurance scheme by SGIO, South Australia, for older Queenslanders—

- (1) How many seniors were sent this offer?
- (2) How many seniors have taken up the offer as at 8 May?
- (3) How much commission is received by the office of aging for each insurance policy taken out under this scheme?
- (4) What programs will be funded by these commissions?
- (5) What other insurance companies were approached in regard to this promotional opportunity?
- (6) How many other sponsorship or commission arrangements have been entered into or are currently being negotiated in any part of his department and what are the details of these arrangements?

Mr Lingard (20/5/97):

- (1) To date 44,998 offers have been mailed to Queensland seniors card holders.
- (2) A total of 707 people have taken up the offer as at 12 May 1997. This figure may reduce after the completion of the 30 day cooling off period.
- (3) A fee representing 15% of total premiums paid in respect of each new policy, and 7% in respect of renewed policies, is paid to the my Department's Office of Ageing.
- (4) Funds received will be used for a new initiative, an information strategy for older people. The Office of Ageing intends seeking tenders in the near future from appropriate community organisations which would be interested in, and capable of, implementing this strategy.
- (5) My Department did not approach SGIC or any other company. SGIC, a subsidiary of an Australia wide company Legal and General, made an approach to the Office of Ageing with a specific proposal which had been successful in another State. This was a business-in-confidence proposal and, as such, it was not appropriate or ethical to seek tenders from other companies as this insurance product and marketing proposal were the property of SGIC. All appropriate steps have been taken to ensure that the

proposal was competitive and there is nothing in the agreement which would preclude my Department from entering into a similar business agreement with another company in the future.

(6) A sponsor is being sought to assist with the first mail-out of the Seniors Card Directory to Queensland seniors card holders. In return for a fee, the sponsoring company would receive advertising in the Directory, with the mail-out and acknowledgment as a major sponsor. To date, no proposals have been received.

512. Prince Charles Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (8/5/97)—

With reference to the imposition by the Treasurer of a 5 per cent "capital charge" on the hospitals capital works program—

- (1) Will he detail how the Prince Charles Hospital will be adversely affected by this 5 per cent tax on hospitals?
- (2) How many fewer nurses will be employed, how many operations will have to be postponed and what other services at Prince Charles Hospital will have to be cut in order to pay this new tax?

Mr Horan (11/6/97):

(1) The Prince Charles Hospital will not be adversely affected through the introduction of a capital charge. In fact, the additional funding will ensure that full redevelopment occurs. This will lead to improved functionality, better resource sharing, lower maintenance costs, and improved day procedure services (including surgery).

(2) Because the role of the hospital is being enhanced, there will be no impact on nurse employment, and far from being restricted, the Hospital's capacity to perform operations will be increased.

513. Fire Stations

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/5/97)—

With reference to the propaganda document "A Safe Queensland" and to the claim that 17 new fire stations were opened—

Will he list those stations?

Mr Veivers (10/6/97): Thirteen rural fire stations have received construction subsidy payments since this Government took office:

Anakie Town, Bauple, Dululu, Gloucester, Halliford, Horseshoe Bay, Landsborough, Mt Alford, Normanton, River Heads, Tolmah, Weranga/Goramba and Wondecla.

Four urban fire stations were opened during this period:

Kumbia, Hughenden, Miriam Vale and Toowoomba (Anzac Avenue—extensions to the existing training centre).

514. Police in High Schools Program; Glenala State High School

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/5/97)—

With reference to the Police in High Schools Program—

- (1) Has he given consideration to the provision of a police officer for the Glenala High School in the Electorate of Inala?
- (2) Will he list the high schools in Queensland that have been provided with a police officer?
- (3) Will he list which high schools are under consideration for the provision of police officers in the immediate future?

Mr Cooper (27/5/97):

(1) The Police in Schools program is in a trial phase with five sites selected around the State. Education Queensland chose schools to participate in the pilot in consultation with Queensland Police and I would anticipate that when the time comes to expand the program, this method of selecting schools to participate in the program will continue.

(2) The five trial locations are:

Cairns: Smithfield State High School and Trinity Beach, Caravonica and Yorkeys Knob State Schools

Townsville: Townsville State High School and William Ross State High School

Mt Isa: Kalkadoon State High School and Mt Isa State High School

Hervey Bay: Hervey Bay State High School and Urangan State High School

Brisbane: Redbank Plains State High School

(3) Refer to answer (1)

515. Q-Build Office, Caboolture

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/5/97)—

With reference to the announced intention of the Education Department to dispense with the services of the Public Works Department in relation to its capital works—

What effect will this have on the staff and operations of the Q-Build Sunshine Coast Regional Office at Caboolture?

Dr Watson (10/6/97): Education Queensland has taken over the Capital Works approval process from the Department of Public Works and Housing. Education Queensland has not dispensed with the services of my Department, however; it is open for Education Queensland to seek alternative service providers in the delivery of its Capital Works Program on a competitive basis.

516. Leading Schools Program

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Education (8/5/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that at a parent meeting of the Ashgrove State School a "no vote decision" was taken on the basis of inadequate information, and that further to this a secret ballot was then held which resulted in 120 voting "no" and 75 voting "yes"?
- (2) Does this destroy his assertions and those of the QCPCA that parents were totally united in support of Leading Schools?
- (3) Is he also aware that the unseemly haste of the introduction by Education Queensland of Leading Schools has not provided members of school communities with sufficient opportunities to seriously consider issues surrounding school based management and the Leading Schools proposal?
- (4) Does he now realise that the manner of introduction of Leading Schools is a classic example of the top-down management style that the Leading Schools proposal seeks to eradicate?

Mr Quinn (4/6/97):

(1), (2), (3) & (4) The Principal of Ashgrove State School submitted an Expression of Interest in the Leading Schools program on 26 March 1997. It is my understanding that this submission was supported by the P&C Association and staff of the school. An open transparent process was used by the Principal to arrive at this decision.

It would appear that Ashgrove State School was targeted specifically by the Queensland Teachers' Union in its statewide campaign of misinformation and fear in respect of Leading Schools.

When the Principal returned from the information conference, a school community information evening was organised for Wednesday 30 April 1997. This meeting was attended by over 80 persons, significant numbers of whom had never attended a P & C meeting before, or were QTU members. No vote was taken at this meeting.

Acting in a professional consultative manner, the Principal surveyed all families of the school—approximately 350 in total. Only 195 families voted.

I am informed that a small core of vocal parents, who are QTU members, influenced other parents, in the outcome of this survey. Many parents who voted "yes" have since informed the Principal that they are in favour of the program, but because of some obvious teacher opposition (9 teachers from a staff of 28), they voted "no".

Given these circumstances, the Principal did not submit a nomination to participate in the pilot program.

The President of the QTU is to be condemned for stating on ABC radio on Friday 9 May 1997 that the Principal did submit a nomination. Once again, under the guise of its public campaign of misinformation, the QTU has slurred the professional judgement of a school Principal. I believe that Mr Mackie should apologise to this Principal for attacking his

professionalism and commitment to Ashgrove State School.

517. State Budget

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/5/97)—

With reference to the National Fiscal Outlook presented to the recent Premier's Conference which shows States and Territories strengthening their financial position by reducing their deficits or increasing their surpluses—

Why is it that in 1997, the Government has halved Queensland's billion dollar surplus and that while other States' financial positions are improving, her 1997-98 Budget will bring a further deterioration of Queensland's financial position?

Mrs Sheldon (11/6/97): The estimated outcome for 1996-97 is for a General Government surplus of \$804 million, compared with the 1996-97 Budget estimate of \$534 million. Depending on events in the last two months of the financial year, the final outcome may improve further. This is consistent with the pattern in previous years whereby the eventual outcome is significantly better than the original Budget estimate. There is therefore no deterioration in Queensland's financial position.

518. Karawatha Forest

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/5/97)—

With reference to the answer to Question on Notice No. 237 provided by the Minister for Environment where he states that he has been advised by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that the transaction to purchase the parcel of land adjacent to the Southern Brisbane Bypass at Stretton, owned by Nev Pask Developments, has been completed and the land is now in the Government's ownership—

- (1) What was the final price of the land purchased by his department from Nev Pask Developments?
- (2) Is the land owned by the Department of Transport; if not, which department now owns this land?
- (3) Given the stated commitment to add this land to Karawatha Forest, will the department relinquish ownership of this land to either the Brisbane City Council or the Department of Environment; if not, why not?
- (4) Will he rule out any suggestion that this land could be used by the department for any future transport infrastructure developments?
- (5) What role will his department play in any future considerations by the Brisbane City Council and the Karawatha Forest Management Committee to rehabilitate and protect this land from any future development?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97):

(1) A total of \$7.8 million was paid to Nev Pask Developments for the road reserve and the eastern

severance. The eastern severance or the area in question, is notionally valued at \$5.4 million.

(2) The land is now in the ownership of the Department of Main Roads.

(3) The stated commitment remains unchanged. The Department of Main Roads is continuing the dialogue with Brisbane City Council aimed at finalising the transfer process.

(4) This government acquired the Nev Pask land with the express intention of contributing to the ecologically important Karawatha Forest. While it would be foolish to rule out the use of part of the land for any future transport infrastructure, I can say that this government has no firm plans to construct transport infrastructure on that land.

(5) Once the conditions and terms of the transfer are finalised with Brisbane City Council, the Department of Main Roads will play no future role in matters concerning this land.

519. Brisbane Airport, Second Runway

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (9/5/97)—

With reference to his long awaited Moreton Bay Zoning Plan and the intention of the new owner of Brisbane Airport to build a second runway there—

- (1) Where is this runway to be located and how will it impact on Moreton Bay Marine Park?
- (2) What allowance is being made in the plan to accommodate this second runway?
- (3) Has he been awaiting a decision on the successful buyer of Brisbane Airport before finalising this plan; if so, why?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

(1) My Department has little information about the proposed second runway recently mentioned in the newspaper in association with the sale of Brisbane Airport, although it is understood it will involve duplicating the existing main runway and be situated north of and parallel to the existing main runway.

On this basis it is not likely to impinge on Moreton Bay Marine Park.

The Federal Airports Corporation has previously indicated numerous options were being considered for possible future expansion of the airport, including extension of the 14/32 cross runway. The exact location of the cross runway option is uncertain until such time as a definite proposal is put forward.

If extension of the cross runway, or any other option were found to be the best option for any necessary future expansion of Brisbane Airport, possible impacts on Moreton Bay Marine Park would be one of many factors which would need to be considered in reaching that decision.

(2) See (1).

(3) No.

520. Mrs N. Smith

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Health (9/5/97)—

With reference to a Townsville Hospital patient, Mrs Norma Smith, who has been on the waiting list for hip replacement surgery for two years and as Mrs Smith is in constant and severe pain and requires a walking-stick for her limited mobility and as she was told on 2 May it would be at least a year before the operation could be performed and in view of his often stated claim to have drastically shortened waiting lists for medical procedures in the State hospitals—

What advice is he prepared to offer Mrs Smith to end her suffering?

Mr Horan (11/6/97): I am reluctant to publicly discuss a patient's medical condition without their consent to do so, and so I undertake to advise Mrs Smith privately in writing. The achievements of the Coalition have been in Category 1, so that the approximate waiting time for Category 1 orthopaedic operations at Townsville Hospital has now fallen to 0.3 months. Less urgent categories will be addressed in accordance with the Surgery on Time strategy; for example, this Government recently allocated a record \$73 million (up from \$30 million) for Surgery On Time, with \$42.9 million of the package earmarked as new funding specifically for the fight against Category 2 elective surgery waiting lists. This will continue the strategy to reduce waiting times after the State Government has successfully reduced Category 1 waiting list times from the worst in Australia in 1995 to now the best.

The condition of patients are continually reviewed; the categorisation of patients for elective surgery is a matter for the consulting surgeon. Patients who are placed on the surgical waiting list are monitored by regular audits including communication by telephone or letter. However, it is important any patient to notify his G.P. or the hospital if his condition changes. This will result in a follow up assessment with her Specialist.

521. Mount Isa Ambulance Centre

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/5/97)—

- (1) How many persons are employed at the Mount Isa Ambulance Centre?
- (2) What are their positions and how do the numbers compare to the same time in 1996?

Mr Veivers (29/5/97):

(1) The staff establishment at Mount Isa is 24 Officers.

(2) The breakdown of the staff establishment is as follows:

4 Communication Centre staff

1 Officer in Charge

1 Sector Coordinator

1 Training Officer

17 Ambulance Officers.

There has been no change to the staff establishment from May 1996 to the present time.

522. Community Corrections Program

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/5/97)—

With reference to the Community Corrections Program—

- (1) What were the monthly average capacity and the monthly average accommodations for each month between January 1995 and January 1997 for each of the following centres (a) Dutton Park, (b) Helana Jones, (c) Kennigo, (d) Maconochie Lodge and (e) St Vincent De Paul?
- (2) Were the non-QCSC operated centres (i.e., Maconochie Lodge and St Vincent De Paul)

funded for each of these months on the basis of their capacity or their accommodation rates?

- (3) What was the contracted fee paid per prisoner per year for each of the non-QCSC operated centres (i.e., Maconochie Lodge and St Vincent De Paul) for the period January 1995 to January 1997?

Mr Cooper (28/5/97):

- (1) I am advised by the QCSC that the monthly average capacity and the monthly average accommodation figures for each month between January 1995 and January 1997 for (a) Dutton Park, (b) Helana Jones, (c) Kennigo, (d) Maconochie Lodge and (e) St Vincent de Paul are:

1995	Dutton Park		Helana Jones		Kennigo Street		Maconochie Lodge		St Vincent de Paul	
	Acc	Cap	Acc	Cap	Acc	Cap	Acc	Cap	Acc	Cap
Jan	29	38	18	21	21	26	18	24	23	27
Feb	32	38	21	25	23	26	16	24	22	27
March	30	31	18	25	22	26	19	24	26	27
April	27	30	25	25	22	26	18	24	24	27
May	28	30	25	25	25	26	15	24	22	27
June	27	30	24	25	24	26	12	24	25	27
July	29	30	23	25	23	26	14	24	26	27
Aug	28	30	25	31	23	26	14	24	23	27
Sept	28	30	26	31	23	26	18	24	24	27
Oct	28	30	27	31	23	26	18	24	24	27
Nov	28	30	27	31	22	26	16	24	26	27
Dec	29	30	25	31	23	26	15	24	25	27

Table 1.2	Dutton Park		Helana Jones		Kennigo		Maconochie Lodge		St Vincent's	
	Acc	Cap	Acc	Cap	Acc	Cap	Acc	Cap	Acc	Cap
1996										
Jan	20	30	22	31	23	26	14	24	19	27
Feb	30	30	26	31	24	26	13	24	27	27
March	37	35	27	31	25	26	13	24	26	27
April	24	35	26	31	25	26	16	24	24	27
May	34	35	30	31	26	26	15	24	25	27
June	33	35	20	31	25	26	16	24	26	27
July	35	35	31	34	24	26	14	24	25	27
Aug	29	35	32	34	26	26	11	24	25	27
Sept	27	40	30	34	25	26	14	24	27	27
Oct	39	40	31	34	26	26	23	24	27	27
Nov	38	40	37	34	26	26	27	24	21	27
Dec	31	40	30	34	23	26	19	24	27	27
Jan 1997	35	40	26	34	25	26	16	24	26	27

The average monthly rates are summarised as follows:-

Jan 95-Dec 95	Average Capacity	Average Accommodation
Dutton Park	31	28.5
Helana Jones	27	23.6
Kennigo	26	22.8
Maconochie Lodge	24	16
St Vincent's	27	24
Jan 96—Jan 97		
Dutton Park	36	31.6
Helana Jones	32.6	28
Kennigo	26	24.8
Maconochie Lodge	24	16
St Vincent's	27	25

(2) The non QCSC operated centres (ie. Maconochie Lodge and St Vincent de Paul) are not funded on a price per bed basis however, the contracts with Maconochie Lodge and St Vincent's do provide for the payment of quarterly management fees based on the provision of 24 and 27 beds respectively.

(3) The contracted fee paid per prisoner per year for each of the non QCSC operated centres (ie. Maconochie Lodge and St Vincent de Paul) for the period January 1995 to January 1997 was as follows:-

St Vincent de Paul

Management Fee paid is for a capacity of 27 prisoners.

Year	Cost per Prisoner
1994-95	\$16,893
1995-96	\$17,555
1996-97	\$18,131

Maconochie Lodge

Management Fee paid is for a capacity of 24 prisoners.

1994-95	\$13,333
1995-96	\$14,411
1996-97	\$14,884

523. Coal Freight Services, Electric Locomotives

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/5/97)—

- (1) What are the engineering and cost implications of electrifying the railway lines serving the Moreton Coal Fields and the line to the port facilities at Fisherman Islands so that coal trains to the Port of Brisbane can be powered by electric locomotion (including an itemised break-down of costs)?
- (2) If an additional sub-station is required, would any benefits accrue to service operations other than the coal trains from Moreton to the port?
- (3) Would additional new electric locomotives need to be purchased, or could Queensland Rail reallocate electric locomotives from other activities in the network?
- (4) If electric locomotives were introduced on coal freight services to the port, to what extent would this reduce the noise and vibration impacts of those trains currently providing these services?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97):

- (1) Estimated capital costs to electrify the coal traffic from Ebenezer (west of Ipswich) to Fisherman Islands for coal traffic only is \$58.5 million (in base 1997\$s).

This includes:

Ebenezer Spurline overhead wiring (8.5km)—	\$3.2m
New electrical feeder station (Wulkuraka area)—	\$8m
Dutton Park-Lytton Junction overhead wiring—	\$6.7m (new dual gauge line—15km)
Lytton Junction-Port of Brisbane overhead wiring—	\$6.6m (coal tracks and access tracks only—17km of track)
New coal load-out structure at Ebenezer (allow)—	\$3.0m
Subtotal—	\$27.5m
Engineering, contingencies, etc (~25%)—	\$7.0m
Electric locomotives 6 No. @ \$4.0m—	\$24.0m
TOTAL—	\$58.5M

Operationally this only allows the coal traffic from Ebenezer to be hauled with electric locomotives. It

does not cover the hauling of coal from the Darling Downs area (Wilkie Creek) or from the Park Head loading siding on the Swanbank branch line. It also does not provide for grain trains, fuel trains or container trains. The proposal would cover 12-14 train movements per day, out of a total of 30-40 freight train movements, depending on seasonal traffic factors.

(2) A new electrical feeder station is required, probably in the Wulkuraka area, to allow for operation of electric hauled coal trains to Ebenezer. (The current supply point is Corinda). The only benefit of this, apart from the Ebenezer traffic, is to provide better security of supply for suburban services on the Ipswich line in the event of a fault at the Corinda feeder station. The new feeder station cannot be justified on this basis alone.

(3) New locomotives would be required. Six locomotives (excluding any spares) would be required for the three West Moreton coal train consists. Diversion of existing 3900 Class electric locomotives currently allocated for freight traffic between Brisbane and Rockhampton is possible but these would need to be replaced (with diesel electric or electric locomotives).

Either way, the project estimate needs to cover the cost of new or replacement locomotives.

(4) The existing electric locomotives are only marginally quieter than the old diesel fleet, however the predominant noise frequencies are different. Major sources of noise on the electric locomotives are the fans essential to cool the electrified systems and dynamic brake heat sinks. Major noise sources on the diesel locomotives are the diesel motor, exhaust system and fan cooling system. The exhaust system noise is in a higher position than a comparable noise source on the electric locomotive and this impacts on height of noise barriers required to screen it.

The new generation diesel electric locomotives, including the 2800 Class locomotives supplied by Goninan, are considerably quieter than the existing electric locomotives or old diesel fleet operating in the Brisbane area. However axle load limitations on bridges and track currently preclude its use west of Redbank.

Converting the 12-14 diesel hauled coal trains per day to electric traction would have limited impact on noise and vibration impacts along the Dutton Park-Lytton Junction rail corridor.

524. School Crossing Supervisors, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (9/5/97)—

With reference to school crossing supervisors for schools in the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) What was the number of hours and number of supervisors for each school respectively at 1 July 1996?
- (2) Have there been any reductions to these numbers during 1996-97?

- (3) Is there any proposal to reduce these numbers in 1996-97 or 1997-98?

Mr Quinn (4/6/97): (1), (2) & (3) The Minister for Transport is responsible for school crossing supervisors and as such, I am unable to respond to this question.

525. Police Presence at Ipswich Show

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/5/97)—

With reference to the very high police presence at the official opening of the Ipswich Show on the night of 8 May—

- (1) How many police were on duty on the night of 8 May?
- (2) How many police are normally allocated to this function?
- (3) Were they present for the protection of the Federal Member for Oxley?
- (4) What was the cost of having this number of police allocated to this function?
- (5) To provide this number of police, were police re-allocated from operational duties or were they on overtime?
- (6) If police were re-allocated from operational duties which areas had their police services reduced and to what extent?

Mr Cooper (29/5/97):

- (1) On the night of 8 May 1997, 32 Queensland Police Service members were rostered for duty at the Ipswich Show.
- (2) Normally 17 police are rostered for duty for this type of event.
- (3) No police were rostered for the purpose of providing protection for the Federal Member for Oxley. An additional 15 police from the Public Safety Response Team were in attendance to prevent breaches of peace and the protection of the public in light of recent disorder attracted by events attended by Ms Pauline Hanson.
- (4) Queensland Police Service members present included 12 staff from Ipswich District, 5 staff from the Mounted Unit and 15 staff from the Public Safety Response Team. No additional expenses were incurred by Ipswich District as all staff were on rostered duty.
- (5) 15 members of the Public Safety Response Team were provided from Operations Support Command to carry out this function which is part of their role to ensure a safe environment for the public. This is a statewide responsibility for this team. All other police present were there as part of the normal policing role associated with the annual Ipswich Show.
- (6) No Ipswich District Police were reallocated from their normal policing roles as a result of Pauline Hanson's attendance at the Ipswich Show.

526. Gun Buy-back Scheme

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/5/97)—

With reference to the gun buy-back scheme—

- (1) How many semi-automatic and automatic weapons have so far been handed in at rural gun buy-back centres?
- (2) How many weapons of other kinds have so far been handed in at rural gun buy-back centres?
- (3) What are the total administrative costs so far incurred by the gun buy-back program, expressed both in real dollar terms and as a percentage of total costs incurred to date by the buy-back program?

Mr Cooper (11/6/97):

- (1) At the close of business on 20 May 1997, a total of 31,795 semiautomatic and automatic weapons had been handed in at rural Firearms Compensation Centres as follows:

Townsville—5,653
 Mackay—2,805
 Mt Isa—1,286
 Rockhampton—6,670
 Longreach—520
 Toowoomba—5,099
 Cairns—6,588
 Bundaberg—3,286

Also included in this total are 3,174 weapons which have been collected by the Mobile Compensation Unit which is travelling to more remote locations in Queensland.

The number of fully automatic weapons is minimal.

- (2) The total of 31,795 includes approximately 450 Category A and B weapons for which no compensation has been paid.
- (3) The total administrative costs as at 12 May 1997 are \$2.662M. This figure does not include funds directed at the public information and advertising campaign. The total compensation paid to date is \$31.500M. The administrative costs represent 7.8% of the total costs.

527. Granard Road, Traffic Congestion

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/5/97)—

- (1) Is he aware of the extreme traffic congestion in Granard Road and the severe blight it places on the residential areas of Rocklea and Archerfield due to noise and air pollution created by the huge volume of heavy vehicles stopping and starting at traffic lights throughout each week day?
- (2) Will he take action to (a) improve traffic facilities on Granard Road, (b) encourage heavy traffic to use other available roads and (c) remove the defined "Hazardous Goods Route" from this suburban road, to another more appropriate route?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97):

(1) The Government is very much aware of the impact heavy traffic has on local residents. Therefore, I can appreciate the concerns raised by the Member for Archerfield on behalf of his constituents who live in the Granard Road area.

I am aware that there is a considerable amount of traffic using this road and the congestion this sometimes causes. However, without wishing to detract from the personal impact the traffic has on local residents, this should be seen in the context of the longstanding use of Granard Road as a major freight route.

As a means of diminishing this impact, much is being done to reduce the noise and air pollution caused by heavy traffic in the area. Queensland Transport is represented on a number of National forums addressing the performance of heavy vehicles and how this can be improved.

Through this work, design standards are being raised in light of heightened environmental awareness resulting in new technologies such as whisper quiet exhaust brakes, air suspensions and anti-skid brakes. Emission levels also are being reduced through more efficient engine design. In addition, through its pioneering work in regard to new heavy vehicle combinations, Queensland Transport is leading the country in developing more efficient vehicles which specifically take into account the needs of the communities in which they will be used.

I am confident that this package of improvements being made will similarly enhance the quality of life for residents in the Granard Road area.

(2)

(a) There are no simple or inexpensive improvements which can be carried out on Granard Road. Any improvements require Federal Government approval and funding. Submissions for funding of National Highway projects are made regularly to the Federal Government.

(b) Heavy traffic is being encouraged to use other available roads. The recent opening of the Southern Brisbane Bypass provides an attractive alternative route for longer-distance traffic, particularly heavy traffic travelling to and from the west and interstate.

(c) As I have said, Granard Road forms a section of the National Highway, and cannot be reasonably called a "suburban road". Given the volume of dangerous goods that has its origin or destination in the Rocklea area or nearby, it would be inappropriate for this road not to be part of the "Hazardous Goods Route". However, traffic carrying dangerous goods will be encouraged to use the alternative offered by the Southern Brisbane Bypass, where appropriate.

528. Cairns-Forsyth Passenger Rail Service

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/5/97)—

With reference to Queensland Rail calling for expressions of interest to operate a passenger rail service between Cairns and Forsyth—

- (1) Will any moneys other than the \$4m provided by the Government be spent on upgrading the track to allow it to take light axle load rollingstock?
- (2) What moneys will be needed on an annual basis to maintain the track which will now presumably be used exclusively by a private operator?
- (3) What guarantees will he give that other hidden subsidies will not be provided by either the Government or Queensland Rail to any private operator for this service which previously recouped only 7 cents in the dollar?

Mr Johnson (4/6/97):

(1) While the infrastructure work to re-open the line from Mareeba to Mt Surprise is still in progress it is expected that the \$4 million will be sufficient to provide a safe track standard for light axle load rollingstock. The capital will mainly be used to fund the purchase and installation of steel sleepers as well as repair wooden bridges weakened by termite infestation as well as those damaged by bushfire in late 1996.

(2) The track from Cairns to Mareeba is open and maintained for existing freight services to Mareeba as well as passenger services to Kuranda. The cost to maintain the infrastructure from Mareeba to Forsyth in 1992/93 was \$2.8m and \$2.6m in 1993/94. It is expected that with the introduction of replacement steel sleepers the section from Mareeba to Forsyth can be maintained in the future for light axle load rollingstock for about \$2.3 million per annum in current dollars.

(3) There will be no hidden subsidies of any nature provided by either QR or the Government to any private operator. As part of the expressions of interest response applicants must nominate what above-rail operating subsidy they require (if any) to operate the above service. This approach provides for full accountability and allows the local residents to achieve the best value for money service that suits their needs as well as those of the local tourism industry.

529. Environment Department, Capital Works Budget

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Environment (9/5/97)—

With reference to the current level of spending of his Capital Works budget—

- (1) How much of this budget has he spent expressed in real dollar terms and as a percentage of his total Capital Works budget?
- (2) How much should he have spent by this time expressed in similar terms?
- (3) Which projects were these unspent funds allocated for?
- (4) Why hasn't he spent his Capital Works budget?
- (5) Is there any threat of these funds being

withdrawn by the Premier and re-allocated to another department?

- (6) Have any of these funds been re-allocated from their original project to other department projects to ensure they are spent on time; if so, which?
- (7) How could he as Minister have allowed this underspending to occur when increased funding for national park management was one of the few environmental policies the Coalition enunciated in the run down to the July '95 Election?

Mr Littleproud (6/6/97): The Department of Environment has two capital works programs, one for national parks and one for administrative building works and heavy equipment. The answers to the honourable member's questions are:

1. The total amount spent from the national parks capital works program is \$4,143,411 including encumbrances and \$455,953 of the accelerated capital works budget of \$2M which was allocated to the Department in early April. This expenditure represents 64% of the total allocation. The total amount spent from the Administrative Building Works and Heavy Equipment programs is \$1,362,375. This expenditure represents 61% of the total allocation.

2. The anticipated expenditure for the national parks capital works program was \$4.9M. Actual spending is therefore 15% behind schedule. The anticipated expenditure for the Administrative Building Works and Heavy Equipment programs was \$1,894,204. Actual spending is therefore 28% behind schedule.

Projects responsible for this under-expenditure are:

- Lawn Hill NP—toilet waste treatment system
- Lumholtz NP—Wallaman Falls lookout
- Undarra Volcanic NP—eastern boundary fencing
- Town of 1770—visitor office
- Noosa NP—main entrance redevelopment
- St Helena NP—causeway redevelopment
- Currawinya NP—ranger residence
- Coen District Office
- Gladstone District Office
- Various items of heavy equipment and plant
- Some of the funding for Noosa and Currawinya National Parks projects is approved for carry-over to 1997-98.

4. Delays due to prolonged periods of wet weather in north Queensland associated with Cyclone Justin and the flood conditions in many parts of the State over the past summer have contributed to the need to bring some projects forward while delaying others.

Native Title considerations have also contributed to the complexity of processes associated with capital works projects.

The Coen District Office project was hampered by wet weather in north Queensland, while the Gladstone District Office project was delayed due to

unscheduled relocation to new leased accommodation.

5. No.

6. No funds have been re-allocated merely to ensure that they are expended by the end of 1996-97.

7. The 1996-97 national parks capital works program is on schedule to be fully expended, with the exception of some already approved carry-over to 1997-98, and will meet the Government's commitments with regard to national park management. The entire administrative building works and heavy equipment program will be expended or encumbered prior to 30 June 1997.

530. Marsden State High School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (9/5/97)—

With reference to the plans by the Federal Education Minister to turn high schools into employment agencies and to concerns that schools are being asked to undertake tasks which are not part of their function—

- (1) What plans does the State Government have to expand the current trial at Marsden State High School to other schools in Queensland?
- (2) What money will be paid by the Commonwealth to the State to facilitate this program?
- (3) What additional resources will be provided to schools who are involved in the program?
- (4) How does he reconcile this program with his assertion that schools are overloaded with non-core activities and that he will ensure that these burdens are reduced in schools?

Mr Quinn (4/6/97):

(1) & (3) Education Queensland gives provisional support for state high schools to enter into contractual arrangements with the Federal Government. This support is conditional upon schools acknowledging that no extra resources will be provided by the state government for the program.

(2) The central office of Education Queensland does not need to be involved in the financial arrangements agreed between the Commonwealth and schools in relation to this matter.

(4) The Jobs Pathways Program (JPP) is not run by school teachers. It is my understanding that three extra staff have been employed at Marsden State High School, with funding provided by the Commonwealth, to administer this program.

It would appear that the benefits of JPP to the school and its community have far outweighed the cost of time spent preparing tender documents and hiring extra staff. Furthermore, additional funding is allowing Marsden SHS to build and extend its vocational education curriculum, facilitating better employment prospects for students. The school is attempting also to improve the standard of its academic curriculum.

With the emphasis that is being placed on vocational education, the Government would be derelict in its duty if it did not, through a trial such as this, allow the exploration of opportunities for young Queenslanders.

531. Petrol Sniffing, Cape York Communities

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/5/97)—

With reference to our common concern of the increase in petrol sniffing amongst Queensland children, especially those in the Cape Communities— Will he endeavour to have the Government approve a Parliamentary bipartisan committee to report, within a limited time, measures to curtail and stamp out this dangerous practice?

Mr Lingard (28/5/97): I am willing to liaise with all interested members and adopt a bipartisan approach to this problem which I understand is now being addressed locally by Community leaders/elders.

532. Robina Respite Care Centre

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/5/97)—

With reference to the Robina Respite Care Centre—

- (1) How many people access the centre, classified into age groups?
- (2) Do any people from outside the Gold Coast area access the service; if so, how many?
- (3) How many people can be accommodated at the centre at any one time and what is the average length of stay?
- (4) Will the centre be closed; if so, when?

Mr Lingard (20/5/97):

(1) A total of 43 clients currently access the centre. This is comprised of 27 children under the age of 17 years, 9 young adults between the ages of 17 and 22 years and 7 adults over the age of 22 years.

(2) There have been 7 emergency placements from outside the Gold Coast area over the past year. There are also 22 placements from outside the Gold Coast area planned for the next three months.

(3) Including the centre's emergency bed, 6 clients can be accommodated at any one time. The average length of stay is 7 days.

(4) Consultation is currently occurring with families who use the service about a proposal to relocate respite from its existing location at Robina to another location on the Gold Coast. The reason for this is that the present facility operates from a standard domestic dwelling that has only been partly modified for its respite function. The physical infrastructure of the current dwelling limits service quality and the capacity to support clients with complex needs. Should this proposal proceed it is anticipated that the service will be relocated by the end of October 1997.

533. Health Services, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (9/5/97)—

With reference to the good work of the dedicated staff of the Bundaberg Hospital and Bundaberg Health Service and the very good levels of productivity of the medical and nursing staff—

- (1) Compared to other hospitals of a similar size and offering similar services, will he acknowledge the good work of the Bundaberg staff and provide extra funding to fill those positions, such as extra anaesthetists, etc., that are required for the current levels of services provided?
- (2) At the present service levels of the Bundaberg Hospital, what would be the annual funding under case mix and how would it compare with the present funding provided to the Bundaberg Health Service?

Mr Horan (11/6/97): (1 & 2) The staff of the Bundaberg District Health Service are doing an excellent job. Further, I am happy to announce that funding for additional surgical activity in 1996/97 was recently approved. In addition, as part of the statewide Surgery on Time initiative, Bundaberg District Health Service will be able to access additional funds for elective surgery in 1997/98 as a result of the positive outcome from the State budgetary process. In terms of casemix, hospitals that are operating at or below the State average may not be efficient in terms of State or national good practice. I am, however, happy with the way management targets are being addressed at Bundaberg.

534. Kevin Easton Tyre Salvage

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (9/5/97)—

With reference to a tyre collection service in Townsville operated by a company called Kevin Easton Tyre Salvage—

- (1) How many tyres (approximately) does this company presently have in its stockpile?
- (2) On average, how many tyres per week would this company receive?
- (3) How many tyres per week is the shredder the company operates able to cope with?
- (4) How much does the company charge retailers for each car tyre they accept at their Townsville operation?
- (5) Is he satisfied that this operation is satisfactory?

Mr Littleproud (30/5/97):

- (1) Since this is a private commercial operation, I suggest that the Member raise these issues with the owner.
- (2) As above.
- (3) As above.
- (4) As above.

(5) While there is obviously less than total satisfaction with the size of the tyre stockpiles on the site at times due to equipment breakdowns, Tyre Salvage does provide an important used tyre recovery operation throughout North Queensland servicing most centres on the eastern seaboard from Mossman to Rockhampton and also west to Mount Isa. This service is supported by most local government authorities which have either placed a prohibition on disposal of tyres to landfill or levied a disposal charge which discourages disposal. The operation has the support of the Local Authority Waste Management Advisory Committee (LAWMAC) and is providing a significant benefit to waste disposal site operators as whole tyres are difficult to bury effectively, present a fire hazard and consume a large amount of airspace in the waste disposal sites.

The Department (Northern Region) is currently processing an application submitted by Mr Easton for an environmental authority. The application covers ERA 83 Regulated Waste Transport; ERA 84 a) Regulated Waste Storage more than 500 tyres; and ERA 80 Commercially reprocessing tyres. Information which is relevant to this application is as follows:

Townsville City Council accept all of the tyre shred from the operation for disposal to the Vantassel Street Landfill provided the total volume does not exceed the volume of whole tyres previously received at the site. The tyre shred is being stockpiled at the landfill in the hope that a market for the product may become available.

535. Natural Heritage Trust Fund

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (9/5/97)—

With reference to funding submissions by his department to the Commonwealth's Natural Heritage Trust Fund—

- (1) Has the Wet Tropics Authority applied for a \$36m funding boost from the fund; if so, what is this additional funding earmarked for?
- (2) Will a new Daintree rescue package be a priority for this funding; if so, what level of funding will be directed to land purchases alone?
- (3) What is the highest priority for eco-tourism infrastructure in the area?
- (4) What other funding has the Department of Environment sought from the Natural Heritage Trust Fund and for what projects?
- (5) Will he give an undertaking that he will not cut this year's State Environment budget and make up the difference with Natural Heritage trust funds?

Mr Littleproud (6/6/97):

(1) No formal applications for Natural Heritage Trust Funds have been made by the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA).

(2) The Daintree Rescue Program (DRP) has a funding commitment of \$23.162 million over four

financial years ending 1997/1998. The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments are each providing 50% of the funding.

(3) The highest priority for ecotourism infrastructure in the Daintree is the provision of facilities for day visitors, such as picnic grounds, short distance walking opportunities in rainforest areas, rainforest interpretation, toilets and car parking. The visitor facility component of the Daintree Rescue Program will be providing a significant boost to the number and quality of such facilities in the region. This will include the development of four new visitor sites and the redevelopment and upgrading of a further four sites. In addition a number of private land holders are providing similar visitor experiences on a commercial basis.

(4) The Department of Environment has applied for Natural Heritage Trust funds totalling \$4,097,018, for those programs which have to date called for applications for the 1997-98 financial year. A list of proposals is attached. Some of these are joint proposals with other State agencies, local government and/or community groups.

(5) The State Environment Budget was not formulated in expectation of funds from the Natural Heritage Trust.

536. Orchid Beach Airstrip, Fraser Island

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (9/5/97)—

With reference to work that has already been done to the Orchid Beach airstrip on Fraser Island prior to its re-opening—

- (1) Has this work included fertilising and irrigating the airstrip; if so, under what permit or head of power has this been allowed to be done on a national park in a World Heritage area and to whom was the permit issued?
- (2) What studies have been made of the possible affects of this fertiliser leaching into the island's ground water and what type of fertiliser has been used?
- (3) Has a spear bore been sunk in the vicinity of the airstrip to provide the irrigation water; if so, what permit has been issued to allow this to happen and to whom and what studies have been made of the impact of this on the island's ground water?
- (4) What costs have been incurred to date for this work and who is meeting them?
- (5) If regular mowing of the airstrip is occurring, what permits have been issued for this work and to whom, and what precedence is there for mowing part of a World Heritage listed national park aside from camping and barbecue areas?

Mr Littleproud (6/6/97): It is curious that such a question should come from the honourable member for Hervey Bay given his letter of 1 August 1995 to the then Honourable Minister for Environment and Heritage, in which he wrote:

"I really do have some problems with the closure of the airstrip and would ask that you reconsider the closure of the airstrip."

He obviously agreed with the Coalition's election commitment for the strip to be reopened. The land will be excised for that purpose for management by the Orchid Beach Aircraft Landing Association Inc.

(1) Several National Parks in Queensland have airstrips which are maintained and in use, for example, Lakefield (three functional and fully maintained), Mt Moffatt, Idalia and Jardine. Permission was granted to the Association, which is maintaining the airstrip.

(2) None. Growth Force 90 and Nitram.

(3) A new spear has been sunk, rather than use a previous spear which was in a less suitable location. A permit was issued by the Department of Natural Resources, so any questions on that aspect should be referred to the relevant Minister. He would be aware that water is extracted for use of residents of the nearby residential development approved by the Goss Government.

(4) \$144,060. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

(5) See above.

537. Transpacific; Oil Levy

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (9/5/97)—

With reference to his recent statement to Parliament in which he extolled the waste oil recycling efforts of the Transpacific company—

(1) Faced with this development on Transpacific's part, did he feel the need to impose a 10 cents per litre levy on waste oil in the last State Budget?

(2) Was Transpacific, via its subsidiary Tru Blu, already involved in oil recycling at the time he introduced the oil levy?

(3) Will he now admit that his oil levy was a pure tax grab to cover the very real budget cuts he made to the Environment Budget for 1996-97?

Mr Littleproud (20/5/97):

(1) I was not aware of the proposal at that time.

(2) Yes.

(3) Not relevant, because the 1996-97 budget for Environment represented a 16% increase over the Goss Government's last budget.

538. Wombats, Captive Breeding Program

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Environment (9/5/97)—

With reference to his disastrous captive breeding program for the highly endangered northern hairy-nosed wombat—

(1) Has he completed his review of this project following the two wombat fatalities that have occurred so far; if so, what were the

recommendations of the review and have they been implemented?

(2) If the decision is to proceed, how many wombats are currently in captivity and where, how many wombats can still be captured and removed from Epping Forest National Park under current permits, and how many more wombats are intended to be allowed to be removed under future permits?

(3) How many fatalities will need to occur under this project before he abandons it?

(4) Is he satisfied that current levels of State expenditure on this project are adequate to responsibly dispense his duties as Environment Minister?

Mr Littleproud (3/6/97): It is interesting to note your ill-informed description of this program, since it started under the previous Labor administration.

(1) Reviews of the two northern hairy-nosed wombat fatalities have been completed. Operational procedures have been altered on Epping Forest National Park to ensure that there is no repeat of the death which occurred during trapping in October 1996. Recommendations have been made with regard to the captive breeding program. The emphasis of the program will now shift to the closely related and relatively common southern hairy-nosed wombat. Techniques of transfer, acclimatisation, and zoo husbandry will be perfected on this species before consideration will be given to taking any more northern hairy-nosed wombat from the wild.

(2) No northern hairy-nosed wombats are currently in captivity and there are no plans to take more northern hairy-nosed wombats into captivity until the relevant techniques are perfected on the southern hairy-nosed wombat.

(3) The decision to undertake a captive breeding program was not made lightly and involved consultation with endangered species experts and lengthy consideration by the northern hairy-nosed wombat recovery team. The need to establish a captive population stems from recent trends in the only existing population (no increase in numbers in 10 years, a five-fold reduction in breeding, a skewing of the sex ratio). There are no plans to abandon the captive program for the northern hairy-nosed wombat. However, as stated above, the program will now concentrate on perfecting techniques of captive management on the southern hairy-nosed wombat.

(4) The Minister is satisfied that the northern hairy-nosed wombat recovery program is adequately funded. Over the last five years, funding for the recovery program, provided by Department of Environment, Environment Australia, and a number of corporate sponsors, has averaged \$200,000 per annum.

539. Regional Libraries

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/5/97)—

With reference to her cut of \$279,000 in funding for regional libraries in breach of Premier Borbidge's pre-

election promise of an extra \$5m in funding for regional libraries—

- (1) Will she give an assurance that she will honour the pre-election promise by providing an extra \$5m in funding for regional libraries in the forthcoming Budget?
- (2) Will she apologise to Queensland local authorities for the cuts to regional library services in breach of the Coalition's pre-election promise?

Mrs Sheldon (10/6/97):

- (1) Since coming to Government the Coalition Government has substantially delivered on this promise through such initiatives as:

an increase in regional library support from \$625,000 per annum to \$1M per annum—increased in 1996-97 and continued in 1997-98;

\$2 million over 1996-97 and 1997-98 for the State Library computer mainframe will allow:

a Windows Interface and a 'Web' interface to the OPAC

the introduction of new text retrieval services and the ability to take advantage of new developments in library technologies such as imaging functions.

These actions will position the State Library at the forefront of new information technologies significantly enhancing the delivery of library services throughout Queensland.

\$1.235M in 1997-98 tagged to diffusion of Internet services. Currently, Internet services are provided in 21 regional libraries. Up to 40 more libraries will be provided with Internet access in 1997/98 with other libraries to be added to the network over the next two years of the program.

This initiative will deliver widespread community access to the resources of the Internet through the location of personal computers in public libraries. This will occur in parallel with the roll out of new telecommunications infrastructure.

Increased book stock for regional libraries. An increased allocation of \$1.7M in 1997/98 will allow the purchase of around 85,000 extra new books for public libraries throughout Queensland. As a result almost 755,000 new books in total will be purchased in the coming financial year for the Queensland public.

These initiatives are in addition to the \$14.38M allocated to regional libraries on an ongoing basis.

- (2) I have nothing to say regarding Mr Foley's gratuitous comments telling me how to conduct myself personally and professionally with stakeholders when it can plainly be seen that this Government is delivering on its Arts election promises.

540. Public Housing, Inala Electorate

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (9/5/97)—

With reference to the public housing stock in the Inala Electorate—

- (1) How many units, duplexes, attached houses and detached houses are provided with adequate security provisions in the Inala Electorate?
- (2) How many units, duplexes, attached houses and detached houses are not provided with adequate security provisions?
- (3) What was the maintenance cost in 1996-97 for repairs to dwellings in the Inala Electorate as a result of break and enters?
- (4) What provisions will be in place in 1997-98 to provide adequate security for Department of Housing tenants in the Inala Electorate?

Dr Watson (10/6/97):

(1) There are varying standards of security provided in the department's stock in the Inala Electorate and varying levels of risk from break and enter across the area, hence a definition of "adequate" would depend upon location specific factors. My Department has introduced the new \$3M Home Safe initiative for 1997-98 which is directed at improving safety and security in public housing. Under this program, security measures will be provided to houses in high risk areas. My Department is currently researching insurance company standards and available Queensland Police data to ascertain which areas can be defined as high risk and what constitutes adequate security.

(2) Preliminary research suggests the kinds of items to be provided may include security screens, window locks, meter boxes with earth leakage devices and fencing. At this time, it has not been confirmed which areas of the Inala Electorate may constitute high risk areas, or which elements will comprise a definition of "adequate security".

(3) Specific data is not kept by my Department on the incidence of break and enter in departmental houses. However, funds are set aside each year in the State's public housing budget for fire and other damage, which includes rectification required due to damage caused by fire, break and enter or other third party damage (such as a car running into a fence). Expenditure for the financial year to 30 April 1997 for the Inala Electorate for fire and other damage to properties is estimated to be \$56,400.

(4) Program scoping and the area prioritisation for the Government's new Home Safe initiative will occur in the next few weeks. The areas of highest risk across the State will be identified with reference to insurance company security standards and ratings and Queensland Police data. The Home Safe initiative will be implemented according to this Statewide prioritised identification of areas. My Department is also developing policy guidelines for the provision of security measurers to isolated homes where there is evidence of criminal targeting and repeated instances of break and enters.

541. Cairns Base Hospital

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Health (9/5/97)—

With reference to the imposition by the Treasurer of a 5 per cent capital charge on the hospital capital works program—

What impact will this have on the Cairns Base Hospital's recurrent budget and what effect will this have on the delivery of services?

Mr Horan (12/6/97): No negative impact will occur on the operation or service delivery of the Cairns Hospital due to the introduction of a capital charge for accessing additional capital funding as part of its redevelopment. In fact, the additional funding has ensured that the full redevelopment will occur and that appropriate services can be provided at the hospital.

For example, following strong representations from the honourable members for Barron River and Mulgrave, \$5 million was added to the Cairns Base Hospital redevelopment, bringing the total hospital project cost to \$105 million. About \$3.2 million of this new funding will be used for the establishment of a 12 bed rehabilitation unit, complete with hydrotherapy pool, which will be used for treating young brain damaged patients, long-term stroke patients and spinal injury patients.

The remaining \$1.8 million will be allocated to the Hospital's new clinical services building for increased facilities and space for oncology and haematology specialities, and for education and research.

542. Efficiency Dividend

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/5/97)—

With reference to Commonwealth Government proposals to impose an "efficiency dividend" on services funded under the CSDA—

- (1) What action is he taking personally to ensure that his coalition colleagues in Canberra do not impose this savage funding cut on services already struggling to provide such necessary services?
- (2) What effect will the proposed cut have on the service delivery capacity of CSDA funded agencies?

Mr Lingard (29/5/97):

(1) The next meeting of Ministers to discuss the CSDA will be held on 30 May. This meeting will discuss the Commonwealth Budget.

(2) The funding issues in the CSDA will be the main topic of discussion at the 30 May Minister's meeting. In advance of this discussion I cannot predict the impact of any changed funding arrangements.

543. Caboolture Hospital

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Health (9/5/97)—

With reference to the imposition by the Treasurer of a 5 per cent "capital charge" on the hospital capital works program—

What impact will this charge have on the current budget of the Caboolture Hospital and how will this affect the delivery of services?

Mr Horan (12/6/97): No negative impact will occur on the operation or service delivery of the Caboolture Hospital due to the introduction of a capital charge for accessing additional capital funding as part of its redevelopment. In fact, the additional funding has ensured that the full redevelopment will occur and that appropriate services can be provided at the hospital.

Had Stage 1 of Caboolture Hospital been adequately completed, many appropriate services would already be on site. As was explained to the Parliament by the Member for Maroochydore on 6 May 1997, when she described the hospital as it was opened by Labor -

"Not a \$24 million facility [as required], but a \$17.2 million facility ... no coronary care ... substandard medical records, and a major loss of floor space. I understand that staff of the Hospital were at pains to show the Minister, on a recent visit, just how cramped Stage 1 of the Hospital is. Not a Caboolture Hospital, but Caboolture's Half-a-hospital. No wonder \$6 million was available to be creamed off the Hospital's recurrent budget—slashing it from \$20 million to \$14 million—to bail out the metropolitan hospitals, the budgets of which were running wildly out of control. No wonder the Caboolture Hospital required rebuilding from the day it was opened."

The Member for Kallangur is yet to explain away his involvement in the stripping of Stage 1.

Planning for the \$35 million Stage 2 Redevelopment at Caboolture Hospital is well under way. This will result in significant expansion in the range of services to meet the needs of the Caboolture community. In the interim, I have directed that funds provided in 1997/98 Budget—providing the District with a new record budget, and an immediate \$3.97 million boost, with the promise of more funding to come during the year—I have directed that these funds be used in any way possible to alleviate Labor's legacy at Caboolture.

544. Central Queensland University

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (9/5/97)—

With reference to the development of the Central Queensland University which has been over a number of stages, 1 and 2 being funded and assurances have previously been given for stage 3—

Will he confirm the availability of funding for the very important Centre for Process Engineering and Light Metals?

Mr Borbidge (10/6/97): By request dated 6 May 1997 the University sought a further State Government contribution of \$5 million for the construction of Stage 3 of the Engineering facilities, namely the Centre for Process Engineering and Light Metals.

This is the final stage of the project and would involve a cooperative venture between the University, the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, CSIRO and industry.

The proposal has arrived too late for it to be considered in the context of framing the State Budget for 1997/98. In addition the Commonwealth Government has the primary responsibility for funding higher education developments.

It is my intention to seek Commonwealth Government funding support for this most important project. I will also consider the proposal being further developed in the context of consideration in the State Budget for 1998/99 should there be a shortfall in Commonwealth Government allocations.

545. Hospitals, Savings Targets

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (9/5/97)—

With reference to statements by him on Anna Reynolds' program (4QR 9 May) that "Treasury would not sign off funding for Capital Works until the relevant hospital provided business plans indicating efficiency savings to fund the capital charges Treasury is imposing on Capital Works in health"—

What quantum of savings has been agreed to, hospital by hospital, by the administration of the following hospitals (a) Royal Brisbane Hospital, (b) Princess Alexandra Hospital, (c) Logan Hospital, (d) Nambour Hospital, (e) Caboolture Hospital, (f) Cairns Base Hospital, (g) Bundaberg Hospital, (h) Mackay Hospital, (i) Proserpine Hospital, (j) Thursday Island Hospital and (k) Townsville Hospital (for both redevelopment options)?

Mr Horan (12/6/97): No quantum of savings have been finalised to date with the hospital administrators of facilities (a) to (k) at this stage.

546. SES Services

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/5/97)—

With reference to the as yet unpublicised SES training review undertaken in December 1996 and, in particular, to the recommendation (No. 35) that certain services currently provided free to the community henceforth be provided by the SES only on a cost recovery basis—

- (1) What services does he intend to charge for?
- (2) Given that willing volunteers are able to provide these services to fellow citizens in need, why does he intend to burden those people with the debt?
- (3) Given that disaster plans are non-existent in some places and limited in their scope in others and will not foresee all the needs of disaster victims, why is he endorsing a policy which will slug disaster victims, who will have already suffered more than enough?

Mr Veivers (29/5/97): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Wells, I advise as follows:

The report on SES training is being reviewed at the moment by the Department and the community. Until I receive recommendations, I cannot make any comment. However, there is no intention by the State Government to propose a fee for services

provided by SES volunteers and I am not aware of any proposal by any of the Local Governments, who "own" the SES Units, to do so either.

Six years ago a policy was adopted which allowed SES Units to recover actual operational costs from the agency they are assisting.

The policy enables Local Government SES Units to be reimbursed for the cost of fuel used, catering expenses, and the replacement of expendable items such as torch batteries.

547. Forensic Testing, John Tonge Centre

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/5/97)—

With reference to forensic testing conducted by the Queensland Police Service in its investigation of crime—

- (1) Has the Scientific Section at the John Tonge Centre only sufficient resources to conduct DNA profiling on only 10 per cent of exhibits and specimens requested of it by police investigating officers?
- (2) Due to the lack of resources, does this failure to conduct DNA profiling extend to the investigation of many serious offences?
- (3) Will he undertake to immediately allocate funds to the Scientific Section of the Police Service so the Queensland people can have full faith and confidence that the investigation of criminal offences is conducted in the most thorough possible manner, with a view to detecting the maximum number of offenders and thus protecting our society?

Mr Cooper (11/6/97):

(1) As the John Tonge Centre is a Department of Health facility, questions regarding resourcing and the centre's workload should be directed to the Minister for Health.

(2) In cases where Police are able to nominate suspects and DNA sampling is of assistance, the relevant testing is being done. DNA profiling is now being used to clear many historically unsolved offences—which indicates continued pursuit of offenders, not a failure to investigate.

(3) The John Tonge Centre is a Department of Health facility, not a QPS facility.

The QPS has its own Forensic and Technical Services Branch which has seen substantial investment in equipment totalling some \$500,000 during the 1996/97 financial year. All matters referred to the scientific section of the Queensland Police Service are competently handled and there are no backlogs.

548. Outside Schools Hours Care; Child-care Rebate

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/5/97)—

As outside school hours care programs which were established under Federal guidelines are able to

claim childcare rebate, yet those established under State guidelines are ineligible to claim childcare rebate, will he take urgent steps, through all appropriate State-Federal channels to establish fair and equitable childcare criteria across all outside school hours care schemes?

Mr Lingard (29/5/97): The Commonwealth's Childcare Cash Rebate is available to parents using child care so they can work, look for work, study or attend training. The Rebate is calculated on the amount parents have to pay, after Commonwealth Childcare Assistance is deducted from fees. The Childcare Cash Rebate is available to parents in all types of outside school hours care services, whether Commonwealth or State administered.

On the other hand, Childcare Assistance (fee relief) is a subsidy paid by the Commonwealth to approved child care services to reduce child care fees payable by parents on the basis of a means test. Until now Childcare Assistance has been made available at a lower rate in Commonwealth administered outside school hours care services (including vacation care services) than in centre-based care or family day care services. It has not previously been made available to parents using State administered vacation care services.

I am pleased to advise that this inequity was addressed in the recent Federal Budget with the announcement by the Commonwealth that it will inject an additional \$11 million nationally into outside school hours care services.

The Commonwealth Government intends to redirect all Childcare Assistance funding provided for outside school hours care in child care centres and family day care schemes, operational funding and Childcare Assistance paid in Commonwealth administered outside school hours care services, and existing vacation care grants paid to the States and Territories, into a new income tested Childcare Assistance scheme applying to all school age children from January 1998.

This will mean that a higher rate of Childcare Assistance will be provided for families using outside

school hours care services and the income eligibility cut off will be extended from the current \$27,125 per annum for one child to \$65,743 per annum. The current maximum benefit of 73 cents per hour per child will be extended to a new ceiling of \$1.95 per hour per child.

The eligibility for the new Childcare Assistance for parents who currently have children in the 147 State administered vacation care services is a matter I have taken up personally with the Honourable Judi Moylan, Commonwealth Minister for Family Services. I want to ensure that all of those parents are eligible, no matter where they live in this State, for reasons of equity and because Queensland as a whole has a high need for vacation care services.

549. Mount Isa Fire Station

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (27/5/97)—

With reference to the future operations of the Mt Isa Fire Station—

- (1) Will he assure the Parliament that this station will not be downgraded to a "day only" station?
- (2) Will he confirm that there is no possibility of this station being staffed by auxiliary fire officers?

Mr Veivers (25/6/97):

(1) I have been assured by the Chief Commissioner, Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, that there is no plan to downgrade the status of the Fire Station at Mount Isa from 24 hour/7 day staffing to that of a day only staffed station.

(2) As a result of negotiations with permanent full-time staff at Mount Isa Fire Station, processes are under way for redevelopment of the station to accommodate 16 auxiliary firefighters, who will be recruited in the near future.

These auxiliary staff are being recruited to augment current staffing levels, not to replace permanent full-time staff with auxiliaries. There is no proposal to staff the Mount Isa station with only auxiliary staff.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

550.Land Tax

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (27/5/97)—

With reference to Land Tax collections in Queensland—

- (1) How many of those who pay Land Tax are (a) owner occupiers, (b) absentee owners from Queensland, (c) companies and trusts and (d) other absentee owners?
- (2) How many of the taxpayers categorised in 1(a), (c) and (d) are from interstate or overseas?
- (3) What is the proportion of total Land Tax collections contributed by (a) owner occupiers, (b) absentee owners from Queensland, (c) companies and trusts, (d) other absentee owners and (e) interstate and foreign owners of Queensland property?

Mrs Sheldon (3/7/97):

- (1) (a) The majority of owner occupiers claim principal place of residence and do not pay land tax. A small number live in properties which include investment and business properties valued as one parcel and pay land tax. No details are available.
- (b) Unknown.
- (c) 26,823. This figure includes absentee companies and trusts as tax threshold are the same they are treated the same.
- (d) Unknown.
- (2) Unknown.
- (3) (a) Unknown.
- (b) Unknown.
- (c) 84%
- (d) Unknown.
- (e) Unknown.

551.Mrs P. Hanson

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (27/5/97)—

With reference to the Townsville Bulletin article of 19 April, headed "Downs MP backs Hanson"—

- (1) Does he agree with the Honourable Member for Cunningham's (Tony Elliott) support of Mrs Hanson?
- (2) What action has he taken to distance himself from Mr Elliott's comments?
- (3) Is he concerned about the impact Mrs Hanson's statements and Mr Elliott's support of her are having on our Asian trading partners?
- (4) How does Mrs Hanson's support for higher tariffs help arrest the rural decline?

Mr Borbidge (1/7/97):

(1) to (4) I have not seen the newspaper article referred to by the Honourable Member but my position in respect of the Independent Member for Oxley has been outlined on numerous occasions.

Yes, I am concerned about the impact that the comments of Ms Hanson are having on our Asian trading partners. Mr Elliott's alleged comments have never been raised with me on official visits to Asia.

Unlike the Honourable Leader of the Opposition I have more productive things to do than examine the policy platform of the Independent Member for Oxley.

552.Rockhampton Eventide

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Health (27/5/97)—

With reference to the proposed redevelopment of Rockhampton Eventide—

- (1) How many nursing-care beds will the new facility have?
- (2) What is to happen to those residents, excess to the set bed number, who currently reside at Eventide?
- (3) Are any beds to be transferred out of the North Rockhampton Nursing Home to the new Eventide facility?

Mr Horan (7/7/97):

- (1) 80 beds
- (2) 26 residents remain in the hostel and there are currently 28 residents living in independent style accommodation. These residents will remain at Eventide.
- (3) There will be a transfer of 20 patients from North Rockhampton to allow for new services of interim care and slow stream rehabilitation to commence at that centre. This has been incorporated into the redevelopment of Eventide.

553.Rural Medical Indemnity Scheme

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Health (27/5/97)—

- (1) How many doctors qualify for the rural medical indemnity scheme?
- (2) What criteria will be used to identify suitable doctors?
- (3) What is the estimated budget for this in 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?
- (4) Is the scheme designed to cover a gap in medical indemnity costs between rural and city areas; if so, what steps will he take to ensure that insurance companies do not increase their premiums to take advantage of the Government subsidy?

Mr Horan (7/7/97):

(1) It is estimated that up to 191 rural general practitioners will qualify for the scheme. Medical Superintendents With Right of Private Practice are included in this number.

(2) General practitioners working in locations of Rural Other, Remote Major and Remote Other (within Rural and Remote Area classification) who undertake procedural work potentially qualify. Indemnity assistance will be provided to rural general practitioners who perform procedures such as obstetrics, anaesthetics and surgery in towns where there is no specialist available to provide the required procedure/s and only to registered practitioners who agree to:

provide procedural services for which the practitioner has been approved to provide by the relevant Credentialling and Clinical Privileges Committee;

provide procedural services in hospitals which are consistent with the approved role delineation of the hospitals clinical and support services;

provide support to medical staff in Queensland public hospitals undertaking procedures;

participate in ongoing clinical audit and early notification of possible legal action;

provide evidence of the type of procedural work conducted.

Eligibility will be reviewed on a 12 monthly basis.

(3) The estimated budget for the 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is \$500,000 per annum.

(4) The scheme is designed to cover the gap between the indemnity premium for non procedural work and procedural work. The Department is negotiating with the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, medical defence and insurance organisations on the conditions for the provision of indemnity cover for private procedural work performed by rural private practitioners (other than Medical Superintendents and Medical Officers With Right of Private Practice) in rural public hospitals, rural private clinics and designated rural private hospitals.

554. Runcorn and Fruitgrove Railway Stations

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/5/97)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1355 (29 November 1996) where he outlined work to be carried out at a number of rail stations along the Beenleigh Rail Line in my electorate of Sunnybank over the coming years and also to the fact that at both Runcorn and Fruitgrove Rail Stations, undercover shelters are either non-existent or are inadequate to provide appropriate protection for passengers from the sun and rain at either of these stations—

Given that in 1995-96, over 140,000 passengers used each of these rail stations, when will appropriate shelters be built to protect passengers from adverse weather, in particular the students of Runcorn State High School who are forced to stand on the rail platforms, facing the western sun each afternoon while waiting for their trains?

Mr Johnson (25/6/97): Allowance has been made in the 1997/98 budget for work at both these stations.

The inbound platform at Fruitgrove will be widened and a two bay shelter provided on that platform.

The estimated cost is \$34,000.

Runcorn platform is to be widened with the provision of a new retaining wall along Beenleigh Road and a two bay shelter provided on the widened platform.

The estimated cost is \$34,000.

555. Athletics North Queensland

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (27/5/97)—

With reference to the fact that people involved in the sport of athletics and who live in North Queensland believe that Queensland Athletics, as it is presently structured, does not cater for the sport beyond the metropolitan area—

- (1) Will he therefore (a) assure the athletes of North Queensland that the recommendations adopted at a meeting between Queensland Athletics and Athletics North Queensland held on 23 May will be implemented in full and (b) assure the athletes of North Queensland that the funding due to be allocated by his department will be used for the development of the sport throughout the entire State and not used to keep Queensland Athletics afloat financially?
- (2) If the recommendations of the meeting of 23 May are not implemented within the agreed time-frame, will he agree to recognise Athletics North Queensland as an autonomous body eligible to receive grants and subsidies direct from the Queensland Government?

Mr Veivers (25/6/97): With reference to the meeting held on 23 May 1997 in Townsville between representatives from Queensland Athletics, Athletics North Queensland and Athletics Australia which was facilitated by representatives from the Office of Sport and Recreation, I am pleased to inform the House that -

(1a) All representatives of the sport of athletics reached an in principle agreement about the formation of a single, unified State organisation through a restructure of the Queensland Athletics Association, subject to endorsement by the Association's members. The meeting was clearly informed that while the Office of Sport and Recreation would facilitate the meeting and provide support when necessary, resolving the issue was a matter for Athletics. The State Government would not become involved in the conduct of any sport as this was a role for the members. I cannot assure North Queensland athletes that the recommendations will be fully implemented. That is a matter for Athletics and their elected representatives.

(1b) The conditions of funding under the State-wide Sports Development Program clearly state that recipients must be truly representative of the sport with absolute jurisdiction on a State-wide basis through the established regional structure.

The meeting of 23 May 1997 was reminded that a prerequisite for continued funding for athletics is a resolution of the current dispute, and the re-establishment of a single State body that would service the needs of the sport throughout the State. The conditions of funding would most certainly apply to that State body.

Queensland Athletics will receive its second half-year funding in July. This money will be used in accordance with the signed Resource Agreement. An additional \$20,000 will be made available as a single special initiative for this body to provide programs for athletes in North Queensland. A consultant is to

be appointed to assist in the restructure of athletics in Queensland. It is hoped the consultant's report will be available by the end of August and the restructure implemented by the end of December.

(2) No.

556. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal; Louisa Creek

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/5/97)—

With reference to his responsibility for the Ports Corporation of Queensland and their current plans to expand the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal south of Mackay—

- (1) Is he aware of the recent Public Works Committee report expressing concern at coal pollution problems being experienced by the nearby residents of Louisa Creek; if so, is he going to implement the report's recommendations?
- (2) What funding is he intending to direct towards rectifying the problem, over what time frame and when can the residents of Louisa Creek expect permanent relief from this problem?
- (3) Will he give a guarantee that future terminal expansion will include the necessary pollution controls?
- (4) Will he guarantee that these pollution control standards will be devised and implemented by the Environment Department?
- (5) What environmental controls has the Ports Corporation spent \$50m on, over what time frame and in which ports of Queensland and is he satisfied that value for money has been achieved for this expenditure?

Mr Johnson (25/6/97):

(1) I am well aware of the recommendations of the Public Works Committee report into the expansion of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. The recommendations by the Committee with respect to pollution control measures in the design of terminal expansions as well as the specific recommendations to set standards for coal dust emissions are currently under review by both Queensland Transport and the Department of Environment. Both these departments are currently preparing responses to the recommendations within the allocated timeframe of three months.

The report of the Public Works Committee did agree that the residents of Louisa Creek are impacted by coal dust fallout and some minor noise pollution as a result of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal operations. However, the committee found no evidence of falling real estate values for Louisa Creek residents as a consequence of the coal terminal operations.

The State Government and the Ports Corporation of Queensland have openly acknowledged that the proximity of a massive coal exporting port and a residential community has resulted in some conflict.

The report recommended that, with respect to the coal dust fallout, the Minister for Environment take action to set standards for coal dust emissions. I believe the Minister for Environment will be

responding to this Recommendation. I will be in a position to comment on the implementation of this recommendation following receipt of advice from the Department of Environment.

(2) The Ports Corporation is continually examining new technology which may reduce dust and noise emissions from the terminal. When the Ports Corporation considers that the technology is either proven or has a good chance of being successful, the Corporation will arrange for its implementation. The Corporation makes funds available on an annual basis for the implementation of environmental controls.

The Public Works Committee concluded that the level of coal dust fallout was exacerbated by the prevailing wind conditions, and given extreme conditions, the dust is even more difficult to contain. However, it can be said that the Ports Corporation of Queensland is making every reasonable effort to minimise the environmental impacts of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal operations.

(3) The Public Works Committee fully agreed with the decision to expand existing terminal operations at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and concluded that the expansion was necessary. The Ports Corporation has effectively ensured that necessary environmental controls have been implemented in recent expansions. This process will continue for all future expansions.

(4) The pollution control standards which were recommended by the Public Works Committee to be implemented for dustfall and coal dust emissions is a matter for the Department of Environment. The current standards for dust emissions are set by licence under the Environmental Protection Act. These licences are set for individual operations and the current licensing conditions for the Port of Hay Point which includes the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, are currently set at 60 milligrams per square metre per day (60mg/m²/day). At this stage, the Department of Environment intends to set 60mg/m²/day as an ambient until National Standards are set under the National Environmental Protection Act. I am informed that it is the current intention of the Department of Environment that the National Standards will be applied to individual licensing agreements as soon as practicable and reasonable.

The Ports Corporation has in place an overall environmental program for the port including both terminals (Dalrymple Bay and Hay Point). The Department of Environment has been involved in the development and implementation of that plan. The involvement of the Department of Environment will continue in the future.

(5) The \$50 million referred to in the Public Works Committee Report applies to improvements at the entire Port of Hay Point complex. The Ports Corporation has spent additional funds on environmental issues at other ports. Recent works which have been carried out at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal are listed in the report. In addition, considerable funds have been spent on other controls including:

high mist water sprays on Stage 1 of the Dalrymple Bay Terminal;

comprehensive dust and monitoring equipment; additional water storage—Hay Point Services; and environmental bunds.

The Ports Corporation of Queensland has adopted a responsible attitude with respect to environmental matters at the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. The Public Works Committee concluded that the Ports Corporation has a good record in terms of the development and control of the terminal operations at Dalrymple Bay. The findings of the Committee generally were very favourable and support the view that the considerable investment by the Ports Corporation of Queensland on the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal is well directed and expertly managed.

557. Railways Depot, Charleville

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/5/97)—

With reference to his announcement of the establishment of a \$500,000 rolling-stock maintenance depot at Charleville—

- (1) How many workers will be employed to staff this depot?
- (2) How many new positions will be created in Charleville in connection with this depot?
- (3) What is the expected annual value of the work to be conducted at this depot?
- (4) Where is the work on routine maintenance of livestock wagons and local operational requirements, now to be done at this depot, currently done?
- (5) Will there be any job reductions in any centre as a result of work being transferred to Charleville?

Mr Johnson (25/6/97):

- (1) The depot will be staffed by two Rollingstock Repairers. The two trainee Rollingstock Repairers started work with Queensland Rail on 6 May 1997. They are both currently in Roma where the bulk of their training will be undertaken due to the inability of the Charleville TAFE to provide the required training modules. The training is expected to be completed by October 1997.
- (2) The two Rollingstock Repairers for the Charleville Depot will both be new positions. No other new positions will be created in Charleville in connection with this depot.
- (3) The cost of operating the Charleville depot will include wages and various award allowances of approximately \$70,000 and rollingstock components of approximately \$15,000. The value of the work done by the depot staff is estimated to be \$260,000 which is believed to be the approximate cost if the work was undertaken by agents external to Queensland Rail on a commercial basis.
- (4) The maintenance of livestock wagons to be undertaken at the Charleville depot, is primarily carried out at the Willowburn Wagon depot in Toowoomba. The Charleville depot will be able to repair many of the rollingstock in the field with the mobile maintenance capability. This will increase the

effective availability of the rollingstock for traffic and improve the on-time running of trains.

The local operational requirements relate primarily to train derailment recovery which, if the Charleville depot did not exist, would be undertaken by staff from Roma with significant delays associated with travelling time.

- (5) There will be no reduction in staff at any centre as a result of work transferring to the Charleville depot.

558. WorkCover for PPS Employees

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/97)—

- (1) When workers compensation ceases to cover PPS employees, what steps has WorkCover put in place to cover this type of employee?
- (2) When will PPS employees cease to be covered under the Act?
- (3) How does a PPS employee apply for WorkCover?
- (4) How will the coverage fee be worked out?
- (5) Will the fee be based on the number of days worked taking into account that the average PPS employee does not always work an average five day week and may on occasions only work one or two days a month?
- (6) Will the PPS employee be able to take out cover on a weekly, monthly or annual basis?
- (7) Will the charges be retrospective or payable in advance?
- (8) Will PPS employees be contacted by WorkCover advising them of the change?
- (9) How will WorkCover police the changes to ensure that all PPS employees are covered?

Mr Santoro (26/6/97):

- (1) & (2) The WorkCover Queensland Act 1996 provides that non-PAYE employees from 1 July 1997 will not be covered by their employer's ordinary workers' compensation policy. Cover for PPS employees by means of "eligible persons" contracts of insurance commence from 1 July 1997. The contracts are between the individual and WorkCover.
- (3) A Proposal for Personal Injury Insurance for Eligible Persons and explanatory guide is available from all WorkCover offices throughout the State. For an eligible person to obtain coverage, this proposal must be completed and lodged with WorkCover for assessment.
- (4) The premium calculated will be based on the applicant's declared earnings level and the rate relates to the WorkCover Industry Classification for the applicant's business activity and duties. Previous claims and medical history will also be taken into account.
- (5) No. It will be based on declared earnings level, which should reflect the hours worked.
- (6) The cover for an eligible person's contract of insurance is available on an annual basis only.

(7) As for all types of insurance, the premium is payable in advance to cover the ensuing period of insurance.

(8) WorkCover has been comprehensively notifying approximately 30,000 persons who will be eligible persons under the WorkCover Queensland Act 1996. A mail-out to these contractors, self-employed individuals, directors, trustees and members of partnerships, as well as the companies that employ these individuals began on 3 June 1997. The mail-out contains, for the companies, a letter notifying them of the change and a guide to the new form of insurance available, and for the individuals, a letter, guide and proposal for an eligible person's contract of insurance. The Australian Taxation Office has also undertaken to include information about the changes in their brochures on the PPS taxation system.

(9) The WorkCover Queensland Act 1996 does not require eligible persons to mandatorily obtain accident insurance. WorkCover must provide coverage under any application received for a contract of insurance, however, it is not compulsory for PPS employees to undertake this form of insurance. Many persons under the PPS taxation system are bona fide self-employed contractors who are not currently covered under workers' compensation legislation.

559. Families, Youth and Community Care Minister, Membership of Organisations

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (27/5/97)—

With reference to the many non-Government organisations funded by his department to provide services—

- (1) Is he a member of the management bodies of any organisation which is funded by, or which has sought funding from, his department during his term?
- (2) Has he, during his current term as Minister, held any position in such an organisation; if so, what positions does he hold, and/or what positions has he held, and in which organisations?

Mr Lingard (5/6/97): (1 & 2) As a political figure I have been appointed as patron to a number of community organisations over the years. I do not make a practice of keeping records of each of these appointments.

560. Woodford Correctional Centre

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/5/97)—

With reference to his confession on 4QR on 2 May that pressure from Treasury forced him to open Woodford Prison early—

- (1) What form did such pressure take?
- (2) What action did he personally take to inform Treasury that their actions could be dangerous?
- (3) Did he raise this matter with the Honourable the Treasurer (Mrs Sheldon); if so, on what occasions and what was her response?

(4) At what stage is Treasury responsible for prison administration?

(5) What action has he taken to improve the blurring of responsibility between Mrs Sheldon and himself for prison administration?

(6) Isn't this another example of his just ducking for cover when he has been caught out as an incompetent Minister?

Mr Cooper (26/6/97):

(1) The timetable developed by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission for the transfer of prisoners to Woodford Correctional Centre was partly influenced by budgetary pressures arising from the need to reduce doubling-up in a number of South East Queensland Correctional Centres, and it was in that context that I answered the question referred to by the Honourable Member. I also remind the Honourable Member that the former Government in which he served as Treasurer, left a legacy of prisoner overcrowding due to their abject failure to address the infrastructure planning needs of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. This Government acted promptly and responsibly to address the neglect of Labor.

(2) Not applicable—refer my answer to Question 1.

(3) No—refer my answer to Question 1.

(4) Not applicable—refer my answer to Question 1.

(5) No such action is required—refer my answer to Question 1.

(6) This is a childish jibe, not a question, and I will not lower myself to grace it with a reply.

561. Prince Charles Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (27/5/97)—

(1) What was the cost of the media stunt at Prince Charles Hospital where equipment was used to dig a hole with a workman's shed in the background?

(2) Why was the equipment packed up and put away soon after the media conference?

(3) If this event was a legitimate ceremony to mark the start of construction, why did he not have the basic good manners to invite the Member for Chermshire who represents the voters in this area?

(4) When will work really start on the project?

(5) How much will this hospital have to pay in capital charges?

(6) How much does this hospital contribute in wages savings as a result of Enterprise Bargaining Round 2 negotiations?

Mr Horan (8/7/97):

(1-3) There were no costs involved. As you would expect the Member for Chermshire to know, the "workman's shed" to which he refers is, in fact, the building occupied by Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists. The equipment was not "put away" but was required for work on another site that day.

(4) Construction work on The Prince Charles Hospital site commenced on 20 March 1997. Two early works packages have been completed and a third is currently under way.

(5-6) I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his Question on Notice 512. In conjunction with EBII reforms, better and more extensive services will be delivered with the fullest accountability to the taxpayer.

562. Ambulance Service, Code 1 Call-outs

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (27/5/97)—

- (1) What proportion of call outs, in which the person assisted is an ambulance subscriber, are Code 1s?
- (2) What proportion of call outs, in which the person assisted is not an ambulance subscriber, are Code 1s?
- (3) What proportion of call outs, in which the person assisted is neither an ambulance subscriber or a person covered by a contribution from another department or level of Government—(ie not covered as far as the department knows) are Code 1s?
- (4) What is that proportion in (a) whole numbers and (b) percentages?

Mr Veivers (25/6/97): I have already provided an answer to this question to the estimates committee and I have nothing further to add.

563. Rural Fire Brigade, Willows Gemfields

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (27/5/97)—

With reference to his letter of 1 May to Squadron Leader G A Charles, relating to serious allegations of misuse of Rural Fire Brigade funds in the Willows Gemfields, in which he says "I am unable to offer any further assistance in this matter"—

- (1) What findings did his department's investigations make with respect to the allegation of misappropriation or attempted misappropriation?
- (2) Who conducted the investigation to which he refers in his letter?
- (3) Who was interviewed regarding the allegations?
- (4) Was any apology offered by him or the Fire Commissioner for the impropriety alleged?
- (5) What, protocols were put in place to ensure that the regrettable events referred to above do not recur?

Mr Veivers (25/6/97):

- (1) The investigation concluded that there was no evidence of impropriety and allegations made were unfounded.
- (2) The investigation was conducted by Mr Bruce Ziebell, District Inspector, Rockhampton.
- (3) The Secretary and Treasurer of the Willows Rural Fire Brigade were interviewed.

(4) An apology was offered to Squadron Leader Charles by both the Executive Officer of the Rural Fire Division and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Commissioner.

(5) Not applicable.

564. Council Sponsored Enterprises

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (27/5/97)—

Does she approve of local governments in Queensland establishing council sponsored enterprises; if so, what checks and balances are in place to ensure that ratepayers dollars are not wasted?

Mrs McCauley (26/6/97): The enterprise powers were originally introduced in 1992 under the previous Labor Government to provide local governments with flexibility to develop commercial or other activities in their areas, subject to appropriate accountability mechanisms.

I consider that the appropriate use of enterprises by local governments is a useful way of stimulating local economies and ensuring necessary services are made available to local communities.

The Local Government Act 1993 at Chapter 6 Part 4 has specific provisions allowing local governments to engage in or help an enterprise.

Apart from the general requirements for proper financial management contained elsewhere in the Act, specific provisions apply to enterprises. These require that:

the enterprise must, in the opinion of the Council, be expected to benefit its area;

the local government may not be a member of a company whose shares are listed on a stock exchange;

the local government must seek competent advice about the enterprise;

not more than five percent of the local government's own source annual revenue may be committed to enterprises in one year;

the local government may not borrow or guarantee borrowing for the enterprise; and

the local government may not be a general partner in a partnership or otherwise enter into unrestricted liability

Under recent amendments to the Local Government Act 1993 to apply National Competition Policy reforms, local governments now have additional powers to set up statutory corporations to carry on activities where this is in the public interest.

565. Proserpine Hospital

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (27/5/97)—

With reference to the proposed refurbishment and rebuilding of Proserpine Hospital and concerns raised about the presence of asbestos in the old hospital—

Have inspections been carried out to ensure that no asbestos is now present to put to rest any workers concerns?

Dr Watson (26/6/97): An asbestos audit to locate, identify and document the presence of asbestos containing materials in buildings of the Proserpine Hospital complex was conducted on 3 September 1995. Asbestos containing materials were identified in all buildings of the complex.

Of the materials identified at the Hospital in the 1995 audit, all "Immediate" and "High" category items have been removed. Remaining items consist mainly of asbestos cement sheeting, which is categorised in the "Medium" to "Low" range.

The Specification for the redevelopment project references asbestos containing materials and lists the procedures and requirements under which the materials must be removed (ie.the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission's—Code of Practice for the Safe Removal of Asbestos).

A reputable, competent contractor has been awarded the redevelopment project and will take all necessary precautions as provided for in the project specification to ensure the well being of the Hospital staff and his own workforce.

566.Tivoli State School Principal

Mr FOURAS asked the Premier (27/5/97)—

With reference to his call for the principal of Tivoli State School in Ipswich to be reprimanded for a letter he wrote to Brisbane's Lord Mayor criticising plans for an anti-racism rally in Ipswich—

- (1) Has the principal yet been reprimanded; if so, what form did this reprimand take; if not, why not, and doesn't this send yet another clear message to Asian investors and importers that many members of the Queensland National Party Government actually support much of what Pauline Hanson is saying about Asia and immigration?
- (2) When is he going to back his tough talk with tough action and give Queensland the real leadership it so badly needs?

Mr Borbidge (1/7/97): (1) and (2) I made it clear at the time that the Principal was entitled to his opinion in respect of these matters but that those opinions should not have been conveyed on official letterhead. Whether the Principal should or should not be reprimanded is a matter for Education Queensland to decide.

In respect of Ms Hanson, my position has been outlined on numerous occasions.

567.Crime Rate, Caloundra

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/5/97)—

- (1) What is the break and entry crime rate currently in the Dicky Beach/Moffat Beach area in Caloundra?
- (2) How much has that crime rate changed over the past 12 months?
- (3) What is the average police response time for responding to property crimes?

- (4) How much has that response time changed over the past 12 months?

Mr Cooper (26/6/97):

- (1) The current situation regarding all break and entry crime is:

Dicky Beach—there have been a total of 18 during the past 12 months;

Moffat Beach—19 such offences for the same period;

this equates to 1.5 offences per month and 1.58 offences per month respectively.

- (2) When comparing the first and second six months of this period there has been a reduction in the crime rate for both areas from approximately 1.5 offences to 1.16 offences per month.

- (3) The current average response time for Police attending property crime in these areas is approximately 13 minutes.

- (4) The current average response time of 13 minutes, when compared with that of the previous year which was 55 minutes gives a reduction of 42 minutes in the average time taken for Police to respond to this class of crime. It was acknowledged that during this 12 month period there were two occasions when the response time was approximately 43 minutes.

568.Gladstone-Monto Rail Line

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/5/97)—

Has he considered the effect that the proposed upgraded water storage areas at the Gladstone/Awoonga dam, will have on the Boyne Valley (Gladstone-Monto) Railway line; if so, will action be taken to fund necessary deviations of the railway in the Taragoola and Wietalaba localities, a distance of 24.6 kilometres, to keep this rail link open to serve the Upper Burnett, and to provide employment in Gladstone?

Mr Johnson (25/6/97): The Gladstone Area Water Board has recently completed a comprehensive study on potential new water supply sources for the Gladstone region. One of the identified options, the raising of the existing Awoonga Dam will affect the Monto-Gladstone railway line in the Taragoola/Wietalaba area for a distance of between 18 to 26 kms, depending upon the height of the proposed dam wall. The "Water Supply Options Study" report identifies the section of railway line affected, provides a preliminary estimated cost to deviate the line around the proposed storage area and factors this cost into the economic and financial analyses of that option.

The estimated costs of deviation of the railway are of the order of \$50 to \$60 million.

This cost, when added to the cost of deviating the Gladstone-Monto Road for a similar distance, contributes up to \$75 million to the cost of the raised Awoonga Dam option. This is a contributing factor towards the Gladstone Area Water Board selecting a new dam on the Calliope River as its preferred first stage of development for the region's long term water supply. The "Options Study" indicates that for the 45 year study horizon both options, raising

Awoonga Dam and building a new dam on the Calliope River will be required to be constructed if projected water demands are to be met. The Board's preferred option defers the need to deviate the rail line for a significant period of time, perhaps 15 to 20 years.

The Board is now embarking on a full Impact Assessment Process of both options to augment and refine its information to ultimately determine a recommended course of development for consideration by Government. The effect of a raised Awoonga Dam on the Monto-Gladstone railway line could be assessed in more detail in these studies.

569. Surgery Waiting List

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (27/5/97)—

With reference to the monthly report he receives detailing how many people are waiting for surgery and how long they have been waiting for that surgery under Category One—

How many people are waiting for surgery and how long have they been waiting for that surgery under Category Two, and how many people are waiting for surgery and how long have they been waiting for that surgery under Category Three for May?

Mr Horan (7/7/97): What matters to the people of Queensland and especially those waiting for surgery is not how many others are waiting, but how long they wait. The massive increase in elective surgery activity under this Government means that more Queenslanders will have access to these vital services. It also means that waiting times have fallen dramatically.

Category 1 was the target of phase 1 of the Coalition's Surgery on Time initiative. By the end of that phase (1 January 1997), 463 patients in Category 1 were waiting, and 18 of these were long wait patients representing 3.9% of total patients waiting. That was a dramatic fall from 47% long-wait patients under the previous Labor administration. This Government has maintained its efforts in this area, with only 3.6% of Category 1 patients as long waits as at 1 May 1997.

Category 2 is the target of the current phase of Surgery on Time. Although a significant number of patients have been re-categorised from Category 3 to Category 2, the Government has been successful in maintaining waiting times in both Categories. As at 1 May 1997, 44.3% of total Category 2 patients were long waits, as were 30.3% of Category 3 patients. As Honourable Members will be aware, the second Borbidge/Sheldon Budget, delivered in May, contained a record \$73 million allocation (up from \$30 million) for Surgery on Time, with \$42.9 million of the package earmarked as new funding specifically for the fight against Category 2 elective surgery waiting lists. This will continue the strategy to reduce waiting times whereby this Government has successfully reduced Category 1 waiting list times from the worst in Australia in 1995 to the best.

570. Fruit Pickers

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/97)—

With reference to proposals he is considering from farmers and rural producers to give fruit pickers one hour's notice of dismissal as opposed to one week—

- (1) Does he seriously believe the justification for this is the unpredictability of the weather?
- (2) What opposition to the proposal has he received from the Australian Workers' Union and what consultation has occurred with this union to date over the matter?
- (3) Would changes to legislation to allow such notice to be given take away provisions already argued and won in the Industrial Commission, a body whose ongoing role he has openly supported in the past?

Mr Santoro (26/6/97): The honourable member appears to be ill-informed. The proposal is to exclude seasonal employees from the notice provisions in section 226 (Notice of dismissal or compensation) of the Workplace Relations Act 1997, thereby restoring the paramountcy of the relevant award notice requirements argued and won in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. I am advised that the notice period applying to fruit pickers under the Fruit and Vegetable Growing Industry Award—State provides for two days' notice for weekly hire employees.

- (1) Some primary producers feel they have been hobbled by the unreasonable legislation of the previous government which required employers to give employees, including those employed on a seasonal basis, either a minimum of one week's notice or one week's pay in lieu, regardless of the provisions contained in the relevant award. Traditionally most seasonal workers were entitled to only one hour's notice in accordance with their award. In industries in which rain, mechanical breakdown and other unpredictable factors can spell an early end of the season, the introduction of this change has caused real concern. The Government acknowledges that employers cannot predict weather conditions a week in advance and cannot afford to pay for an unproductive week at the end of the season where it is impractical because of these unpredictable events for the employee to work out the notice period prescribed in the Act.
- (2) I have recently sought feedback from various stakeholders, including the AWU, on the proposed change. I am awaiting that feedback, but I have received no direct communication from the AWU on this issue.
- (3) No, it will reinstate them. It was the former government's 1994 amendments to the Industrial Relations Act that specifically removed the role of the Commission in this regard for seasonal workers.

571. Public Works and Housing Department, Letters to Tenants

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (27/5/97)—

- (1) How many standard form-type letters are used by the Public Housing section of the Department of Public Works and Housing?
- (2) Who is responsible for drafting the original text of these form letters?

- (3) What is the average literacy standard required to understand these letters?
- (4) Is he aware that, as a general rule, written communication forwarded to the public at large should be written in a manner able to be understood by those with a standard of education of year 8?
- (5) What pitch typeface is used by the department in its standard household review letter?
- (6) Does he believe that such sized lettering is appropriate to forward to public housing tenants bearing in mind that a large proportion of them are elderly and may have eye sight difficulties?
- (7) Will he give a commitment to a comprehensive review of all departmental standard communications with its tenants with a view to making sure such letters are (a) written in a language easily understood by tenants, (b) laid out in a manner that makes the important points of the communication immediately apparent and (c) of a type size and typeface that is easily legible to tenants including those with less than perfect eye sight?

Dr Watson (26/6/97):

- (1) There are currently 58 standard form type letters relating to public housing in use by the Housing Services area of my Department. They cover the full range of activities including responses to applications and waiting list management, allocations, requests for transfer, rent assessment and priority housing.
- (2) The original text is normally prepared by the project manager responsible for developing or revising procedures relating to the particular activity. The letters are then approved by the appropriate manager. Some of the letters have not been changed for some years and so reflect an older style while some of the more recent letters have had some tenant involvement in their production.
- (3) It is not known what the "average literacy standard" required to understand these letters is. However, all correspondence to public housing customers is prepared with plain English principles in mind.
- (4) I understand that writing in a manner suited to those with a year 8 level of education is a standard applied in journalism. I am not aware that a similar standard exists in relation to written communication with the public generally. Nevertheless, I do agree that material produced by my Department for its public housing customers should be written in plain English.
- (5) The usual font size is 10 point although some letters use a smaller font size to minimise the number of pages of the letter.
- (6) The font size is considered appropriate given that a larger font size will result in longer letters. As you will appreciate, the nature and extent of vision problems can vary greatly between different people. Because of these variations, advice I have received is that there is no particular recommended font size.
- (7) A review of these form letters has already commenced. Each form letter will be assessed for

ease of reading; appropriate language; consistent style; appropriate font sizes; and general layout.

572.Forensic Testing, John Tonge Centre

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (27/5/97)—

With reference to the tragic death of Joanne Rankin who died at the Gold Coast Hospital on 13 February after childbirth—

- (1) How long will the family have to wait until forensic testing at the John Tonge Centre is completed?
- (2) What is the average time for distressed relatives to wait until forensic tests are completed?
- (3) What is the funding short fall at the centre?

Mr Horan (8/7/97):

(1) With respect to the death of Joanne Stallwood, whom I understand was the defacto wife of a Mr Rankin, I am advised that the medical certificate as to the cause of death was issued on 27 May 1997, and the final report has been received at the Gold Coast Hospital.

(2) The time required for the completion of forensic testing varies greatly, depending on the circumstances of the death, and the range, type and complexity of the forensic testing required. Deaths occurring after childbirth require extensive testing, and in the particular case of Ms Stallwood, required the referral of certain tissues to a specialist outside the John Tonge Centre.

(3) This Government has moved to ensure that funding in this area is related to the level of demand for services. With rapid development of technology and improved capability of forensic testing, demand is increasing significantly without a clearly defined approach to linking supply and demand. In the last year, Queensland Health has provided \$260,000 for leading edge technology in DNA testing and \$100,000 for equipment to allow experts to give evidence remotely, thus saving considerable time. Queensland Health has also sought a whole-of-government approach in forming the Interdepartmental Standing Committee for Forensic Science to advise on all aspects of forensic science, including resources.

Funds have also been provided for three additional scientists and a property officer at the John Tonge Centre.

573.Pastoral Leases

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/5/97)—

With reference to the matter of "exclusive possession of pastoral leases" as referred to in the current Wik debate—

- (1) Which Queensland pastoral leases have exclusive possession provisions attaching to them?
- (2) How many of them are in existence in Queensland, over what total area and what percentage of total leasehold lands do they represent?

- (3) Are such provisions unique to only New South Wales and Queensland?
- (4) Does he believe that under provisions of the Prime Minister's 10 point Wik plan these will either allow extinguishment of native title on these leases or at the very least block native title claimants from ever accessing these properties for whatever purpose?
- (5) Is he considering the compulsory acquisition of pastoral leases on which native title claims are causing concerns to the leaseholder with financial compensation paid to the claimants to be followed by the re-issuance of the lease to the previous leaseholder as a means of circumventing the Prime Minister's 10 point Wik plan?
- (6) Is he considering the freeholding of large tracts of leasehold land in Queensland as a means of giving leaseholders the security of tenure they seek to block native title claims?

Mr Hobbs (24/6/97):

1. As the debate regarding exclusive use is a matter which is being addressed under the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan, the definition of exclusive possession of pastoral leases will ultimately be determined under the legislation that is expected to give effect to this plan.
 2. There are 14,822 leases which can be considered as pastoral leases constituting a total area of 129,767,960 hectares. Whether or not they are considered to have exclusive possession will depend on the definition of exclusive possession under legislation that seeks to legally ratify the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan.
- These figures represent 39.09% of the total number of leases and 97.5% of the total area of land held under lease.
3. Which states have exclusive possession provisions in their legislation depends on the definition of exclusive possession as outlined above.
 4. Until the 10 Point Wik Plan is translated into legislation, it is not possible to supply an answer to this question.
 5. No.
 6. No.

574.Orchid Beach Airstrip, Fraser Island

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (27/5/97)—

With reference to work that has already been done to the Orchid Beach airstrip on Fraser Island prior to its re-opening—

- (1) Has this work included fertilising and irrigating the airstrip; if so, under what permit or head of power has this been allowed to be done on a national park in a World Heritage area and to whom was the permit issued?
- (2) What studies have been made of the possible affects of this fertiliser leaching into the island's ground water and what type of fertiliser has been used?

- (3) Has a spear bore been sunk in the vicinity of the airstrip to provide the irrigation water; if so, what permit has been issued to allow this to happen and to whom and what studies have been made of the impact of this on the island's ground water?
- (4) What costs have been incurred to date in this work and who is meeting them?
- (5) If regular mowing of the airstrip is occurring, what permits have been issued for this work and to whom and what precedence is there for mowing part of a World Heritage listed national park aside from camping and barbecue areas?

Mr Littleproud (19/6/97): I refer the honourable member to the response to identical question No. 536 asked by Mr Nunn.

575.Forensic Evidence

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (27/5/97)—

With reference to concerns that insufficient funds are available for the provision of forensic evidence for court actions in Queensland—

What specific decisions have been made to ensure sufficient funds are available to medical practitioners for the provision of supporting evidence in criminal proceedings?

Mr Horan (8/7/97):

- (1) To fund the appointment of a State Director of Government Medical Officer Services, who has been appointed.
- (2) To fund the appointment of four additional full-time Government Medical Officers, comprising:
 - (a) two Deputy Directors of Government Medical Officer Services, located at Brisbane and Townsville.
 - (b) one Government Medical Officer located at Townsville
 - (c) one Government Medical Officer for the Beenleigh/Logan/Ipswich area.

Applications for these positions closed on 26 May 1997.

- (3) For the Director of Government Medical Officer Services to commence negotiations with the Police Service and the Justice Department concerning fees paid to Government Medical Officers for duties performed.
- (4) Appointment of three additional scientists and a property officer at the John Tonge Centre.

576.Magnetic Island Waste Water Management Scheme

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (27/5/97)—

With reference to the submission by the Townsville City Council of an application for funding under the Small Communities Assistance Program (SCAP), for the Magnetic Island Wastewater Management Scheme and from her visit to Magnetic Island on 24 May, she will also be aware the island has a small population base, a difficult and rocky terrain and is in

an environmentally sensitive area covered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and to the application for SCAP funding which was made on the basis that because this is an island community, not physically linked to the city of Townsville, it is a "small community" in the true sense of the word. It appears that the funding application has been rejected in the first round and as the Magnetic Island Wastewater Management Scheme will provide a sewerage scheme which has no ocean outfall and will be environmentally friendly and waste water will be treated and used for irrigation to enhance sporting facilities and add to the island's greening program—

Will she ensure that this application, or any others which might involve island communities, be considered on its own merit and not be incorporated with neighbouring mainland population bases which could see such a legitimate application fall outside the administrative guidelines for SCAP funding?

Mrs McCauley (26/6/97): Simply because a community is located on an island, it is not excluded from consideration for funding under SCAP. The principal criteria it would have to satisfy is that it has a population of less than 5,000 and that a proposed water supply or sewerage project is beyond the financial resources of the community which the project is to serve. Affordability is determined, initially, by whether or not the resulting annual household charge would be greater than \$400.

In assessing the level of SCAP funding, the applicant local government's revenue raising capacity and its ability to cross-subsidise small communities in its area may be taken into account, particularly where the local governing body has a common water or sewerage charge across its whole area.

This is routine and perfectly reasonable where an application is submitted for assistance for a small community which is located in a large and populous local government area.

Townsville City Council's application for SCAP assistance for Magnetic Island has not been rejected. There was insufficient time to fully assess the application before I announced the second round of grant offers in March this year.

A main objective in the first and second rounds of SCAP offers was, as far as possible, to make decisions on unsatisfied applications left over from the former Accelerated Rural Communities Water Supply and Sewerage Scheme.

Townsville City Council's application for the Magnetic Island works will be considered in the next round of SCAP offers which I expect to announce in August or September 1997.

577. Victims of Crime, Support Services

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (27/5/97)—

- (1) Will he inform the House of the particulars of the Government's provision for support services for victims of crime having regard to his pre-election promise of an extra \$1m for such services?
- (2) What steps has he taken to train prosecutors, police and correctional officers in the

fundamental principles of justice for victims of crime set out in the Criminal Offence (Victims) Act?

- (3) What arrangements are in place to advise victims of crime following an offence of the availability of criminal compensation and of support and counselling services?

Mr Beanland (17/6/97):

(1) I refer to my answer to Question 479 and answers to similar Questions asked by the Member for Yeronga.

(2) I refer to my answer to Question 479 and answers to similar Questions asked by the Member for Yeronga.

(3) The following arrangements are in place to advise victims of crime of the availability of compensation and support:

- (a) The Department of Justice's Human Rights and Administrative Law Branch is completing a brochure with respect to the application of COVA. Application forms have been distributed to the Victims of Crime Association, Solicitors and Legal Aid to assist applicants making claims. Staff of the Human Rights and Administrative Law Branch liaise with members of various victims' groups and deal with queries from the public regarding compensation and related matters.
- (b) The Queensland Police Service on behalf of the Department of Justice also provides a brochure and application form to surviving family members and dependants regarding compensation and assistance available.
- (c) The Victim Support Service (VSS) operated by DPP, has produced three information booklets in five languages, as well as English. These brochures provide information about the legal process, the role of the DPP and preparing a victim impact statement. A legal officer is employed by DPP to assist victims on criminal injury compensation matters.
- (d) My answer to the House to Question 479 previously asked by the Member for Yeronga on 7 May 1997 is also relevant here.

578. Caboolture Hospital

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (27/5/97)—

With reference to the closure of the 24 bed surgical ward at Caboolture Hospital earlier this year—

- (1) When will the surgical ward be re-opened?
- (2) Will all 24 beds be restored at that time; if not, how many beds will be restored at that time, and when will the balance be restored?
- (3) During the period of the ward's closure, how many patients have been required to share wards in circumstances that may be considered either inappropriate or less than ideal, eg. women sharing wards with males, adults accommodated in paediatric ward, gynaecological patients accommodated in maternity wards, and so on?

- (4) During the period of the ward's closure how many patients have been diverted to other hospitals?

Mr Horan (8/7/97): The continued attack by the Member for Caboolture on the management and staff of Caboolture Hospital belies the credit due to them. Under the Coalition, Caboolture Hospital has delivered record service levels with a record budget, and will be redeveloped for the first time into an adequate facility.

- (1) Beds are made available according to the level and type of demand at that point in time. I am advised that the occupancy rate for Caboolture Hospital has been around 80% whilst optimal level for this type of facility is considered to be around 85%.

It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the numbers of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds.

- (2) The need for beds is being constantly monitored by the Medical Superintendent and an appropriate number of beds will be made available should the demand for inpatient care increase. I am advised that the hospital can staff additional beds at short notice should there be requirements in the community.

- (3) The wards at Caboolture Hospital have in the past been used flexibly by the staff to accommodate patients when there is a need for a hospital bed. Where patients can be nursed appropriately in an area, patients will be accommodated in that area. This promotes the efficient use of all hospital beds and these practices occur in well managed hospitals throughout Australia and the rest of the world.

With regard to women sharing wards with men, I am advised that this did happen on three occasions and for very short periods of time and was done to avoid disruption to patients when they were sleeping et c. This was purely done in the interests of the patient and to avoid transferring a patient unnecessarily when a bed existed at Caboolture Hospital. Nonetheless, this is not a desirable situation and, at my direction, steps were taken to avoid its recurrence. As a result, I am advised that no patients of opposite sex have been located together (nor diverted) since the busy Easter period.

- (4) No patients have been diverted to other hospitals. Occasionally, transfers to other hospitals are required. Most transfers to other hospitals were for medical treatment unable to be provided at Caboolture because of medical reasons rather than unavailability of beds.

The most common reason for transfer is for orthopaedic treatment. (In response to the lack of services provided under Labor, this Government provided an orthopaedic outreach service from Redcliffe early in 1997.) The second most common reason for transfer was access to coronary care services.

The fundamental basis of this, and of all and any problems at Caboolture Hospital, was explained to the Parliament by the Member for Maroochydore on 6 May 1997, when she described the hospital as it was opened by Labor—

"Not a \$24 million facility (as required), but a \$17.2 million facility ... no coronary care ... substandard medical records, and a major loss of floor space. I understand that staff of the Hospital were at pains to show the Minister, on a recent visit, just how cramped Stage 1 of the Hospital is. Not a Caboolture Hospital, but Caboolture's Half-a-hospital. No wonder \$6 million was available to be creamed off the Hospital's recurrent budget—slashing it from \$20 million to \$14 million—to bail out the metropolitan hospitals, the budgets of which were running wildly out of control. No wonder the Caboolture Hospital required rebuilding from the day it was opened."

The Member for Caboolture is yet to explain away his involvement in the stripping of Stage 1.

Planning for the \$35 million Stage 2 Redevelopment at Caboolture Hospital is well under way. This will result in significant expansion in the range of services to meet the needs of the Caboolture community. In the interim, I have directed that funds provided in this year's Budget—providing the District with a new record budget, and an immediate \$3.97 million boost, with the promise of more funding to come during the year—I have directed that these funds be used in any way possible to alleviate Labor's legacy at Caboolture, in particular reducing the need for transfers.

579. Employee Numbers

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (27/5/97)—

With reference to (a) the Nudgee Electorate and (b) the State of Queensland, respectively—

How many employers/workplaces employ (i) 15 or less employees. (ii) more than 15 employees and (iii) between 10 and 15 employees?

Mr Santoro (26/6/97):

- (a) (i) 1734 workplaces
- (a) (ii) 260 workplaces
- (a) (iii) 186 workplaces
- (b) (i) 106480 workplaces
- (b) (ii) 11334 workplaces
- (b) (iii) 9304 workplaces

(Data from the Workplace Health & Safety Workplace Registration Database).

580. Wahroonga

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (27/5/97)—

With reference to the recently announced agreement between the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works and Housing to effect the transfer of Maryborough's Wahroonga independent living units and cottages to public housing—

- (1) Will he outline the terms of that agreement clearly for the citizens of Maryborough?
- (2) Did the transfer of Wahroonga units to public housing involve an exchange of money, a swap of land or buildings or was Wahroonga independent living units and cottages given as a gift to the Department of Public Works and Housing?

Dr Watson (26/6/97):

(1) The terms of the agreement provide for a portion of land to be transferred to my Department with the understanding that 16 units of seniors' accommodation will be constructed using 1997/98 Capital Works Program funds to house the existing residents of Wahroonga. They will be housed and provided with the existing level of care that they now receive. Subsequent tenants of this new development will be offered similar conditions of occupancy to that enjoyed by public housing tenants.

(2) The Department of Health will transfer a suitable parcel of vacant land within the hospital reserve to my Department to enable it to construct 16 units of public housing seniors' accommodation on the site. When completed, the existing residents of the Wahroonga independent living units and cottages will transfer to this new superior standard accommodation. They will enjoy the same conditions of occupancy as they did in their former premises.

581. Capalaba Bypass

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/5/97)—

With reference to the Capalaba by-pass—

- (1) When will the by-pass open?
- (2) What was the original time frame for the work?
- (3) What is the total cost of the work?
- (4) Have costs blown out from the original budget; if so, by how much?

Mr Johnson (25/6/97):

(1) The bypass will open in the second week of July, weather permitting.

(2) The original timeframe for the work was February 1996 to June 1997. The current completion date for the contract is 19 August 1997. There has been an extension of 63 non-working days due to wet weather encountered during the contract.

(3) The final cost of the project will be of the order of \$19.5 million.

(4) The final cost will be about \$1 million less than the original budget of \$20.669 million which is published in the Roads Implementation Program.

582. Sunbelt Developments Pty Ltd; IndyCarnival

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (27/5/97)—

With reference to the controversy surrounding Sunbelt, the Gold Coast based company holding naming rights to the 1997 Indy race—

- (1) How long has he known Mr Stauber, Sunbelt's Managing Director and what knowledge did he

have of his business background, dealings and financial soundness prior to the appointment of Sunbelt as naming sponsor of the 1997 Indy?

- (2) What input did he have to the selection of Sunbelt as the Indy's naming sponsor and did he make his knowledge of Sunbelt's business record available to the Indy Board of IMG; if not, why not?
- (3) What role has he played in discussions with the Indy Board or any of its members or IMG regarding Sunbelt's suitability as naming sponsor of this race since the Opposition raised concerns about this company in Parliament?
- (4) What discussions has he or any of his personal staff had with Mr Stauber or any of his representatives since the Opposition raised concerns about his financial soundness?

Mr Borbidge (1/7/97):

(1) and (4) To the best of my knowledge I have never met Mr Stauber prior to him being announced naming rights sponsor for the 1997 Gold Coast Indy, nor have I or any member of my personal staff had discussions with him or his representatives since that time.

(2) All matters relating to the appointment and termination of Sunbelt as Indy naming rights sponsor were matters for the Gold Coast Indy Board.

(3) As above.

583. Gold Coast City Council, Chief Executive Officer

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (27/5/97)—

With reference to a report in the Gold Coast Bulletin on 25 March which claimed political interference by the Chief Executive Officer of the Gold Coast City Council in the 1997 Local Government election —

- (1) Is she aware of allegations concerning the CEO's inappropriate actions during the 1997 Local Government election?
- (2) Will she initiate a full investigation of these allegations?
- (3) What powers does she have to take action against Local Government employees if they are proved to be engaged in the kinds of activities as those alleged the CEO was involved in?

Mrs McCauley (26/6/97):

1. Like the Member, I became aware of the allegations against the CEO from reading an article in the Gold Coast Bulletin. My Department has advised me however, that there is no record of anyone having written with a complaint or allegation about the CEO's conduct during the election.

2. It is not my intention to initiate an investigation into this matter on the basis of a newspaper report. The Local Government Act 1993 makes the returning officer responsible for the conduct of the election, and any direct allegations of interference should have been considered by him. An officer of my Department contacted the returning officer who

confirmed he had received no complaints of this nature.

3. The Local Government Act 1993 does not provide me with any powers with regard to local government employees. Under the Act, if an employee of a local government has engaged in misconduct or is incompetent or has neglected their duties, disciplinary action can be taken by the person who appointed the employee. In the case of a CEO, the Council is responsible for his/her appointment and therefore it is the Council which would have to initiate any disciplinary action.

584. Operation Noah

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/5/97)—

With reference to conflicting media reports during the week ending 24 May on whether Operation NOAH will continue and which indicated that the last Operation NOAH will take place on Wednesday 28 May, and that thereafter Operation NOAH will make the transition to Crime Stoppers and also that Operation NOAH will continue into the future and as various reports make reference to the raid on ACTU General Secretary John Thompson's home as a result of false information, as a result of the 1996 Operation NOAH, using such terminology, attributed to the Minister as "present procedures had led to inappropriate action being taken based on information provided," and "the problems occurred with the methods used for recording results and the lack of adequate information for follow up procedures,"—

- (1) Will the 1997 Operation NOAH be the last?
- (2) What are the present procedures that led to inappropriate action being taken based on information provided?
- (3) What are the problems which occurred with the methods used for recording results and the lack of adequate information for follow up procedures?
- (4) What was the outcome of the investigation into how ACTU General Secretary John Thompson's home came to be wrongly raided as a result of the 1996 Operation NOAH?
- (5) What changed procedures have been put into place to ensure that citizens will not be subjected to the indignity that John Thompson and his family were subjected to, as a result of the 1996 Operation NOAH?
- (6) How will he ensure that citizens will not be raided as a result of false complaints to Crime Stoppers?

Mr Cooper (26/6/97):

(1) Operation NOAH has been conducted for a number of years by the State Drug Investigation Squad. In New South Wales the operation has been conducted by Crime Stoppers since 1995. Operation NOAH will be conducted by Crime Stoppers in 1998 in Queensland as a year round reporting service.

(2) Information received through Operation NOAH is assessed on receipt and then forwarded to Police

Regions via computer for investigation. Investigators are then required to make follow up inquiries in order to corroborate the initial information. Section 18 of the Drugs Misuse Act provides that, for a search warrant to be issued by a justice, the investigator must reasonably suspect that a search of premises may afford evidence of drug offences defined in Part 2 of the Act. Reasonable suspicion is attained where an investigator has made follow up inquiries which result in other information being obtained which gives credence to the original information.

(3) Procedures adopted for the recording of initial information with respect to Operation NOAH are adequate and do not require modification. Once information is received and disseminated, it is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that there is sufficient information available to substantiate the issuing of a search warrant by a Justice of the Peace. If sufficient information is not available, then searches of premises should not be conducted. The responsibility of the Queensland Police Service is to ensure that current procedures are emphasised through ongoing training, and to adequately supervise investigators to ensure that procedures are strictly adhered to.

(4) Police executed a Search Warrant, under the provisions of the Drugs Misuse Act, at an Alexandra Hills address on 19 September 1996. The Search Warrant was taken out following confidential information received during Operation NOAH 1996 with respect to drug matters.

An investigation was conducted into this matter and deficiencies identified have been dealt with by the internal disciplinary process.

(5) Since the incident involving John Thompson, the Queensland Police Service has ensured that existing procedures with respect to drug investigations have been strictly adhered to. This has been achieved through improved training measures and with greater emphasis on supervision.

(6) If procedures are strictly followed and sufficient investigations are carried out prior to searches being conducted, members of the public will not be "raided" as a result of false information being received. A search of a person's premises is one tool available to an investigator to enable them to complete investigations with regard to drug information. A search warrant is issued by a Justice of the Peace once the provisions of Section 18 of the Drugs Misuse Act are satisfied.

585. Roma Street Rail Yard Site; Super Stadium

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (3/6/97)—

With reference to the Bligh Lobb report on a possible superstadium for Brisbane and his reply to Question on Notice No. 396 which was tabled on 2 June—

- (1) Accepting that the terms of reference given to Bligh Lobb specifically excluded Roma Street as a possible site for a superstadium, did the report nevertheless contain reference to Roma Street as a suitable site; if so, what did it say in this regard and why did Bligh Lobb ignore the specific instruction to exclude Roma Street from their report?

- (2) Which properties in south-east Queensland did the Bligh Lobb report set a footprint outline for a super stadium development and, if the RNA was one such site, where on this site is the "footprint" located?
- (3) Does he intend to table the Bligh Lobb report or release it publicly; if not, why not?
- (4) At what stage of planning is the "user friendly parkland and commercial development" he states he intends for the Roma Street site and when is the public to be informed of his precise plans for this important city site?

Mr Borbidge (3/7/97):

(1) The report by Bligh Lobb that was commissioned by the State Government did not contain any reference to Roma Street as a potential site for the development of a super stadium. However, the consultants considered that they had a duty of care to provide professional comment on all sites that they believed had potential for the development of a super stadium. Therefore in a supplementary report to their draft report to the Steering Committee, the consultants indicated that in their opinion Roma Street should be considered as a possible location for any super stadium.

(2) The consultants' report is currently being considered by the Steering Committee and consequently it would be inappropriate for the Government to comment on the findings and recommendations of the report until such time as the Steering Committee has concluded its deliberations and the report has been formally considered by the State Government.

(3) As I have indicated, the report by Bligh Lobb is yet to be formally considered by the State Government. Any decision on future action with respect to the report will be made once the State Government has had the opportunity to fully consider the report and the implications of its findings and recommendations.

(4) A range of options is being documented for presentation to Cabinet in the near future. Appropriate announcements will be made after Cabinet consideration of this matter.

586. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (3/6/97)—

With reference to her responsibility for overall budget management for each department and agency—

- (1) What proportion of their current (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 May?
- (2) What proportion of their capital (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 May?
- (3) What proportion of their total (1996-97) budget was expended as at 31 May?

Mrs Sheldon (3/7/97): Information on the recurrent and capital 1996-97 Budgets expected to be spent by Departments during the 1996-97 financial year is contained in the Queensland 1997-98 Budget Papers presented to Parliament on 27 May

1997. Total actual expenditure by Departments for 1996-97 will be available following the closure of the year's accounts.

587. Police Beats, Townsville/Thuringowa

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/6/97)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 966 of 1996 regarding the expansion of police beat services in Townsville—

Now that the 1997-98 Budget has been announced with no mention being made of the proposed police beats for North Ward, Garbutt or Aitkenvale, does this mean that no more police beats are to be established in the Townsville/Thuringowa area in 1997-98?

Mr Cooper (3/7/97): Not necessarily. While the QPS has received the global budget for the 1997/98 financial year, allocations for some specific initiatives have yet to be finalised. This will occur early in the new financial year. The final determinations on additional police beats will be made on availability of funds and merit.

588. Police Resources, Underwood

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/6/97)—

With reference to concerns expressed by the Underwood Neighbourhood Watch that there has been a significant increase in crime such as break and enters, stealing and motor vehicle theft in their area over the past two months—

- (1) How many police patrols are assigned to the Underwood area on a daily basis?
- (2) How many police patrols are assigned to the Underwood area on a nightly basis?
- (3) Will Underwood residents receive any benefit from the increased police numbers announced in the State Budget; if so, how and when?
- (4) What is the break and enter rate for the Underwood area for each month over the past year?
- (5) How does that rate compare with 1995-96 and 1994-95?
- (6) What is the average police response time for responding to property crimes in Underwood?

Mr Cooper (3/7/97):

(1) Underwood is situated within the Slacks Creek Police Division. There are three marked police vehicles and one unmarked vehicle assigned to that station. This allocation of vehicles allows for one general duty crew to be on active patrol each rostered shift; the unmarked vehicle is assigned for use by the Detectives attached to Slacks Creek Division usually for two shifts per day. The other marked vehicles are used for inquiries and other specialised policing initiatives within the division. These initiatives are arranged to allow for equitable coverage of the area and intelligence driven patrols, irrespective of the time .

(2) As per above, when tasking patrols the Officer in Charge of Slacks Creek Police Station requires that all parts of his division are patrolled. Patrols are required to respond to all requests for police assistance and when not so occupied general patrols are carried out. Normally these general patrols are conducted where intelligence on hand indicates that a police presence may be a deterrent to would be offenders. These patrols also include Random Breath Testing and Random Roadwatch as part of the Service's obligation to road safety.

(3) In order that an effective and efficient police service across the state is provided and the best use of available resources is made, the Queensland Police Service maintains a Staffing Allocation Model which is used for determining the allocations of officers across police regions, districts and divisions. As additional officers progressively become available, they will be deployed throughout the State in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by the Service. Each Regional Assistant Commissioner has the discretion, within the regional allocation, to place staff where the needs for that region lie.

When the South Eastern Region receives an allocation of new officers the Assistant Commissioner will, at his discretion, assign some of those officers to the Logan District. This will be of benefit to all residents of Logan District including Underwood. 29 new police officers were assigned to the Logan District during the 1996/97 financial year.

(4) Break and enter offences in the past 12 months are as follows:-

June 96—16; July 96—46; August 96—29; September 96—17; October 96—17; November 96—14; December 96—24

January 97—35; February 97—41; March 97—21; April 97—23; May 97—23; June 97—5*

*June 1997 figures current to 10 am 10/6/97.

(5) The comparisons for break and enter offences at Underwood for the periods 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 to date.

MONTH	1994	1995	1996	1997
January	n/A	14	10	35
February	n/A	6	13	41
March	n/A	14	10	21
April	10	12	22	23
May	21	10	21	23
June	11	6	16	5*
July	12	8	46	
August	11	15	29	
September	11	16	17	
October	11	24	17	
November	5	18	14	
December	11	10	24	
Total	103	153	239	148

*Figures for June 1997 were current to 10.00 am 10/6/97.

(6) Information in relation to the average police response time for responding to property crimes in Underwood is not available from the current Information Management System being used by the Logan District Communications Centre. However, calls for assistance from members of the public are

assessed on their receipt and a decision is then made as to priority and nature of the response.

589.State Schools, Crows Nest

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Education (3/6/97)—

- (1) What is the number of students in each of the State schools in the electorate of Crows Nest?
- (2) How many teachers are there in each of these schools?
- (3) How many teacher-aides are there in each of these schools?

Mr Quinn (10/7/97):

(1), (2) & (3)

School	No. of Students	No. of Teachers	No. of Teacher-aides
Acland	29	2.7	2
Biddeston	79	4	4
Bowenville	36	2	2
Bunkers Hill	96	4.5	2
Charlton	41	2.3	4
Cooyar	47	2	3
Crow's Nest	458	27.9	7
Geham	89	4.266	3
Goombungee	143	8.12	4
Gowrie	172	11.7	4
Haden	27	2	3
Highfields	571	31	5
Jondaryan	65	3.55	3
Kingsthorpe	201	11.3	3
Kulpi	31	2	4
Meringandan	131	6	4
Oakey High	484	38	
Oakey	510	26.6	4
Quinalow	111	11.3	3
Southbrook Central	90	4.85	3
Wellcamp	29	2.2	2

590.McCafferty's Management Pty Ltd

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/6/97)—

With reference to the fact that Commissioner Grimshaw ordered McCafferty's Management Pty Ltd to pay employees as per their Federal award as from 2 November 1994 and as the Commonwealth Department of Industrial Relations has issued two letters of demand, dated 29 November 1993 and 12 February 1996, detailing the award clauses that are not being applied correctly—

Is he able and willing to intervene to persuade this Queensland company to ensure that its employees receive their just entitlements?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): I am advised by my Ministerial colleague, the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations, that this is a matter subject to Federal jurisdiction and therefore can not be subject to any State intervention.

591.Policing, Woodridge Electorate

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/6/97)—

With reference to the apparent reluctance of police in my area to deal with juvenile problems which is apparently more accentuated when ethnics are involved and as this is the opinion of the public in my area, and as the perception has been conveyed to the youthful offenders, it has compounded a difficult problem as these youthful offenders are so blatant in their crimes and as the public are outraged as in most cases eye witnesses can identify the culprits and as the police are full of excuses and little action is being taken and there is certainly no follow up to crimes such as break and entering and stealing—

What is he doing to make police more accountable to such high-risk areas as mine?

Mr Cooper (26/6/97): The assertion that police are reluctant to deal with juvenile problems is refuted and not supported from the results and initiatives of police. The Logan police and in particular, the Logan District Juvenile Aid Bureau and the Logan Crime Unit, are very active in their pursuit of all offenders including juvenile offenders. These units have been very successful in that endeavour. It is evident that the reason these units in particular enjoy such success in their dealings with juvenile offenders is due in no small part to the quantity and quality of the information provided to them by members of the community.

This community cooperation is greatly appreciated by police.

There are instances where juvenile suspects have been seen leaving the scene of a crime and members of the community have provided descriptions of those juveniles to police. However as you would know not all descriptions lead to a positive identification of an offender. In the majority of cases technical sections are used to gather further forensic evidence. The Queensland Police Service uses intelligence data gathered on suspects active in the general area of the crime committed in an attempt to identify offenders by description or the property in their possession at the time. This intelligence gives investigating police an avenue when attempting to identify a person who may match the description given by witnesses. These endeavours can be painstaking and time consuming. The Honourable member should be aware that a description given at the time may match a number of persons and does not necessarily mean that the witness can later identify a suspect to the exacting satisfaction of a court.

As you have been previously advised, offenders located in the Logan District are always dealt with in compliance with procedures and according to the law, regardless of the age or ethnic origin of the offender.

With regards to dealing with juvenile problems, many schools have adopt a cop programs where police officers attend to speak with staff and in particular students about crime, personal safety and road safety amongst other issues. This is both in a formal schoolroom process and in a general context.

With regards to accountability, the Queensland Police Service as part of the Corporate Goals and Objectives is obliged to work with the people of

Queensland to reduce property offences and to ensure that victims of property offences receive an appropriate, professional and effective police response. In order that this goal is achievable more police are being made available by way of new recruits and by civilianisation of many positions currently being held by sworn officers.

With the latest changes to the Juvenile Justice Act, community conferencing has commenced. This provides an avenue for persons affected by crime to confront the offenders responsible. This allows for the complainant to have a part in dealing with an offender and at the same time, allowing an offender to gain first hand knowledge of the results of his illegal activities.

In addition, the implementation of the Government's concept of Community Policing Partnerships (CPPs) will facilitate a working relationship between all levels of government, police and local citizens in the resolution of locally identified crime problems, including social justice problems.

A Central Board chaired by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing will be responsible to establish and maintain locally constituted CPPs in nominated regions across Queensland. The Commissioner of Police will be a member of this Central Board.

Local CPP objectives are to develop a sense of community ownership and "whole of community" response to crime prevention through the creation of consultative processes and the implementation of best practice principles which will be transportable through all CPPs and community structures.

Local CPPs will be chaired by the Mayor. The Regional Assistant Commissioner will be a member of the committee.

The specific goals for the Regional Assistant Commissioner with respect to the CPPs are:

- (i) To ensure that all police Service personnel are aware of the work of the CPPs and provide advice and support as required by the CPP;
- (ii) To make available all statistical information requested by the CPP as it relates to the work of that particular partnership;
- (iii) To provide additional infrastructure support for the CPP Coordinator in addition to that provided by the Local Authority;
- (iv) To Chair or ensure the availability of a Chair for any sub-committees involved in CPP initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch etc. and
- (v) Provide support, advice and information for the CPP to enhance the effectiveness of this group.

The introduction of CPPs within nominated regions throughout Queensland reinforces the responsibility of all police officers to work in partnership with the community, not only with respect to the management of juvenile crime but to all incidents affecting the safety and well being of the community at large. A proposal to establish a CPP in the Logan area is presently under consideration.

592. Pornographic Videos

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/6/97)—

With reference to the matter of pornographic videos being available in Brisbane from unmarked delivery vans accessible by phone order—

- (1) Since the matter was first brought to his attention, what action has he taken to address it?
- (2) What arrests, charges or convictions have so far occurred over the matter and against whom?
- (3) Have police allowed this practice to flourish while cracking down on the Canberra based pornography lobby, the Eros Foundation; if so, why, and has this bias been corrected?
- (4) Are advertisements for these mobile pornography vendors in the print media in Brisbane still appearing; if so, why isn't action being taken against the people placing the ads?
- (5) Which other Queensland cities are being targeted by this type of pornography distribution?
- (6) Has any involvement by police in the protection of these operators been detected; if so, has it been referred to the CJC?

Mr Cooper (3/7/97):

1. In February 1997, Task Force Argos commenced an operation to specifically investigate the alleged activity.
2. To date, no arrests, charges or convictions have occurred. It is intended to identify and gather evidence against all participants during the course of the operation and effect arrests during the operation closure.
3. The Task Force Argos operation is aimed at bringing the activity to a close and prosecuting participants. Argos personnel are not involved in any crackdown on Eros Foundation members. The Office of Consumer Affairs administers legislation covering censorship of publications and films.
4. Action taken against those placing advertisements would jeopardise existing and potential avenues of investigation and bring about a premature closure of the operation.
5. Identification of areas in which investigations are being conducted may alert those under investigation to that fact and compromise the integrity of the operation.
6. There is currently no evidence of police involvement in protection of the operators and owners of the businesses.

593. Pine Rivers Area Transport Study

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/6/97)—

With reference to the recent Kurwongbah by-election in which the Liberal candidate made reference to the long-awaited Pine Rivers Area Transport Study—

Will he advise what the time frame is for the release of the final report of this study?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): The Pine Rivers Area Transport Study, commonly known as PRATS, has been superseded by the Pine Rivers Shire Transportation Study. Pine Rivers Shire Council is the lead agency for this study and I have been advised that it will be at least three months before it will be completed.

594. Nightclubs, Sunshine Coast

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/6/97)—

With reference to claims that night clubs on the Sunshine Coast are being used by members of notorious bikie gangs to launder money and trade in drugs—

- (1) Is he aware of these claims; if so, which night clubs and bikie clubs are involved?
- (2) Has the Member for Nicklin ever had discussions with him about this matter; if so, what action has he taken to address it?
- (3) How could night club owners on the Sunshine Coast become aware of the timing of licensing inspections of their premises?
- (4) Are security staff of these nightclubs aware of the nights on which police intend to visit the clubs in search of under-age drinkers and exclude such persons from the club on those nights?

Mr Cooper (26/6/97):

(1 & 2) The Acting Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Police Region, has advised checks are regularly conducted in relation to this matter.

No evidence has been obtained at this time which suggests any motor-cycle gangs are involved in the laundering of money or trading of drugs within Sunshine Coast night-clubs.

The Acting Assistant Commissioner further advises that any evidence which is located will be immediately acted upon and all appropriate action will be taken by his officers.

(3 & 4) The Acting Assistant Commissioner advises inspections are known only to the officers involved in the operations. Licensing Inspectors from the Liquor Licensing Division of the Department of Tourism, Small Business & Industry also conduct regular licensing inspections of these premises.

The Acting Assistant Commissioner advises it is highly unlikely that security staff are aware of the nights or times that police intend to conduct operations targeting under-age drinking within Sunshine Coast night-clubs. Such practices are conducted on a confidential basis and only those officers involved are aware of the details.

595. Expo 2002; Coomera Site

Mr NUTTALL asked the Premier (3/6/97)—

With reference to his plans to stage an Expo in 2002 on a site at Coomera—

- (1) As his original submission for the 2005 Expo was based on a strong environmental theme, why is the theme for the 2002 Expo based on

"Communication technology in a global village" and what prompted this change?

- (2) Is the Queensland Government negotiating with the approximately 20 owners of the 350 hectare site to purchase it entirely prior to Expo as it did for the Southbank site prior to Expo 88; if not, why not?
- (3) Will the Queensland Government use its compulsory acquisition powers to acquire land from unwilling vendors at Coomera as it did on the Expo 88 site?
- (4) In the event the entire site is purchased, what percentage of it will be kept in its natural state post Expo and what percentage will be developed for residential use?

Mr Borbidge (3/7/97):

1. Australia is now bidding for the right to host a Recognised Exposition in 2002. The Regulations of the Bureau of International Expositions require Recognised Expositions to have a relatively narrow theme. The Philippines, which was the first country to lodge a bid for the right to host an Expo in 2002, has chosen a theme centred on eco-tourism. To maximise Australia's chances of winning the right to host the 2002 Expo, it was decided to adopt a theme which is clearly distinct from that of the Philippines and one which has great significance in contemporary society.

2. Yes.

3. At this stage, the Queensland Government has no intention of using compulsory acquisition powers to acquire the land.

4. Detailed proposals for post-Expo use of the site will not be formulated for some time. However, the Government intends to ensure that any post-Expo development of the site will be environmentally responsible.

596. Whale-watching Permits, Moreton Bay

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (3/6/97)—

With reference to his latest round of public consultation on his draft conservation plan for whales which closed only last Friday, 30 May and which hasn't yet been tabled in this House to enable permits to be issued to Moreton Bay whale watching operators—

Why then is Kerry McTaggart of Akarma cruises reported in this week's Redcliffe paper as saying that she intends to commence a full scale commercial whale watch operation in Moreton Bay Marine Park in a fortnight's time and has a new 150 seat boat called the "Satrya Express" arriving from Perth this Saturday, 7 June for the venture?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97): A company for which Ms McTaggart is a Director has been granted a marine park permit for commercial whale watching in Moreton Bay Marine Park. Ms McTaggart was advised of that on 11 June, the date of my press release on the matter.

597. Realignment of Bruce Highway at Gunalda Range

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/6/97)—

Has there been any funds from the 1997-98 State Budget allocated to the realignment of the Bruce Highway at the Gunalda Range; if so, will he outline the details of the funding?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): The Bruce Highway is a National Highway and, as such, its realignment at the Gunalda Range will be funded by the Federal Government.

The Federal Government initially approved \$200,000 in the 1996-97 financial year and \$1 million in the 1997-98 to allow the route to be determined and preconstruction work to be completed on this range section on the Bruce Highway.

Preconstruction work includes the geotechnical investigation, the environmental impact assessment, route survey, detailed design and documentation, the acquisition of land and the calling of tenders for construction.

Funds of \$9.8 million also were announced by the Federal Minister to enable construction of the Gunalda Range to commence in 1998-99.

Details of these Federal funding cash flows for this project were outlined in the current Roads Implementation Program which was published in November 1996, and have since been confirmed as part of the Federal Budget advice provided by the Federal Minister, the Honourable John Sharp MP, earlier this month.

598. Mount Morgan Hospital

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (3/6/97)—

With reference to the concerns of Mount Morgan residents about the future of their local hospital—

(1) What are the ongoing functions of Mount Morgan Hospital, in particular, the continuity of current services and care available at the hospital?

(2) What consideration has been given in the current budget to the refurbishment of Mount Morgan General Hospital?

Mr Horan (8/7/97): (1-2) There are no planned changes to the role of Mount Morgan Hospital. All services currently available will be maintained. Minor capital works for Mount Morgan Hospital during this financial year will be considered when the Capital Works Strategic Planning Process is completed.

599. Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Court); ATSI Training Program

Mr FOURAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (3/6/97)—

With reference to an article on page 6 of The Courier-Mail on 31 May, in relation to the training of ATSI Justices of the Peace—

(1) How many JP (Mag Ct) have been trained since 31 May 1996 in the ATSI communities, and could he name which communities and the

numbers of JP's trained in each individual community?

- (2) What are the names of the training officers who undertook this training in ATSI communities and what accreditation did these persons have?
- (3) Will he confirm that the ATSI training had been mothballed since May 1996 for various spurious reasons, including cutbacks in funding?
- (4) What were the dates that Michael Vagg, Michael Meehan, Gary Wessling and Nev Bawden, all ATSI Justice of the Peace Training Officers, were removed from the ATSI training program for Justices of the Peace and put back into Magistrates Court office duties?
- (5) What was the total cost of the ATSI training program in 1996-97, not including any funding for Magistrates Court staff but specific to ATSI communities?
- (6) Why did the Government fail to complete training in 1996-97 at Doomadgee and Mornington Island when all other ATSI communities had already been trained?
- (7) What were the reasons that refresher training courses were not implemented in the other ATSI communities in 1996-97?
- (8) What officers within the Department of Justice have briefed him or his staff in relation to the ATSI training program since February 1996 and what efforts did he or his staff make to ascertain the veracity of any such advice?

Mr Beanland (2/7/97):

- (1) There have been 37 persons trained in the centres of Mornington Island (26), Napranum (6), and Doomadgee (5) since May 1996. This completes the three year Justice of the Peace Training Program in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities with 161 persons trained and 112 Justices of the Peace (Magistrates Courts) being appointed in 38 communities.
- (2) The two experienced people who provided the training in these three remaining communities were Mr Michael Meehan and Mr Gary Wessling. These officers have had considerable experience as Justices of the Peace working in Magistrates Courts Offices throughout Queensland. Both of these officers completed a Train the Trainer Program and spent considerable time dealing with the cultural aspects of delivering the course in these remote communities. In September 1996 the Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council wrote to the Department congratulating it on the dedication and commitment in delivering training to remote communities in these terms, "Our office has received positive feed back from the communities on the training and the trainers in which I would also like to congratulate the Trainers on a marvellous job..."
- (3) The Justice of the Peace training in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities was part of three year program, and by May 1996 only three communities had not received training, Mornington Island, Napranum, and Doomadgee. An amount of \$50,000 was provided to complete the training in 1996/97 and these three communities received the appropriate training. For 1997/98, the Department

has arranged refresher courses to be held in the communities of Thursday Island and Kowanyama. The courses are being undertaken as part of a Pilot Program to use trained Justices of the Peace in the local Magistrates Courts within the remote communities. An amount of \$60,000 has been set aside in the budget.

(4) None of these Magistrates Court Officers were removed from the training program. They were seconded to complete the training and returned to their substantive positions in the Magistrates Court after completing their various training assignments. Mr Wessling completed training on Mornington Island on 15 October 1996 and at Doomadgee on 29 November, and he returned to the Magistrates Court at Townsville on 13 December 1996. Mr Meehan completed training on Napranum on 10 October 1996 and returned to the Magistrates Courts Office Cairns on 25 November 1996. Mr Vagg ceased as a trainer on 16 August 1996. Mr Neville Bawden is currently the training coordinator for the Magistrates Courts and is still involved with JP training, including overseeing the refresher training on Thursday Island and Kowanyama.

(5) The total cost of the training in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in 1996/97 was \$98,000. This was more than the amount budgeted (\$50,000) with the additional funding being met by the budget for the Justice of the Peace Branch.

(6) The training in these communities was completed by November 1996.

(7) Unfortunately, when the training scheme began, some three years ago, proper discussions had not taken place with the Magistracy or the Police to ensure that Justices of the Peace, who had completed the training, would actually be used in court situations. This has limited the use of Justices of the Peace in the Magistrates Courts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. The Pilot Programs in Kowanyama and Thursday Island will establish procedures for Justices of the Peace to work with the Magistracy and Police and study the effect of culturally appropriate processes and sentencing. Consultation has taken place with the Kowanyama Aboriginal Community via the Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council in Cairns. Discussions have taken place with Council Chairpersons in relation to Thursday Island. Refresher training has taken place at Thursday Island and will be delivered by the end of June 1997 to Kowanyama. This Government has not only continued the training but will ensure that the training is put to good use. Once the Pilot Programs in Kowanyama and Thursday Island have been completed and a system is put into place where Justices of the Peace will be used in Magistrates Courts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, further training will be considered.

(8) I have been fully briefed by senior executives from the Department. In October 1996 I met with officers of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care in relation to establishing the Pilot Program in Thursday Island and Kowanyama. Whilst visiting Courthouses I speak to staff who have received similar training as Justices of the Peace who have indicated that the program has been very beneficial. I am fully aware of the situation

concerning Justice of the Peace training in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

600. Petrie Bypass

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/6/97)—

With reference to the promise made during the recent Kurwongbah by-election to construct the Petrie bypass—

- (1) When will the optimal route for the bypass be made public?
- (2) When will community consultation commence?
- (3) What is the timeframe for the construction of the bypass?
- (4) When will construction commence?
- (5) When will the bypass open?
- (6) What is the total cost of construction of the bypass?
- (7) Has provision been made in the 1997-98 Budget for the construction of this bypass; if so, how much; if not, when will moneys be allocated for the Petrie bypass?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97):

(1) The optimal route for a Petrie Bypass cannot be decided upon until a route location and impact assessment study has been completed. This study will determine whether the project is feasible and should proceed. Based upon experience with other projects, it is expected that this study would take at least 12 months. The commencement of the study is dependent upon confirmation of the potential viability of the route in Pine Rivers Shire Council's Shire Transportation Study, which I am advised is at least three months from completion.

(2) Public consultation will be an integral part of the impact assessment study process and will commence once the results of the council's transport study are confirmed.

(3) The timeframe for the project will not be known until the impact assessment study is completed.

(4) At this stage, the commencement date for construction is unknown.

(5) The opening date for the bypass is unknown.

(6) The cost will depend upon the route taken and will be determined during the impact assessment study. A preliminary estimate is from \$8 to \$12 million.

(7) No money was provided in the 1997-98 budget. However, funds will be provided in the 1997-98 year of the Roads Implementation Program 1997-98 to 2001-02 to commence the abovementioned study. Funds will not be allocated to the project until the outcome of the impact assessment study is known and the funding responsibilities between the State and local government are resolved. Also, the study will provide a realistic estimate of the projects costs and benefits so that its relative priority with other projects in the Roads Implementation Program can be determined.

601. Fleay's Wildlife Park

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (3/6/97)—

With reference to the mangrove boardwalk at Fleay's Wildlife Park on the Gold Coast—

- (1) Is this boardwalk still not connected with the Burleigh Heads Information Centre via the northern bank of Tallebudgera Creek as was intended under the original plan; if not, why not?
- (2) Was any advice received from his Coopers & Lybrand review team regarding the proper completion of this boardwalk; if so, what was the advice?
- (3) Does he believe that the completion of this boardwalk as planned would assist with making Fleays a viable operation?
- (4) What costs would be involved in completing this project?
- (5) Has he considered making this project a Green Corps or Youth Conservation Corps project?
- (6) Has the local member's and Gold Coast City councillors' opposition to the completion of this project changed in recent times; if so, do they now support this completion?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97):

(1) A boardwalk currently runs through the Tallebudgera Conservation Park following Tallebudgera Creek from the Fleays Wildlife Park car parking area to Ocean Parade. This boardwalk is used regularly by local walkers, joggers and nature enthusiasts.

It was proposed in the mid 1980s that, as part of a Tallebudgera Greenspace concept, the boardwalk be continued to join the Conservation Park with Burleigh Head National Park. Because of land tenure difficulties, residents' concerns, high costs (involved with construction of a footbridge across a creek inlet on the route) and potential impacts to the Tallebudgera Creek environs, this concept was abandoned by 1990.

(2) The recent review of Fleays Wildlife Park by Coopers & Lybrand (Consultants) provided no advice about the completion of the boardwalk.

(3) The cost of constructing a bridge and extending the boardwalk for a further 1.5 kilometres would erode any potential profit Fleays Wildlife Park might gain through construction of the boardwalk extension. Extensive promotion of the walking access to the park would be required and would be at the expense of more productive, targeted promotion in more lucrative markets. It is also doubtful that a significant number of visitors would be interested in walking nearly 3 kilometres to the park entrance and, once inside, walk a kilometre around the park, only to walk another 3 kilometres back to their starting point.

(4) Costs involved would probably exceed \$250,000, plus the possible cost of acquisition of land to provide access through the Koala Park residential area if other suitable arrangements could not be made.

(5) The Youth Conservation Corps has been involved in upgrading walking tracks at Burleigh Head National Park and has provided project labour to Fleays Wildlife Park for the development of public infrastructure. As there are not plans to extend the mangrove boardwalk there are no plans to involve employment training program participants in such a project.

(6) As there are no plans to extend the mangrove boardwalk the views of the local member and councillors have not been canvassed.

Although the walk would connect the two protected areas of Tallebudgera Creek Conservation Park and Burleigh Head National Park, the extension itself would be outside of land under the Department of Environment's control. Therefore, this issue is essentially a council issue. The proposed walk was to provide recreational access to the Greenspace for residents and was never planned with the viability of Fleays Wildlife Park in mind.

The Department of Transport has recently completed construction of a footbridge across Tallebudgera Creek connecting West Burleigh with the southern portion of Tallebudgera Conservation Park, opening opportunities to walk from the Palm Beach end of the creek to Fleays.

602. Water Meters; Public Housing

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/6/97)—

With reference to the introduction of water meters in Brisbane—

- (1) What water charges, if any, will be the responsibility of public housing tenants?
- (2) What policy will be implemented to cater for different categories of public housing (e.g. detached, duplexes, townhouses, units, seniors etc)?
- (3) What changes will be made to the tenancy agreement to address this issue?
- (4) What advice, and when, will be given to tenants about this issue?

Dr Watson (3/7/97): (1, 2, 3 & 4) Currently, Section 90 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1994 (the Act) allows lessors to pass on to tenants the cost of excess water only (provided the premises are individually metered). The provision in the Act assumes use of the traditional method of water charging and does not provide for user pays pricing.

When the Act is amended to reflect the charging method available under legislation, my department will advise tenants of what water usage charges will be applicable. If the Act is amended to adopt the reasonable usage model of water usage charges, the Brisbane City Council will be approached by my department to advise on what is considered to be the reasonable consumption amount for water in Brisbane. Tenants will then be advised by my department when signing a tenancy agreement the reasonable consumption figure, as provided by the Brisbane City Council, and of their liability for water charges in excess of this amount.

603. Tilt Train

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/6/97)—

With reference to the proposed new tilt train service between Brisbane and Rockhampton—

- (1) Where will this train be serviced?
- (2) Will specialised facilities be required to service this train?
- (3) What crewing levels will be required to run this train and where will these be stationed?
- (4) What timetable is proposed for this train?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97):

(1) The servicing of the train will be determined by the availability of the rollingstock as dictated by the proposed timetable and service schedule. As the train will be used intensely for services to Bundaberg as well as to Rockhampton the availability of rollingstock for servicing and maintenance will be limited to every alternate weekend in Brisbane for each train set. As one set will be stabled in Rockhampton overnight some minor maintenance can also be performed during this period.

(2) Accommodation for the tilt train has been provided in the Mayne redevelopment program which is currently underway. As yet the manufacturer has not provided specific details on the required maintenance schedule or any specific facilities that will be required.

(3) The train will be operated by one driver with crew changes at Bundaberg en route. The Bundaberg depot will be the main depot for the tilt drivers. The catering and on-board passenger services staff will be provided in accordance with the number of carriages on the train and passenger numbers.

(4) The timetable options are still being developed and will be subject to a public consultation process before finalisation. Once the consultation process is completed a recommended schedule of services can be publicly released.

604. Rail Yard, Parkinson/Larapinta

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/6/97)—

With reference to the proposals for a railway yard at Parkinson and Larapinta which are being vigorously opposed by residents in adjacent suburbs despite a lack of relevant information being available—

- (1) Will he please advise what is the status of the proposed rail yard?
- (2) What is the time frame for planning and construction?
- (3) Is it proposed that the facility will include freight receipt and despatch, or only a marshalling yard, or a transshipping or bogie exchange, or all of the above?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97):

(1) The status of the proposed rail yard is at the preliminary planning phase. I consider that it would be useful for Queensland Transport and the Brisbane City Council to work together on a general land use study for the area to ensure the best possible outcome for the community is achieved.

(2) The increase in freight haulage within South East Queensland and to the port over the next ten years and with Acacia Ridge terminal approaching capacity, a new facility is likely to be required in the next 10 to 20 years. It should be stressed that the construction of any new yard at Parkinson will only proceed should detailed planning and investigation justify the need for such a facility.

(3) At this stage, it is considered such a facility would incorporate marshalling and freight distribution elements. The final design of the facility would be developed after detailed market analysis, planning and investigation.

605. Police Service, Proceeds from Sale of Land

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/6/97)—

- (1) When land and property owned by the Queensland Police Service is sold, are the proceeds from the sale returned to the Police Service or do they go to the Treasury Department?
- (2) If the proceeds are returned to the Queensland Police Service are they kept within the division where the sale occurred e.g. Metro South, to financially assist with the upgrade of the police facilities in that division?

Mr Cooper (3/7/97):

(1) The retention of proceeds from the sale of government real property assets is governed by the provisions of the Government Land Management System. Under this system, the Police Service can receive 50% of the sale proceeds or where special circumstances exist, the Service can receive 100% of the sale proceeds. 100% of sale proceeds has been received on a number of occasions.

(2) The distribution of funds received is dependent upon the identification of need and Statewide priorities. As a matter of course, funds are not necessarily distributed to the region from which the sale originates but are used for Capital Works supplementation throughout Queensland.

606. Fire Stations

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (3/6/97)—

With reference to the budget allocations for operational firefighters, and to the savage cuts to the number of operational firefighters projected for 1997-98—

Which fire stations will be stripped of operational staff during 1997-98?

Mr Veivers (3/7/97): No fire station will be stripped of operational staff during 1997-98. In fact the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has increased the authorised total of operational firefighters by 122 officers since this Government took office in 1996.

607. Leading Schools Program; Closure of Schools

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (3/6/97)—

With reference to media reports that the Education Department is considering the closure of five schools in the Metropolitan West region, including Laidley North, Laidley Central, Mulgowie, Blenheim and Thornton schools—

- (1) Will he guarantee that these schools will not be closed and merged under his Leading Schools program?
- (2) Which other small schools throughout Queensland are being considered for closure and/or merging with other schools?
- (3) Will he guarantee that the notion of clustering of small schools for certain administrative purposes under Leading Schools will not lead to job losses at any school?

Mr Quinn (10/7/97):

- (1) & (3) The issue to which the honourable member refers is not related to the Leading Schools initiative.
- (2) My department reviews the enrolment and viability of many schools on a regular basis. Each year a small number of schools are closed, and similarly approximately the same number of new schools are opened. The current exploration of options in the Laidley area has been generated by the need for better facilities, and a consideration of the long term viability of three small schools, two of which are less than ten minutes drive from town.

608. Graffiti

Mr LUCAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (3/6/97)—

With reference to the ever-increasing problem of graffiti and similar vandalism—

- (1) What steps (legislative or otherwise) does he propose to deal with the ready availability of spray cans to graffitists?
- (2) Will he agree to immediately take steps to introduce a Code of Practice amongst retailers covering such areas as removing spray cans from public access/placing whistles in the spray nozzle of cans, etc so as to minimise availability of spray cans to those who seek to use them for an improper purpose?
- (3) Will he undertake to introduce mandatory legislative action to compel retailers to comply with the Code of Conduct if voluntary measures prove ineffective?

Mr Beanland (2/7/97): (1, 2 & 3) During the July 1995 election campaign the then Premier announced that the Government's plan for addressing the problem of graffiti vandalism would include the implementation of a code of practice for retailers of spray paint. The aim was to restrict the sale of spray paint to only persons over 18 and to require purchasers to present identification and sign a register.

The Office of Consumer Affairs was given the responsibility for implementing the code. Consultation on the issue was undertaken during late

1995 with major retailing groups and the major organisation representing paint manufacturers.

While all groups recognised the need to address the problem of graffiti vandalism there was a lack of widespread support for the proposed code. Retailing groups were concerned about the administrative burden which would be placed on retailers in abiding by the code and some also questioned its effectiveness in resolving the graffiti problem.

Given the difficulties in administering the code, the decision was taken not to proceed with introduction.

Research shows that the suggestion to place a whistle in each spray can is impracticable. Spray nozzles are commonly interchangeable between different spray can products and that includes non-paint spray can products. The impact of manufacturing a nozzle unique to the paint industry would have a significant negative impact on efficiency, marketplace competition and consumer prices.

Additionally, under the Mutual Recognition law which promotes the notion of a single market for Australia, such a requirement could not apply to products manufactured interstate, unless, in the extremely unlikely event, all States and Territories agreed to adopt this stance.

The proposal to remove spray cans from public access areas in retail outlets appears to have merit. However, the overseas experience shows that, where such restrictions have been imposed, graffitiists have shifted to other modes or products, such as using concoctions containing shoe polish.

The Queensland Government has recently amended the Criminal Code to include new provisions to address this issue. It now captures graffiti damage to property in a public place or visible to the public. This attracts a 5 year prison term, and obscene graffiti attracts a 7 year term. Also penalties can now require an offender to do community work involving the removal of graffiti. Individuals with spray cans and other implements can be prosecuted under the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act if there is reasonable cause to believe that these implements have been, or will be, used to commit a graffiti offence. Again, as well as a prison sentence, community work involving removing graffiti can be imposed.

The Government recognises that punitive actions alone are unlikely to solve the problem. Expert advice indicates that a community program that includes the rapid removal of graffiti may have some success as a disincentive for offenders. This and other measures for addressing the problem are being investigated.

609. Gun Buy-back Scheme

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/6/97)—

With reference to media reports of irregularities in the administration of the gun buy-back scheme—

- (1) Did he personally instruct police that Bill Nioa should be appointed head of the valuation

committee for the buy-back scheme; if so, why did he select Mr Nioa?

- (2) Did Mr Nioa's links with the National Party or the Minister's personal friendship with his son Tony Nioa, the failed National Party candidate for Hervey Bay, in any way influence this decision?
- (3) Did Bob Katter's links to the Nioa family or Tony Nioa's wife's links to the Bjelke-Petersen family and Luke Shaw in any way influence his decision?
- (4) Did the fact Bill Nioa was one of the largest importers of semi-automatic and automatic weapons into this State in any way influence his decision?
- (5) What was the nature of the objections the Police Service raised at his support for Bill Nioa to head the gun valuation committee and why didn't he heed them?
- (6) Are substantial quantities of semi-automatic and automatic gun parts entering Queensland from Papua New Guinea and then being cashed in at the buy-back centres at highly inflated values set by the valuation committee headed by Bill Nioa?
- (7) What numbers of these parts have been surrendered to Queensland buy back centres by gun dealers in any way linked to the Nioa gun empire on a dealer by dealer basis?

Mr Cooper (3/7/97):

- (1) No
- (2) No
- (3) No
- (4) No
- (5) There were no objections raised by the Queensland Police Service. The appointment and approval of the Valuations Committee was entirely a matter for the Police Commissioner and the QPS.
- (6) There is no evidence of gun parts entering the Compensation Program from Papua New Guinea or any other external source. On one occasion, there were some doubts as to a large quantity of complete shotguns submitted by a Cairns dealer. Investigations revealed no anomalies and the claim was properly paid.

New rules about to be introduced will limit the volume of stocks a dealer can submit to commercial quantities only. These may have to be verified against trading history. The suggested problem has not arisen and will not arise in the future.

The suggestion that Valuation Committee valuations are highly inflated is quite wrong. The main function of the Valuation Committee has been to reduce exaggerated claimed prices to commercial norms. Results have proved consistent across all dealers claims when tested by the Queensland Police Service.

- (7) The only dealers claims formally linked to the Nioas are those submitted by Nioa Trading Pty Ltd. Nioa Trading Pty Ltd is a wholesaler and the volume of parts submitted for compensation reflects this status. Similarly, claimed prices are generally lower than the retail prices claimed by other dealers. Nioa

Trading have submitted eleven claims of which eight have been paid to date.

The eleven claims involve a very large volume of items, both by types of part and quantities. These claims are commensurate with those of other dealers in volume and payment. Indeed, some retail dealers have been paid more than the Nioas with more claims pending.

610. Thomas Borthwick's Bakers Creek Plant, Improvement Notice

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (3/6/97)—

With reference to an improvement notice served on Thomas Borthwick's Bakers Creek plant by the Division of Workplace Health and Safety under general obligation provisions of the Workplace Health and Safety Act—

- (1) When was this notice served?
- (2) What length of time was the company given to comply with this notice?
- (3) How much will it cost the company to comply with this notice?
- (4) Has the company completed all work associated with this notice; if not, why not?
- (5) Has the company requested an extension of time to enable it to comply with this notice; if so, what period of time have they requested?
- (6) Has the Division of Workplace Health and Safety agreed to any extension of time?
- (7) What work practices have been changed to minimise worker exposure to muscular skeletal injury; if none, what is the reason?
- (8) How many workers' compensation claims have been made against the company in 1994, 1995 and 1996?
- (9) What is the total value of these claims?

Mr Santoro (3/7/97):

- (1) 29 August 1996
- (2) 9 months to 29 May 1997.
- (3) I am not in a position to answer this question.
- (4) No. Reasons include—
the status of the Merinda plant (now closed) would determine which redesign plan would be implemented
extensive work is required which must be completed at a time that would provide the least disruption to operations.
- (5) Yes. To 31 December 1997.
- (6) Yes. Agreement has been reached to have the company undertake the risk assessment and implement interim controls by 17 July 1997.
- (7) Changes in work practices include—
October 1996—Boning room modified in preparation for new carton erecting machinery that would eliminate the repetitive task of making cartons. In turn, this would eliminate packers having to lift meat over the carton lip when packing.

November 1996—A model slicing and packing table trialled to receive worker feedback.

Carton storage modified by adding carton racks to the external wall of both chains to reduce the bending of packers, having to pull cartons out from under conveyors.

May 1997—Lifting packing materials (plastics etc.) to a level above table height

(8) 279 claims during 1994, 433 claims during 1995 and 351 claims during 1996.

(9) The total cost of these claims to date (amount paid as at 31 May 1997) are as follows:

for the 279 claims lodged during 1994 the total cost is \$2,017,485;

for the 433 claims lodged during 1995 the total cost to date is \$1,554,950; and

for the 351 claims lodged during 1996 the total cost to date is \$849,911.

611. Chermside Fire Station

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (3/6/97)—

With reference to the 1997-98 Budget Papers which show no financial allocation for rebuilding or relocating the Chermside Fire Station, thus making the local community even more concerned about the future fire cover in the Chermside area and because residents living close to previously identified possible sites are even more anxious about the future amenity of this area—

Why was no money allocated in the 1997-98 Budget for the rebuilding/relocation of the Chermside Fire Station, and how will the imminent expansion of the Westfield Shopping Centre affect the operations of the Chermside Fire Station?

Mr Veivers (3/7/97): Negotiations for the sale of Chermside Fire Station ceased when Westfield purchased Myer. However, Westfield has recently shown further interest in negotiating with the QFRA for the purchase of the Chermside Fire Station. Should future negotiations with Westfield for their purchase of the Chermside Fire Station be successful, all moneys from the sale will then be directed to the capital works program for the Chermside Fire Station.

Expansion of the Westfield Shopping Centre will not immediately impact on service delivery from the existing Chermside Fire Station. Pumpers will still exit the station into Hamilton Road and will be supported by pumpers from Windsor, Nundah, and Taigum Fire Stations.

612. Public Abattoirs

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (3/6/97)—

With reference to the Government's decision in November 1996 to exit Government ownership of public abattoirs and the calling of expressions of interest—

- (1) As there are no expressions of interest received for the Townsville abattoir, does this mean that the Government will close this abattoir?
- (2) Does he have complete confidence in the members of the steering committee; if so, do any of the departmental personnel on this committee have any interests in the companies which have been recommended for the second round?
- (3) Has the QAC been at arms length with all the groups making expressions of interest?
- (4) Have plans of new abattoirs been provided by the QAC to some groups and not others?
- (5) As the Bundaberg Abattoir under a local board was able to make a profit every year, and in its last year made a net surplus of \$19,952 after allowing for depreciation of \$31,712 and \$144,000 for provisions, whereas under QAC management the Bundaberg abattoir is supposedly making a loss of approximately \$10,000 per week, does this loss include excessive QAC overheads and excessive meat inspection charges?
- (6) Why has the QAC allowed such a turnaround from a profitable to a loss making enterprise in only a few years?

Mr Perrett (3/7/97):

1. No. The Government does not intend, I repeat—does not intend, to close the Queensland Abattoir Corporation's (QAC) Townsville abattoir which is currently leased to a consortium of local operators who operate through a company known as Bohle Abattoir Pty Ltd. As there were no responses to the Government's Expressions of Interest invitation in respect of Bohle abattoir, the Government has now decided to explore the options for a possible sale of the facility to the current lessee and we will be involving QAC in those negotiations.

2. I have complete confidence in the integrity and competence of the members of the Steering Committee, and this includes the various public servants that are represented on the Steering Committee as well as the three members with industry experience, namely Mr Ritchie Goldup, Mr Bruce Campbell and Mrs Hazel Marland.

I am not aware of any departmental members having any interests in companies whose proposals are being further considered in this exercise. All members of the Steering Committee, including the various departmental representatives, have made a declaration of interest which is in a format approved by the probity auditor from the Queensland Audit Office engaged for this exercise. Those declarations do not reveal any interests in companies being further considered.

3. Unfortunately the honourable member, or more precisely, whoever it was who put this question up to him to ask, has not defined what is meant by "at arms length". I assume he is asking whether QAC has had any contact with, or supplied any information to, any of the proponents who responded to the Government's Expressions of Interest invitation in regard to QAC.

To answer this properly, a little background is required.

As part of a decision made on the 11 November 1996 on the matter of future Government involvement in meat processing, the Queensland Government agreed that there was no compelling reason for the Government to continue ownership of meat processing facilities in order to provide the service kill or contract slaughtering capacity that the industry requires. Furthermore, it was decided that Expressions of Interest should be invited from private sector operators in regard to the development of an exit strategy for Government from its ownership of QAC and for future provision of a fully commercial service kill capacity for the industry. It was also decided that one of the key objectives of this exercise would be to use the Government's exit to bring about a revitalisation of the Queensland meat processing industry, if at all possible.

As part of this exercise, the Government also agreed that the QAC should be given the right to rework a previously submitted relocation proposal in regard to its South-east Queensland operations and to resubmit it as part of the Expressions of Interest (EOI) process, but on the basis of substantial private sector involvement (both funding and ownership) prior to any relocation exercise commencing.

Under the Meat Industry Act 1993, QAC is required to operate on a commercial basis, and accordingly, is only prepared to share information with other parties on a strict commercial-in-confidence basis.

The QAC advised me early this year that they had provided certain information to at least one proponent on that basis. I am advised that since that time, similar information has been provided to other proponents at their request on the same commercial-in-confidence basis. I am not aware of any instance where a proponent seeking similar information from QAC has been denied access to that information, provided of course that the proponent was prepared to enter into a commercial-in-confidence agreement with QAC to begin with.

However, QAC have not been prepared to divulge to their current or potential competitors information about their operating costs or about their commercial service kill arrangements with their customers, and that is understandable. QAC is a commercial business entity, not a charity.

In response to the advice from QAC I referred to previously, I asked them at that time to note that QAC may be required to provide further information to shortlisted proponents who qualify for the second round of the EOI exercise.

Second round proponents will be required to develop their initial EOI proposals in more detail. Accordingly, their due diligence work may require access to additional information from QAC about individual QAC facilities. To the extent that this information can be supplied by QAC without breaching any commercial in confidence arrangements that QAC has entered into with its service kill clients, then it will be supplied, but again on a commercial in confidence basis—which is the

way it has to be in the highly competitive processing market in which QAC operates.

Might I also add Mr Speaker, that QAC have been fully cooperative at all stages in this exercise.

4. Apart from preliminary analysis of potential site options at the time of preparation of its Business Plan in August-September 1996, the QAC has not been involved, and is not currently involved, in the planning of any new abattoirs so the matter of providing plans to some groups and not others does not arise.

5. I am always amused when the honourable member asks a question about the Bundaberg abattoir. Might I remind him, and indeed the people of Bundaberg, that it was under the Goss Labour Government that the Bundaberg Public Abattoir Board was abolished in late 1992 and operational control of the abattoir transferred to what was then the Abattoir Division of the Livestock and Meat Authority of Queensland. That was a decision of Ed Casey, the Labor Primary Industries Minister! What did the honourable member have to say about that at the time? Precious little, I recall. I certainly don't recall him threatening to resign as a sign of protest, nor do I recall him getting up in this House to disassociate himself from the Minister's action and to express his outrage that such a thing could happen in his electorate.

I can understand the embarrassment that the honourable member must have felt at the time and which he no doubt continues to feel, and rightly so, whenever the matter of the transfer of the Bundaberg abattoir is raised.

What happened back in 1992 and who was responsible for it happening are things that should not be forgotten—and let me assure the member for Bundaberg that I do not intend to let those things be forgotten by his constituents.

Turning now to his long-winded and imprecise question, the simple answer is, "No". However, I shall elaborate further in response to his mention of QAC overheads and meat inspection charges.

Firstly, in relation to QAC overheads, QAC central office in Brisbane charges Bundaberg abattoir \$8,000 per month, or \$96,600 for the full 1996-97 financial year. This amount comprises both direct Bundaberg-related costs (notably the Bundaberg manager's salary and fringe benefit tax on the manager's motor vehicle which collectively account for around \$65,000 for the current financial year) and certain other cost items that are allocated by QAC on a proportional basis across the five public abattoirs (for example, insurance, audit fees and computer services).

However, certain costs attributable to Bundaberg are not fully charged against the abattoir but are absorbed within QAC. These costs include the salary on-costs (including superannuation and payroll tax) of the Bundaberg Manager and the time spent on Bundaberg abattoir matters by QAC Central Office staff.

As an example, during the last three months, the QAC Group Engineer has spent an average of one and a half days each week in Bundaberg or on matters related to the Bundaberg abattoir.

In effect, the central QAC head office is subsidising the costs attributable to the Bundaberg abattoir, not the other way around.

Secondly, in relation to meat inspection charges, the Bundaberg abattoir does not have AQIS export certification and hence is only accredited by the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority to supply the domestic market. All domestic accredited abattoirs in Queensland are subject to the same set of Authority inspection charges—and I might add that the current charges were set by regulation during the time of the previous Labour Government!

Those inspection charges were set after consultation between the Authority and the recognised industry organisations on both the producer and the processor sides. Indeed, it was probably one of the very, very few instances where the Goss Government actually took any notice of the outcome of consultations with industry.

6. Is the honourable member suggesting that the Bundaberg abattoir would have remained profitable if the Goss Government had not abolished the local Abattoir Board? Once again, we feel for him in his obvious and acute embarrassment over what he acquiesced to back in 1992.

There is a very simple reason why Bundaberg abattoir is making a loss—it is not processing the volume of livestock that it used to and revenue has fallen accordingly. There is a number of reasons for this including: the demise of a number of the small retail butcher shops in the region that used to slaughter at the Bundaberg abattoir (in turn, related to the ever increasing supermarket share of retail meat sales), the changing purchase patterns of many other butchers in the region who are purchasing meat in cartons from other processors and wholesalers rather than taking full or half carcasses from the Bundaberg abattoir, and of course the drought conditions in parts of the Burnett region.

Just because an abattoir once made a small profit doesn't mean it will always continue to do so as market circumstances change. As all honourable members would be aware, a number of abattoirs in Queensland have closed in recent times and some others are struggling. Bundaberg is not unique in that regard.

Indeed, on purely commercial grounds, QAC had proposed to close Bundaberg abattoir earlier this year. It is a matter of record that the closure decision was reversed after my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Economic Development and Trade, who at the time was acting in my place when I was overseas, made representations to QAC to keep the plant open. Furthermore, QAC were requested to spend, and did spend, some \$85,000 on a new gas-fired boiler at the abattoir when that expenditure could not, strictly speaking, be justified on economic grounds.

That decision, made in the interests of keeping the abattoir open and the people up there employed, has imposed additional costs on QAC which the Government may ultimately have to absorb.

Mr Speaker, can I just add the comment that I do understand the concern in the Bundaberg area about the future of the local abattoir—and I am confident

that the outcome of the EOI exercise in respect of Bundaberg will be satisfactory to the community. Much of this concern has centred around speculation, stirred up by Mr Campbell, that the State Government was going to sell off the site for subdivision.

I can assure the community that this is not going to happen. In fact, I announced on 10 June that the Government is declaring the site as a State Development Area for the purpose of developing a food park on the land. This decision will pave the way for the development of the food processing industry in Bundaberg, particularly for products such as meat, horticulture and seafood, providing valuable flow-on benefits to the region.

Declaration of the site as a State Development Area will mean ownership of the land will remain with the State for the benefit of the community. To ensure a high level of local involvement it is likely we will establish a project committee comprising representatives from the Government and Bundaberg City Council to prepare a development scheme for the site.

Final deliberations on the future of the abattoir itself are continuing, with the most likely outcome being the offer of an operating lease on the existing plant to a private sector proponent selected through the current Expressions of Interest process. More than that I cannot say at this time as there are still some confidential negotiations to be held with certain parties, including QAC.

I am extremely pleased with this outcome which is a testament to the Coalition Government's commitment to regional development and sensible outcomes. We have instigated a development which will capitalise substantially on the value of an existing asset, offering tremendous benefit to the people of Bundaberg and surrounding regions.

The local member, Mr Campbell, has contributed nothing more to this outcome than malicious rumour-mongering and speculation at the expense of the people he supposedly represents.

It is this Coalition Government which is working to ensure the future of the abattoir rather than abandoning it as he, Mr Casey and their Labor mates were hell-bent on doing in 1992.

If the people of Bundaberg are searching for who is responsible for the abandonment of the Bundaberg abattoir, then they should look no further than the Party represented by the member for Bundaberg.

I trust that their judgment via the ballot box will be forthcoming in due course.

613.Mr M. Yanner; Traditional Hunting Rights

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (3/6/97)—

With reference to a decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions to appeal a decision of the Mount Isa Magistrates Court to exonerate Aboriginal activist Murandoo Yanner of violating the provisions of the Fauna Conservation Act by spearing two crocodiles in a remote area north of Mount Isa about three years ago—

- (1) Has he or any member of his staff had discussions with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions regarding this matter; if so, what was the nature of these discussions?
- (2) Have department officers tendered any advice to the Office of the DPP in regard to this matter; if so, what was the nature of the advice and why was it tendered?
- (3) Does he support the decision of the DPP in taking this action?
- (4) Does he believe Mr Yanner was acting within his rights in taking these crocodiles and does he support the traditional hunting rights enshrined in the Federal Native Title Act?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97):

(1) Following the decision of the Mount Isa Magistrates Court in *Eaton vs Yanner*, the Department of Environment sought Crown Law advice on the prospects of an appeal on this decision. The Department also provided Crown Law with documentation relating to the Fauna Conservation Act 1974. Crown Law has since provided advice to the Department.

On the 25 October 1996 the Department was advised by the Queensland Police Service that the file on this matter was being referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. An officer of the Department of Environment then contacted the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and forwarded a copy of the advice from the Acting Crown Solicitor. The appellant in this case is the Queensland Police Service.

(2) Other than forwarding the advice provided by the Acting Crown Solicitor to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Departmental officers have had no other contact with the Director of Public Prosecutions.

(3) The Department supports the DPP in appealing this decision. The decision of the Mount Isa Magistrates Court has created considerable uncertainty. To resolve this uncertainty it is important that the matter of native title rights in wildlife be considered by a higher court. Should native title rights be established in relation to wildlife, it could have broad implications for the Department. In particular, this would impact on its capacity to meet its responsibilities in ensuring that the use of protected wildlife, especially on national parks and other protected areas, is ecologically sustainable.

(4) The matter of whether Mr Yanner was acting within his rights in taking these crocodiles is for the court to determine.

The traditional hunting rights enshrined within the Federal Native Title Act are currently subject to contradictory interpretations. Until the meaning of these provisions is clarified it is not possible to offer comment as to whether the rights are supported or not.

614.Pacific Film and Television Commission

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (3/6/97)—

With reference to reports that the Pacific Film and Television Commission failed to promote western

Queensland locations for the filming of the Australian literary classic *Kings in Grass Castles*—

- (1) Is this true and why were only two Darling Downs locations put forward by the commission for this production?
- (2) Why wouldn't Longreach be able to accommodate the crew of such a production and then use one of the historic homesteads in the area as the setting for the original Durack Station, Thylungra?
- (3) Does this move mean no major film production will ever be set in western Queensland thereby depriving all western centres of benefiting from Government investment in a Queensland film industry; if not, which western Queensland centres can accommodate a film crew of the proportions of this production?
- (4) What accommodation facilities does Bourke in western New South Wales have that Longreach doesn't?
- (5) Is he personally satisfied that the Pacific Film and Television Commission has done the right thing by the people of western Queensland over this matter at a time when the people of the west are screaming out for new investment or alternative industry?

Mr Borbidge (3/7/97):

- (1) The Courier-Mail article is not correct in suggesting only two Darling Downs locations were put forward by PFTC for this production. PFTC put forward Winton/Windorah, Darling Downs and Dalby areas although no script had been received, which is standard practice. The Sydney location manager Maude Heath contacted Quilpie residents herself and on the basis of this and production investor requirements recommended Bourke.
- (2) PFTC regularly recommends Western Queensland centres as locations, and production of film and television drama and commercials have been completed in Mount Isa (Singapore Sling), Dalby region (Kansas), Darling Downs (The Thornbirds—The Missing Years) and Winton/Windorah (Commercial Production). Commercials and documentaries are regularly filmed throughout the region.
- (3) The question of logistics is a difficult one and ultimately the production company decides the location in which it chooses to film. PFTC is not able to compel any production company to choose any location above another as it does not invest in production. It does however offer incentives to encourage the employment of resident Queenslanders, incentives which are not offered by other States in Australia.
- (4) The choice of Bourke was based on the recommendation of the Sydney based Location Manager and on other matters related to the identity and needs of the investors in the project.
- (5) The PFTC makes every effort to locate production throughout the State with *The Thin Red Line* a \$65m U.S. feature film in North Queensland, *Tales of the South Seas* a \$23m U.S. television series on the Gold Coast, currently in production.

These productions are sourced from other States and around the world in the face of intense international competition.

615.School Speech Pathologists

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education (3/6/97)—

With reference to the lengthy wait times being experienced by children with speech defects in being allocated appointments with school speech pathologists—

- (1) How many speech pathologists were employed in Queensland primary schools in 1995-96, are employed in 1996-97 and will be employed in 1997-98?
- (2) What is the average wait time for primary school children placed in a speech therapy program?
- (3) How many children are currently involved in speech pathology programs in primary schools?

Mr Quinn (10/7/97):

- (1) In 1995-96, there were 108.8 full-time equivalent speech-language pathologists employed by Education Queensland to service all students. In the first year of the Coalition government, 1996-97, the number of full-time equivalent speech-language pathologists employed by Education Queensland to service all students increased to 116.4. The number of speech-language pathologists is predicted to remain constant over the forthcoming year.
- (2) No average wait time can be determined for the services of a speech-language pathologist because of the diversity that exists in the type and level of involvement required by a student.
- (3) Data on the number of children involved in speech-language therapy programs is collected in December of each year. Consequently data for the 1997 year is not presently available.

616.Internet Access to Queensland Legislation

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (3/6/97)—

- (1) Will he take steps to allow Queenslanders to have free Internet access to Queensland legislation and case law via the Australian Legal Information Institute?
- (2) Is he aware of public concern that there is free Internet access to the legislation and case law of other States, but not Queensland?

Mr Beanland (2/7/97): (1) and (2) The Government is undertaking an examination of the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, which will soon be completed.

This is considering a range of issues, including the means by and terms upon which legislation and judicial decisions are made available.

Consideration is being given to the question of ownership of the copyright in judgments, an issue which is not without complications.

A decision has not been reached on the question of access via the Internet, through Austlii or other sites.

Representations have been made from a variety of sources and adopting various viewpoints about access to the law of Queensland on the Internet. All of these views are being considered.

617. Livestock Trains, Charleville Line

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/6/97)—

With reference to the livestock block trains running on the Charleville line—

- (1) Will he outline how regularly these trains run and how running times are determined?
- (2) What changes in arrangements and policy have occurred during the last 12 months?
- (3) Has new rolling-stock been added in the last 12 months?
- (4) Are these trains regularly running at less than 50 percent capacity and sometimes less than 20 percent capacity?
- (5) What are the final destinations for such trains?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97):

(1) The trains from Charleville referred to actually originate at Quilpie and there is a schedule in place to run four trains per week. If there are no orders for a service, the train is cancelled. The days that the service runs was determined from market research and is linked to the days that customers typically rail cattle to meet the needs of the meatworks on the coast.

(2) A new service known as Cattletrain was introduced on 14 April 1997 and the Quilpie line was the first stage of a Statewide rollout of this product. Cattletrain operates on the principle of standard sized trains running to fixed schedules, and is designed to provide a reliable and cost effective service. There are three levels of service offered for livestock under the new arrangements:

Cattletrain, based on fixed scheduled trains linking approximately 40 key transit yards across the State;

Cattletrain Charter, where customers can order trains of 24 decks or more between any locations specified. This service is provided on a pre-negotiated basis with the customer;

General freight trains, where livestock are moved between any of the 123 open yards across the State.

(3) Over the past 12 months, the wagon fleet has been upgraded as follows:

100 timber wagons have been upgraded to a low maintenance steel standard

40 steel cattle containers are being built to fit onto modified wagons

(4) The Cattletrain services have just been started, and during the initial stages of this service, it was expected that they would not be running to full capacity. This was due to the rain in the Channel country slowing down the movements of cattle, customers becoming used to the new concept, and a decision to provide a regular and reliable service independent of usage to show that QR can run a

service that meets the promise. As a result, not all trains have been running at full capacity.

(5) Cattletrain services from Quilpie, Roma and Wandoan are destined for the meatworks at Dinmore and Holmview.

618. Queensland Industry Development Corporation

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/6/97)—

With reference to the fact that at 30 June 1996, the QIDC employed 465 people across an extensive branch structure in metropolitan and regional Queensland—

- (1) How many of these 465 employees remain within the new merged organisation?
- (2) How many branch offices of the QIDC are still trading under the QIDC and how many offices have closed since 30 June 1996?
- (3) How many people were employed in the branches that have closed since 30 June 1996 and how many of these people have lost their jobs?
- (4) Which branches are expected to close over the next twelve months and how many people will lose their jobs as a result?

Mrs Sheldon (4/7/97): These questions relate to operational issues of Suncorp/Metway Ltd, a publicly listed company and therefore out of the province of the Government.

619. Acacia Ridge Police Station

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/6/97)—

- (1) Now that the long-awaited district police station at Acacia Ridge has been completed, providing urgently needed accommodation for the service, will the station now attain its status as a twenty-four hour station?
- (2) When will sufficient police cars be made available to ensure that response times are satisfactory in the district?

Mr Cooper (3/7/97):

(1) Acacia Ridge had a 24 hour status prior to the construction of the new station. This status has been retained.

A 24 hour station is a station that has police rostered for duty 24 hours of the day, seven days a week. However, the police station is only open to the public between the hours of 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday. An external intercom system is installed near the front entrance of the new station which activates an internal telephone. If the telephone is not answered it switches through to a neighbouring police station. This strategy is in place to allow more police to be on patrol in an effort to reduce crime in the area.

All other times police rostered on duty are on patrol and contactable by radio.

(2) Patrol cars have recently been increased from two to three for use by general duty staff. With the

completion of the new building, the Oxley Criminal Investigation Branch is now domiciled at Acacia Ridge and they also have three vehicles.

It is considered that the six vehicles now at Acacia Ridge is sufficient.

620. Health Facility, Woorabinda

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (4/6/97)—

With reference to the fact that there is a 1997-98 Budget allocation of \$4.9m for the construction of a health facility at Woorabinda—

- (1) What is the timeframe for the construction of this health facility?
- (2) When will it be operating as a fully functional public health centre?
- (3) What services will be accessible to the general community from this facility?

Mr Horan (8/7/97):

(1) Both the Functional Plan and Master Plan relating to the Woorabinda Health Service have been completed to enable progression to the next phase involving the development of a Project Definition Plan. Engagement of consultants is imminent. Completion of the new facility is expected by the end of June 1998. Additional minor activity associated with refurbishment of the existing facility as accommodation for community based services is expected to be finalised by August 1998.

(2) The new Woorabinda Primary Health Care Centre will be operating as a fully functional public health facility from July 1998.

(3) Services to be provided will include a birthing suite, short stay acute beds with necessary support services such as X-ray, medical records and outpatients/casualty.

621. SWEEP Program; Mesquite Eradication

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/6/97)—

With reference to the SWEEP program which is carried out by his department for the eradication of Mesquite—

- (1) What has been the cost of this program to date?
- (2) Has the funding for this program been reduced; if so, why is this program no longer a priority?
- (3) Will he give a commitment to landholders faced with this problem that assistance will continue?

Mr Hobbs (24/6/97):

(1) The cost of the mesquite control program to date is \$1,700,000.

(2) The Government funding for this program has been reduced from \$900,000 for 1996/97 to \$640,000 for 1997/98. This is consistent with the predetermined intention to involve landholders and local authorities more substantially in this program in order to maintain the present control rate.

To date, landholder contributions have been minimal. For example, in 1996/97 the landholder contribution

(including Shire Council contribution) was \$100,000 of a total expenditure of \$1,000,000.

This program remains a priority for the Department and depends on landholder commitment and contribution.

(3) Assistance with labour and equipment will continue for landholders with mesquite infestations. The Department will be seeking contribution from landholders for chemical and diesel and where on-farm accommodation is available SWEEP staff would be expected to use these facilities.

622. Mahogany Glider Conservation Plan

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (4/6/97)—

With reference to his ongoing attempts to finalise the Mahogany Glider Conservation Plan—

- (1) What freehold blocks of land have been removed from the plan prepared by Labor while in Government?
- (2) What scientific justification does he have for removing these blocks from the plan?
- (3) What freehold blocks remain in the plan or is it now, as many claim, a plan for Crown Land only?
- (4) Will he guarantee that adequate areas of vital lowland habitat of the glider will be protected by this conservation plan and that we won't see only upland areas of marginal habitat protected?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97):

1. Twelve allotments will be deleted from the schedule of critical habitat in the mahogany glider conservation plan because these allotments have been acquired for declaration as National Parks. The remaining three allotments are the subject of ongoing negotiations for acquisition and so remain scheduled in the draft conservation plan.

2. The justification for removing the twelve freehold allotments from the schedule of critical habitat in the conservation plan is that under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, conservation plans have no legal jurisdiction within National Parks. Within National Parks the mahogany glider will instead be managed under the general provisions of the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

3. There are three allotments of freehold land that have not been acquired and which therefore still need to be identified in the mahogany glider conservation plan. The remaining land is either State Land, Leasehold Land, Crown Reserves or State Forest.

4. The draft conservation plan proposes to protect core lowland and as well as upland habitat likely to support viable populations of the mahogany glider.

623. Bureau of Ethnic Affairs; Anti-racism Publications

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Premier (4/6/97)—

(1) What actions and/or initiatives has the Bureau of Ethnic Affairs in Queensland taken in the past 12 months to counter the anti-Asian and anti-immigration

campaign waged by the member for Oxley and her new party?

(2) Has the bureau produced any publications for general distribution in the community to debunk the myths perpetrated by those who seek to destroy multi-culturalism in this State?

(3) If so, will he circulate these publications to all members of Parliament?

Mr Borbidge (4/7/97):

(1) The Bureau of Ethnic Affairs works strategically to promote multiculturalism as a means of fostering harmony and cohesion in our society. Whilst it would not be proper or appropriate for Bureau Staff to enter into public debate with politicians or political parties, they can and do provide leadership, guidelines and initiatives to counteract the damage from this campaign in a positive and constructive manner. In the last twelve months, the Bureau has:

Developed and coordinated a community relations project based on local government involvement which aims to develop more harmonious relations between all sectors of the community. I launched the project in June last year and since then, the project has gained acceptance by the Gold Coast and Ipswich City Councils where it is being piloted. A full report will be published later this year and the project will then be recommended for implementation Statewide.

The Bureau's Grants Program is aimed at projects which promote multiculturalism and communications within the community. A special grant has been given to the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (\$100,000 per annum for three years) to more effectively represent the voice of ethnic communities.

The Bureau's training arm—the Queensland Centre for Cross-Cultural Development—provides a fully professional cross-cultural awareness training program to government, business and community organisations.

The Interfaith Multicultural Forum coordinated by the Bureau undertakes interfaith activities where people from all different religious and cultural backgrounds work together towards fostering greater harmony and cohesion among people of different faiths.

Senior staff of the Bureau attend citizenship ceremonies, conferences, seminars and public forums, where they present the positive and beneficial aspects of multiculturalism through addresses, speeches, lectures, debates and workshops.

(2) The Bureau produces a quarterly magazine BEA Features which contains information items and articles aimed at correcting misapprehension about immigration and multiculturalism. This magazine is widely circulated including to members of Parliament. A short version called QEAP Time is published and circulated regularly to government organisations. The Bureau also acts as a distribution point for relevant information and publication material from other sources, for example, Face the Facts, produced by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission

(3) I have asked the Bureau to ensure that relevant publications, especially from other sources, be distributed to members of Parliament as far as this is possible depending upon availability and supply.

624. Installation of Security Cameras at Nightclubs

Mr SMITH asked the Premier (4/6/97)—

With reference to the requirement by the Liquor Licensing Division for nightclubs opening after 2 am to install internal security cameras as part of measures to curb violence at these venues—

- (1) As he is on the record as saying he wanted to see metal detectors installed at these venues to curb this violence and, if necessary, he would pass legislation to achieve this, is he going to accept this watered down response to his call by the Liquor Licensing Division?
- (2) Does he believe that house policies that emphasise the care and respect of patrons and the safety of staff as a pre-requisite for licence issuance are any substitute for the installation of metal detectors?
- (3) Does he believe that security cameras, new staff training guidelines or mandatory internal communication systems as recommended by the Liquor Licensing Division are likely to curb the actions of a knife wielding, inebriated thug intent on revenge against a nightclub bouncer?
- (4) How many more nightclub security staff are going to have to be stabbed, bashed or shot before some real leadership on this matter is exhibited and firm action taken to stamp it out?

Mr Borbidge (4/7/97): (1) to (4) The honourable member would be aware that following a number of nightclub related incidents a working group was established consisting of representatives of the police, the nightclubs, restaurants, security providers, the Brisbane City Council, the Department of Health and others. The purpose of this working group was to make informed recommendations to the State Government in respect of these matters.

The State Government has received a report into alcohol related violence in and around licensed premises within the Brisbane CBD. That report is under consideration by the Government.

625. Estimates of Gross State Product

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/6/97)—

With reference to the December quarter 1996 Queensland Economic Review just released by the Queensland Treasury and noting that the estimates for Gross State Product are only for the September quarter 1996—

- (1) Why cannot a publication about the December quarter 1996, published in May 1997—that is five months later—not contain data from the Queensland State Accounts (prepared separately by the Treasury) for that quarter?
- (2) Is it because she has something to hide about the December quarter results?

- (3) Is it because the Queensland State Accounts have revealed a lower growth estimate for the December quarter than that made by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, whose estimates have generally been around double the Queensland Treasury estimates?
- (4) What are the Treasury estimates for Gross State Product and its components for the December quarter 1996 and March quarter 1997?

Mrs Sheldon (4/7/97):

(1) The December Quarter 1996 Queensland Economic Review (QER) was released on 13 March 1997 and not May 1997. The latest available September Quarter 1996 Queensland State Accounts (QSA) were included in this edition. The Autumn edition of the QER (which refers to the March quarter 1997) was released on 11 June 1997 and included details of the December quarter results of GSP and other economic activity in the State. Furthermore, it should be noted that the ABS has decided to discontinue the publication of quarterly State Accounts. As a result, Treasury's Queensland State Accounts will be the only comprehensive source of information on Gross State Product in future.

(2) Refer answer (1).

(3) No.

(4) Neither Queensland Treasury or the ABS have released estimates for the March quarter 1997 QSA. However, I refer you to the December quarter 1996 Queensland State Accounts, the Autumn 1997 Queensland Economic Review and the April 1997 Queensland Economic Update which all provide full details of the December quarter 1996 estimates of GSP.

626. Coroners Act

Mr BRISKEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (4/6/97)—

With reference to work that had been done in his department on a new Coroners Act, and to the proposal that the new Act should contain adequate provisions for record keeping that would assist in the identification of causes of accidental death and death by misadventure, as well as information regarding causes of fires—

- (1) Does he propose to progress this matter; if so, will any initiative he takes include the establishment of an extensive statistical and accident prevention policy unit in the Coroners office?
- (2) What time lines does he propose for some action to be taken on this issue?

Mr Beanland (2/7/97): (1) & (2) I note that the honourable member asked me the same Question on Notice on Thursday, 30 January 1997 and I refer the honourable member to my earlier answer. Since that answer the Australian Coroners Database and Information Network has been considered by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General at its meeting on 14 March 1997. At that meeting Ministers endorsed in principle the establishment of an

Australian Coroners Database and Information Network, subject to satisfactory resolution of financial, administrative and operational issues. A further report on the financial requirements of the database is expected to be presented at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General later this year.

627. Wynnum Jetty

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/6/97)—

With reference to the Government's announcement of construction of a new jetty for Victoria Point (in the Government electorate of Redlands) and, in particular, to the Wynnum Jetty which is currently totally ineffective for boating purposes and also provides very little access (except at high tide) for fishing by local residents, particularly pensioners and children who often can only fish from land as they do not own, or have access to boats—

- (1) Will he undertake to direct his department to conduct a feasibility study and preliminary costing for the construction of a timber extension from the end of the current Wynnum Jetty so as to facilitate (a) proper access, in all tides, for fishing by both local residents and the ever increasing number of tourists visiting the area, (b) possible future ferry access and (c) to add further to the beautiful bayside environment for people just wishing to stroll along a jetty with their families?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking to direct his department to also enter into discussions with the Port of Brisbane Corporation and the Brisbane City Council as to possibly sharing the costs of any such constructions?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): The Victoria Point Jetty is a State Government owned facility managed by the Redland Shire Council for the State Government. Maintenance costs are funded by Queensland Transport and as the existing jetty has reached the end of its useful life, a decision has been made to replace the structure rather than consuming ever increasing quantities of scarce maintenance funds.

The Wynnum Jetty is a Brisbane City Council owned and managed facility. As such, no State Government funding is attracted by the structure and Queensland Transport have no authority to carry out, or require to be carried out, any of the improvement works you suggest.

The Victoria Point Jetty replacement is being funded from Passenger Transport Programs and not from the Small Craft Facilities Program. Fishing, mooring of small craft, and the like, will not be encouraged on the new jetty to allow efficient operation of existing passenger transport to the Moreton Bay islands.

628. Maryborough Nursing Home

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (4/6/97)—

- (1) As part of this Government's decision to cut \$13.5m from Queensland nursing homes, will he confirm or deny that funding to the Maryborough Nursing Home will be cut by more

than \$57,000 and that a reduction in nursing home bed numbers will result?

- (2) How many beds will be cut from the Maryborough Nursing Home and when will this happen?

Mr Horan (8/7/97): I absolutely deny that I have ever considered any reduction in nursing home bed numbers at Maryborough. The member for Maryborough has been exposed already, on the Wahroonga Cottages issue, for profiting on the fears of the elderly: baseless fears that he created. Now he wishes to cause alarm to the residents of the nursing home for his own political benefit. Let me say categorically: this Government will not reduce the current stock of 98 beds at the Maryborough Nursing Home. Any savings under EBII reforms will simply guarantee the people of Queensland the best value for their health dollars.

629. Whale-watching Permits, Moreton Bay

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (4/6/97)—

With reference to scientific advice from one of Queensland's leading whale experts, Dr Peter Corkeron of James Cook University, regarding the Minister's intention to issue further whale watching permits in the Moreton Bay Marine Park—

- (1) Is Dr Corkeron's initial advice to him to adopt "the precautionary approach and allow no new whale watching ventures to commence"?
- (2) Faced with his obvious intention to proceed with the issuance of additional permits did Dr Corkeron call for a 3-5 year moratorium on the issuing of these permits to enable data on normal whale behaviour to be gathered?
- (3) Did Dr Corkeron also call for any whale watching in Moreton Bay to be on a week on, week off basis, and did he call for whale watching on the northern migration to cease when pregnant females were moving through Moreton Bay Marine Park waters and when pods of whales on the southward migration were made up of 25 percent mothers with calves?
- (4) Does he intend to heed Dr Corkeron's advices; if not, why did he send him a copy of the draft conservation plan as a key stakeholder in this matter?
- (5) If he does not intend to heed Dr Corkeron's advices, then on what scientific advice is he basing his intention to issue additional whale watching permits in Moreton Bay Marine Park?
- (6) Will he give a personal guarantee that his issuing of these permits will not result in the loss of pregnant female whales or whale calves?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97):

1. Yes. However other whale experts including Dr Paterson and Mr Steve Van Dyck have put forward alternative views.
2. Dr Corkeron has proposed a 3-5 year moratorium on all commercial whale watching in Moreton Bay Marine Park until "research into the normal behaviour

of humpback whales in the area has been conducted".

3. Dr Corkeron suggested allowing commercial whale watching in Moreton Bay Marine Park on a week-on, week-off basis. He singled out Moreton Bay for a ban on commercial whale watching at times of the year when late pregnant females are migrating north, or females with calves are migrating south.

4. In deciding to grant just three whale watching permits for Moreton Bay, the Minister has heeded Dr Corkeron's advice to take a precautionary approach.

5. The decision to grant additional permits for commercial whale watching for Moreton Bay Marine Park is based on scientific published data showing the continuing rapid increase of the east Australian humpback whale population, in spite of increasing levels of whale watching in New South Wales, Hervey Bay and the Great Barrier Reef.

6. There is no evidence anywhere showing that commercial whale watching, so long as it is properly regulated, results in the loss of pregnant female whales or whale calves.

630. North Queensland Games Foundation

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (4/6/97)—

With reference to a recent announcement by the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (Mr Davidson) that the Government will provide \$800,000 in funding over a ten year period to the Asia Pacific Masters Games—

Will the Government provide the same funding to the North Queensland Games Foundation?

Mr Veivers (3/7/97): In relation to the funding for the Asia Pacific Games, I would refer the honourable member to the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry.

In relation to funding for the North Queensland Games Foundation (NQQF), I would remind the honourable member that in 1991 and 1992, a special yearly grant of \$30,000 was paid by the then Government to assist with the Executive Officer's salary. In 1994, NQQF received \$35,000 under the Community Sports Development Program, with similar amounts being paid in 1995 and 1996 under the State-wide Sports Development Program (SWSDP). An additional payment of \$35,000 was made in 1996 to assist in the conduct of the Games.

Assistance of \$35,000 annually represents approximately 17% of the NQQF annual budget, with the remainder being provided by Local Government Authorities and Suncorp.

Under the SWSDP, eligible organisations must oversee the State-wide delivery of professional support services and have absolute jurisdiction over the sector in Queensland. While NQQF is not eligible under this Program, this Government continued to provide funding under the 1997 SWSDP in recognition of the need to support regional development of sport in North Queensland.

As with all other applicants, further funding for the Foundation will be dependent upon the merit of the

application in accordance with the requirements of the particular funding program.

631. Speed Limit Audits on State Controlled Roads

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/6/97)—

With reference to media reports that speed limit audits have been completed on State controlled roads—

- (1) Has a review been completed on all State controlled roads?
- (2) Has a report been compiled of these audits?
- (3) Will he supply a copy of any such audit?
- (4) What changes have been made to speed limits on State controlled roads as a result of recent audits?
- (5) Have new speed control guidelines to supersede those contained in Part 4 of the MUTCD—Speed Controls been completed?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97):

As Mr Elder would be aware the Department of Main Roads has been undertaking a review of speed limits on some 35,000 kilometres of State-controlled roads as a part of the Queensland Speed Management Strategy. As my Parliamentary colleague would appreciate this is not an insignificant task.

(1) However, I am pleased to advise that all speed limit reviews have been completed and a large number of the resulting speed limit changes have been implemented. It is expected that all alterations to speed limits will be in place by July. As I have said all along, speed cameras will only be operated where an audit of speed limits have occurred. For any speed limit alterations implemented after 1 May, speed camera enforcement will not occur for a period of one month to give motorists time to adjust.

(2) & (3) A report detailing the results of the speed limit review process is currently being compiled by the Department of Main Roads and is expected to be available in July. As soon as this report becomes available I will forward a copy to Mr Elder.

(4) Initial work on the report indicates that less than 20% of all State-controlled roads are being affected by changes to speed limits. A higher proportion of the urban network is being affected. In general, speed limits have been rationalised, with some limits being raised and some being lowered. Approximately 1000 km of additional 110 km/h zones are being considered in detail and will undergo further individual audits this month.

(5) Revised Speed Control Guidelines were used as the basis for the review of speed limits on State-controlled roads. Further work is being currently progressed to allow effective application to local government controlled roads, alignment with a revision of the relevant Australian Standard and developments in relation to lower urban speed limits. When this work is completed the guidelines will formally replace Part 4 of the MUTCD—Speed Controls.

632. Police Radar Trap, Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/6/97)—

With reference to media reports of the placement of radar traps in a 60 km/h zone on a downhill section of Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road and associated claims that the site was chosen as a result of public complaints—

- (1) What was the detail of any such public complaint received by police in relation to speeding in that portion of Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road?
- (2) What accident statistics are available for that portion of Mount Gravatt-Capalaba?
- (3) What criteria, other than crashes, could have been used to assess this part of Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road as a high risk area?
- (4) Do police regularly choose radar trap locations on the basis of public or resident complaints?

Mr Cooper (3/7/97):

(1) The section of Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road in question runs between Logan Road and the Gateway Motorway a distance of approximately 4 kilometres. The speed limit for this section is 60 km/h.

Most of this section of road is relatively level. There is a slight downhill slope from Ham Road to Shillington Place and then level to the actual location of the radar instrument. In order to satisfy any claims of bottom of the hill entrapment, tests were conducted in police vehicles travelling in an easterly direction along this section of roadway. It was noted that at a speed of 60kmh at the intersection with Ham Road and without using accelerator or brake, the speed of the police vehicle had decreased upon reaching the radar site. There are no other areas along Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road where radar sites are placed on or near downhill slopes.

There have been numerous complaints from residents regarding the excessive speed of vehicles using Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road.

These complaints have mainly been verbal and have usually been made to members of the Queensland Police Service when actually on site and operating the radar at various locations along Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road. These complaints are not recorded in any official capacity. However, some names and addresses of complainants have been recorded and a list of these residents is held at the Upper Mount Gravatt Traffic Branch Office.

Complaints of speeding vehicles have also been received from the school crossing supervisors who control the pedestrian crossing on Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road at the intersection of Ingal Street.

The Police Service Traffic Manual sets out guidelines to be followed by members of the Queensland Police Service when operating radar. Numerous complaints being received from the public regarding speeding vehicles is just one of the ways used by the Queensland Police Service in the selection of radar sites.

(2) Since 1 January 1997 to 10 June 1997 there have been 24 recorded traffic accidents on Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road between Logan Road and the Gateway Motorway. Five of these have been major injury accidents.

There have also been incidents where vehicles have left the road when attempting to negotiate a bend in the road near the intersection of Dawson Road, the main contributor being speed.

It is noted that there have been very few major traffic incidents recently and this can be directly attributed to the efforts of the members of the Upper Mount Gravatt Traffic Branch.

(3) As previously mentioned this section of road is a 60 km/h area as indicated by official traffic signs and is essentially lined with residential dwellings as well as a number of small shopping centres and service stations.

This section of road is used extensively by private, commercial and heavy transport vehicles as it is part of the links from Ipswich Road and the South East Freeway to the Gateway Motorway.

Other criteria used to assess this part of Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road as a high risk area are numerous complaints being received from the public regarding speeding vehicles in the area and speeding offences being readily observed.

Members of the South Brisbane District Traffic Branch have issued numerous Traffic Infringement Notices to drivers of vehicles for the offence of speeding by using the follow speed method in a police vehicle to ascertain the speed of vehicles. Further when police have operated radar at any suitable location along Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road, there is always a high level of interceptions of vehicles for the offence of exceed speed limit.

As a result of the high incidence of speeding offences on the road combined with numerous complaints, the operation of radar has continued on a regular basis as a means of combating the road toll.

The Police Service has a responsibility to enforce speed restrictions, particularly as speed is such a major factor in many fatal and serious accidents.

(4) One of the criteria for the selection of radar sites is numerous complaints being received from the public or residents regarding speeding vehicles in their area.

In this instance, the residents' complaints were taken into consideration, together with the observed high volume and type of traffic using the road and speeding offences being readily observed in the area.

The Queensland Police Service is committed to improving the safety of all road users by enforcing all legislation contained in the Traffic Act and the operation of microwave vehicle speed indicators (radar) is one of the many policing activities to achieve this objective.

I would make the point that I am fully supportive of any police activity which contributes to greater safety on our roads and that I would expect similar support would be forthcoming from you in the interests of containing injury and death caused by excessive speed.

633. WorkCover Queensland; Payment of Wages

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (4/6/97)—

With reference to waiting times experienced by injured workers waiting for payment of wages by WorkCover—

Using actual numbers (not percentages) how many workers from when injured had a wait time of (a) 2 weeks, (b) 3 weeks, (c) 4 weeks, (d) 5 weeks, (e) 6 weeks, (f) 7 weeks, (g) 8 weeks, (h) 9 weeks, (i) 10 weeks, (j) 11 weeks, (k) 12 weeks and (l) 13 weeks and over?

Mr Santoro (3/7/97): WorkCover Queensland is unable to analyse claims based on the time between the date of injury and the payment of wages by WorkCover. The time taken to lodge a claim after an injury occurs is beyond WorkCover's control. However, the wait time between lodgement date and acceptance of the claim for payment of compensation can be measured. The lodgement date of a claim is the date on which the injured worker's application is received by WorkCover. A medical certificate and employer's report is also required before an application for compensation can be considered for acceptance.

An analysis of the 1952 statutory claims lodged during the week commencing 3 March 1997 (the most recent relevant period) was performed. Of these, 46 claims are yet to be determined due to lack of information or the complex nature of the claim.

In terms of your question, of the 1906 claims accepted for payment of compensation, the following wait time between lodgement date and acceptance date occurred:

- (a) 1592 claims (83.53%)
- (b) 87 claims (4.56%)
- (c) 56 claims (2.94%)
- (d) 35 claims (1.84%)
- (e) 39 claims (2.05%)
- (f) 20 claims (1.05%)
- (g) 17 claims (0.89%)
- (h) 10 claims (0.52%)
- (i) 9 claims (0.47%)
- (j) 9 claims (0.47%)
- (k) 8 claims (0.42%)
- (l) 24 claims (1.26%)

634. State School, Eatons Hill

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Education (4/6/97)—

With reference to the urgent need for a State primary school at Eatons Hill and the promise made during the recent Kurwongbah by-election to have the Eatons Hill Primary School open for classes at the start of the 1998 school year—

- (1) Has construction of the school commenced; if not, when will construction begin?
- (2) When will a principal be appointed?

- (3) When will the school be opened and classes operating?
- (4) Will a student centre be situated within this school?

Mr Quinn (10/7/97):

- (1) The contract was let on 22 May 1997. Site clearing has commenced. Actual construction will follow the completion of the earth works.
- (2) It is anticipated that the principal will be appointed during Term 3 and take up duty from the commencement of Term 4, 1997.
- (3) The school will open for classes to operate from the commencement of the 1998 school year.
- (4) No. A student centre is not a standard provision at a State primary school. However, subsidy funds can be accessed under the School Improvement Assistance Scheme (SIAS) for activity halls.

635. Cabinet Employment Committee

Mr HOLLIS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/6/97)—

- (1) When was a Cabinet Employment Committee established?
- (2) Who are the members of it?
- (3) How many times has it met and when and where has it met?
- (4) What are the key recommendations to date?

Mrs Sheldon (4/7/97): (1-4) Cabinet considers employment issues as part of its ongoing management of the State's economy. The Cabinet Budget Review Committee made employment issues a major theme of the 1997-98 Budget process brought down on May 27th.

636. Kelly Gee; Government Contracts

Mr NUTTALL asked the Premier (4/6/97)—

- (1) How many Government contracts have been awarded to Kelly Gee under the Borbidge Government?
- (2) What is the value, and name of each project?

Mr Borbidge (4/7/97):

(1) With respect to the Department of Premier and Cabinet the agency Kelly Gee Advertising has been awarded a number of contracts. Questions about other departments should be directed to their Minister.

(2) With respect to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet the value and name of each project is as follows:

Firearms \$31,952.04, Government Directory \$20,610.98, Low Tax State \$ 11,400.04, Major Projects \$16,132.65, Workplace Reform \$65,903.79, Corporate \$3,761.83, Tourism and Trade \$1,566.35, Budget \$8,467.41, Regional Projects \$640.40, Coordination and Review \$34,087.50, Series of one-off advertisements \$25,478.94.

637. Royal Brisbane Hospital; VERs

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (4/6/97)—

- (1) How many dressers at the Royal Brisbane Hospital have been offered a redundancy package?
- (2) Why have these packages been offered?
- (3) What is the budgetary impact on the hospital of this package?
- (4) Is this package brought about because the hospital cannot meet its payments on the efficiency dividend and enterprise bargaining round two payments?
- (5) How many other VERs have been offered at the Royal Brisbane Hospital as part of this current package?

Mr Horan (8/7/97): I am advised that:

(1-5) Dressers at the Royal Brisbane Hospital have, along with all other eligible staff, been invited to consider and apply for a VER. Invitations for VERs were offered by the District to ensure services were being provided efficiently. At the time of this advice to me, no packages had formally been offered.

(4) No.

638. Irukandji Jellyfish

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Health (4/6/97)—

Given that (a) there have been 20 documented cases of patients being admitted to an intensive care unit because of stings by the Irukandji jellyfish, (b) the financial cost of \$800 per day intensive care (ventilation), (c) the extra cost of up to 3 weeks in time off work and (d) the adverse publicity to the tourist industry—

Will he, as the Victorian Government has done, take the initiative to assist the Queensland Surf Life Saving Marine Stinger Officer, Peter Fenner, with funding to ensure further study into this matter which is mostly a Queensland problem?

Mr Horan (8/7/97): General funding for the Victorian based Australian Venom Research Unit is provided by the Victorian Government (\$150,000 pa). The Unit also receives some funds from public and corporate donations and application has been made to the NH&MRC for \$250,000 special initiative funds. I am aware that the Unit is seeking \$120,000 pa for three years for a project to develop an anti-venom for the Irukandji jellyfish. Dr Fenner has forwarded me a copy of an unsuccessful application to a private company for the funding of this project.

This Government certainly recognises that jellyfish stings are a problem in Queensland. A sting from this jellyfish is very painful and hospitalisation is required to manage the pain. On rare occasions a sting can be life threatening if the patient develops Irukandji syndrome. Emergency Department physicians advise that the number of stings has decreased with public education about the dangers of swimming in tropical waters.

Public health experts will consider the benefits of the research in terms of morbidity and mortality to determine the priority that should be given to funding the project. It is in this way that this Government provides \$4.760 million annually to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research for research which has national and international benefits.

639. Petrol Sniffing, Cape York Communities

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/6/97)—

With reference to the incidence of petrol sniffing in the Aurukun and Lockhart River districts of Cape York—

- (1) Can children as young as eight be seen openly on the streets of Aurukun sniffing petrol?
- (2) Is the practice so widespread among young people in Aurukun that school attendance on any given day can be as low as 50 percent?
- (3) Are cars in Aurukun being regularly broken into to get at petrol to sniff and was a bulldozer used recently to smash into a car storage compound to get at fuel?
- (4) What action have police taken to address this practice and does he consider it under control; if not, what additional actions or resources is he going to direct to the problem to address it?

Mr Cooper (3/7/97):

(1) There is a problem with children sniffing petrol in Aurukun. This problem is quite open in the community. Children in the main, are 12 years of age and older. Unfortunately some adults also engage in this conduct.

(2) School attendance at Aurukun can reach as low as 60% on any given day, however this cannot be attributed solely to petrol sniffing. This activity is a concern to both the school administration and police and may be a contributing factor to the number of students not attending school.

(3) The answer to both parts of this question is no. The major source of petrol for children to sniff comes either from the Aurukun Shire Council or the Aurukun Community Incorporated. Very few aboriginal residents own cars and other residents in the town secure their vehicles. The Shire Council vehicles are diesel powered. Petrol is being obtained by the children from generators, mowers and outboard-motor fuel tanks.

The incident relating to the bulldozer is not known to the Aurukun police.

(4) Police staff at Aurukun have organised activities and taken juvenile petrol sniffers on day outings to occupy their time. Recently, two Juvenile Aid Officers attended Aurukun to address this problem. However, QPS advice to me indicates some concern that there is a lack of motivation among community leaders in terms of addressing the problem.

In short, while it is acknowledged that there is a problem with petrol sniffing at Aurukun and Lockhart River, the problem is one which requires a coordinated response from across Government.

Accordingly, I have written recently to my Ministerial counterparts in Health, Education and Families, Youth and Community Care to seek their cooperation in developing a joint agency approach towards finding a solution.

640. Ernst and Young Budget Breakfast, Promotional Video

Mr HAYWARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/6/97)—

- (1) Who paid for the promotional video played at the Ernst and Young Budget Breakfast she addressed on 28 May?
- (2) How much did the video cost, including production costs and other costs associated with it?

Mrs Sheldon (16/6/97): The video played at the Ernst and Young Budget Breakfast was a generic Queensland Tourism and Travel Corporation promotional video which was loaned to Ernst and Young for the breakfast. Additional logos and voice over were added by Ernst and Young.

There was no cost to the State Government associated with the loaning of the video to Ernst and Young for the breakfast.

641. Bribie Island Aquaculture Centre

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (4/6/97)—

With reference to the Bribie Island Aquaculture Centre—

- (1) What is the annual budget of the centre?
- (2) What research projects are currently under way at the centre?
- (3) What products has the centre successfully produced during the past 5 years and what industries have been developed from these?

Mr Perrett (3/7/97):

1. In 1996/97 the Aquaculture Base allocation to the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre (BIARC) was \$969,700. Further funding of approximately \$196,000 was provided by the Queensland Government through the New Initiative for Accelerating Aquaculture Industry Development.

In addition a further \$52,600 was provided in Base through the Fisheries Sub-program for the Maroochy River Restocking Project.

Funding from external sources Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Cooperative Research Centre for Aquaculture and the National Seafood Centre and industry contributed a further \$274,000 in 1996-97.

2. BIARC was the first dedicated multi-functional aquaculture research facility of its type in Australia. It has been developed to play a significant role in the technological development of an aquaculture industry in tropical and subtropical Australia. With the aid of commercial scale production facilities the research team at the Centre carries out research and development projects that have a direct industry

wide application or in support of individual enterprises.

BIARC is currently staffed with seven scientists, nine technical staff, five specialist support staff, eight casual and temporary staff and three post-graduate students. It is able to source specialists analytical or technical knowledge through centralised Departmental facilities or through four major universities.

On site facilities include:

- Direct access to ocean seawater
- Hatchery facilities and speciality live food production facilities
- Controlled environment spaces and temperature controlled seawater
- Modern nutrition, disease and water quality laboratories
- Commercial research size nursery (260m²) and growout (1600m²) ponds.

The Bribie Island research team has, directly or through its associates, experience the farming of prawns, mud crabs, oysters, algae species, shellfish, marine and freshwater finfish and eels, and freshwater crayfish. Husbandry, genetic and economic services are available.

The following projects are the current focus of our work:

- (a) Amino Acid and Lipid Requirements for *Penaeus monodon*.
Objectives
 - (i) Define essential amino acid requirements of *Penaeus monodon*.
 - (ii) Investigate nutritional value of lipid sources of plant origin.
- (b) Ingredient evaluation for prawn and barramundi diets.
Objectives
 - (i) Investigate nutritional value of carbohydrates for prawn and barramundi diets.
 - (ii) Formulate cost effective diets in practical situations for prawns and barramundi.
- (c) Feeding strategies for aquaculture species.
Objective
 - (i) Assist Walkamin Freshwater Research Station in formulating and manufacturing barramundi feed.
- (d) Glass eel resource identification
Objectives
 - (i) Establish the distribution and abundance of glass eels in Queensland rivers.
 - (ii) Develop suitable harvesting techniques for the commercial collection of glass eels.
- (e) Farmability trials for short finned eels (*Anguilla australis*)
Objectives
 - (i) Produce commercial quantities of 150-200 gram eel products.

- (ii) Transfer available knowledge of production techniques to the Queensland eel industry.
- (f) Cage farming: Monitoring of the environmental impact at a test site.
Objectives
 - (i) Establish a small commercial scale cage farm operation on a trial basis in Moreton Bay.
 - (ii) Monitor the environmental impact of cage culture under a range of operating conditions and selected commercial species.
 - (iii) Assist the Department of Environment and other regulatory bodies in development of operating guidelines for sustainable use of cages in Queensland.
 - (iv) Develop the requirements for environmental monitoring programs for commercial farms.
- (g) Maroochy River Restocking Program
Objective
 - (i) Develop technology to undertake large scale breeding of finfish (flathead and whiting) for restocking a south Queensland estuary.
- (h) Development of improved mud crab culture systems in the Philippines and Australia
Objectives
 - (i) Develop mud crab broodstock maturation systems which promote consistent spawning and hatching of good quality larvae.
 - (ii) Develop improved feeding regimes and water management systems allowing maximum survival of larvae to crab stage.
 - (iii) Develop optimal nursery culture techniques for the rearing of megalopa to juvenile crab.
 - (iv) Increase pond productivity by increasing stocking density, improved feeding and water management systems.
- (i) Role of catch and release fishing in regards to competition fishing.
Objectives
 - (i) Develop guidelines and education program for live fishing competitions in a marine environment.
 - (ii) Study the effect of hooking fish in relation to mortalities in sand whiting.
- (j) Prawn Reproduction
Objective
 - (i) To understand the physiological control of reproduction of commercially important prawns, especially *Penaeus monodon* so as to develop more specific and effective means of including multiple spawning in order to improve larval supplies to the prawn industry.

(k) Improving packaging technology

Objectives

- (i) Evaluate the temperature stability of a technically advanced live prawn (seafood) package design (prototype and finished item), under a range of storage, transport and climatic conditions.
- (ii) Ascertain/confirm upper lethal temperature limit for kuruma prawns.
- (iii) Determine if modifications to the preparation and packaging operations are likely to improve the survival rate of packaged prawns from high ambient temperature growout conditions.
- (iv) Establish the potential feasibility of transporting live kuruma prawns from one location to another to optimise growout conditions and optimise quality through climatic adjustment.

(l) Improving the reproductive performance of pond reared black tiger prawn (*Panaeus monodon*)

Objectives

- (i) Maximise the condition of pond reared broodstock from postlarvae to adult stage.
- (ii) Improve the maturation and spawning performance of pond reared stock broodstock.

3. Many completed projects have developed products and methods that have had a significant impact on the development of aquaculture and related industries in Queensland. In addition, the list of current projects above illustrates that there are many significant projects currently under way that will provide new species and potentially new aquaculture products for the further development of the Queensland aquaculture industry.

Projects from BIARC that have produced significant outcomes for the Queensland aquaculture industry over the past five years include:

Development of a maturation diet for Black Tiger Prawn broodstock which doubled the effective spawnings from three to six.

Initiated the live reef fish export industry to Hong Kong by cooperation with a commercial enterprise.

Participated in a major project which has resulted in significant reduction in feed costs for Barramundi and other fin fish species.

Marine finfish fingerling production techniques used at BIARC are the most successful nationally. Recent success with snapper rearing has again reinforced that position and other States are now interested in adopting this technology for use with snapper.

A top class extension service operates from BIARC and provides up to date information to Queensland aquaculturists including:

3 editions of Queensland Aquaculture News per annum

an Annual Report to Farmers on aquaculture production

numerous technical sheets providing information on species and production systems

conduct of workshops for industry

Joint development of rearing technology for Moreton bay bugs with a private company.

Definition of temperature tolerance of Kuruma prawns for live transport and improve live transport methodologies—in collaboration with the Centre for Food Technology.

Improved larval survival of mud crab larvae with consequent future potential for a new industry.

642. Rail Yard, Parkinson/Larapinta

Mr W. K. GOSS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/6/97)—

With reference to Queensland Rail proposals for a rail freight development in the Parkinson/Larapinta area and advice from himself that detailed discussions had already been held with representatives of the Brisbane City Council and to his assurances that if the proposal did proceed that consultation would be carried out in accordance with the Brisbane Town Plan and that any Environmental Impact Statement would be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Brisbane City Council and given that there will be a major impact of the proposed development on Logan City residents—

Will he support the Logan City Council being given equal rights with the Brisbane City Council in terms of full consultation and planning processes?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): Should planning and design investigations confirm the development of part of the yard in Logan City boundaries, then full consultation and completion of the planning process will be adhered to.

643. Queensland Centre for Climate Applications

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/6/97)—

With reference to the proposal to establish a Queensland Centre for Climate Applications at Toowoomba and Brisbane—

(1) Are these proposed centres at Toowoomba and Brisbane to be staffed from existing DNR and DPI staff; if not, how many new staff will be employed in 1996-97?

(2) Is there currently a similar centre being operated by the Federal Government at a different location in Australia?

(3) Why does Brisbane and not another country centre like Roma need to be utilised?

Mr Hobbs (24/6/97): The Centre will be staffed by both existing and new staff. The current staffing level in DNR and DPI climate application areas is 18 permanent staff and eight temporary staff.

No new staff will be employed during 1996-97. Thirty-six new scientific and extension staff will be

recruited progressively during 1997-98 to investigate promising new areas for the application of seasonal forecasting, and to cater for the community demand for climate application products. Eighteen of those staff will be recruited by DNR, the other 18 by DPI.

There is no other similar centre operated by the Federal Government in Australia. The focus on applications of seasonal forecasting to agriculture and natural resource management is quite unique. The actual research and extension focus extends well beyond climate science into environmental and agricultural management. Queensland leads the nation and perhaps the world in this research.

Thirteen of the 18 DNR staff will be based at Indooroopilly. A majority of the total QCCA staff will be located at Toowoomba with other significant staff placements around the State.

Indooroopilly will be utilised for a number of significant reasons. There is already an effective, integrated and long-established group at DNR's Resource Sciences Centre at Indooroopilly conducting work on climate applications, grazing systems and satellite remote sensing.

This group currently runs the highly regarded SOI hotlines delivered by poll-fax and the Long Paddock Internet site. It also provides high quality advice to the DPI Executive for drought administration. This group was instrumental in assisting the State to acquire more than \$191M from the Commonwealth during the 1991-95 drought by provision of objective scientific advice. As recently as this month it provided timely advice to assist DPI in gaining an extension of Exceptional Circumstances for south-eastern Queensland. Therefore being in close proximity to DPI and DNR policy areas and directorates is necessary to maintain these services effectively.

The Indooroopilly group effectively utilises and operates a significant amount of high performance computers, a satellite receiving station, high bandwidth local area networks, a high capacity file storage system, and uses the DPI high bandwidth Internet connection. These extensive facilities can only effectively be maintained in Brisbane, and would be prohibitively expensive to relocate.

Important inter-agency research is also best provided by situating this group in a well serviced central location such as Brisbane. Liaison is maintained and collaborative projects exist between the Bureau of Meteorology in Brisbane and Melbourne, the CSIRO Division of Atmospheric Research in Melbourne, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California; as well as national linkages with many interstate departments of agriculture, the Commonwealth, and CSIRO in such diverse centres as Charleville, Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Gayndah, Charters Towers, Townsville, Alice Springs, Canberra, Perth, Adelaide, Orange, Condobolin and Katherine.

644. Nundah Bottleneck

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/6/97)—

With reference to a close study of the 1997-98 Budget Papers which reveals that the Nundah Bottleneck does not appear in any road funding program—

Why have the residents, business people and motorists of Brisbane's inner northern suburbs again been ignored by the Coalition Government by not allocating any funds to a problem that has adversely affected the Nundah area for almost forty years?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): Clearly, the residents, business people and motorists of Brisbane's inner northern suburbs have not been ignored by the Coalition Government as suggested by the local member.

The State Government has committed to resolve the Nundah Bottleneck by undertaking the current Impact Assessment Study into three possible road alignment options; ie:

Option 1—New alignment to the east of Sandgate Road

Option 2—Widen the existing Sandgate Road through Nundah

Option 3—New alignment to the west of Sandgate Road

In line with this commitment, the current Roads Implementation Program 1996-97 to 2000-01 included \$300,000 for planning costs in 1996-97, with an indicative forward allocation of \$33.7 million from 1998-99 to beyond 2001 for construction.

The draft Impact Assessment Study (IAS) Report was released for public comment in April 1997 and submissions on the draft report were accepted until 20 May 1997. The draft report has recommended option 3, a cut and cover tunnel proposal as the preferred option. The estimated cost of the tunnel option is \$36 million.

Following consideration of submissions received from the public, local businesses, churches and other bodies, the consultant will review the draft report, and submit the final IAS report to Main Roads by the end of June.

Following consideration of the consultant's report, it is expected the Government will make its final decision on the option to be built and the actual timing for construction of the Nundah Bypass by August this year, following which detailed planning and design will commence.

Further, I can assure local residents and the business community in this area, that it is my intention to take action to obtain funds to enable these works to commence earlier than originally proposed in the current Roads Implementation Program.

645. Water Boards

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/6/97)—

With reference to a statement in the House that public benefits tests have been carried out by Coopers & Lybrand on the four urban water boards and as some local Governments involved have expressed very serious concerns that (a) the process used to gather information was flawed, (b) these local Governments have responded to the

consultant and distanced themselves from the information attributed to the local Governments and reproduced by the consultant, the local Governments claiming the information is distorted and (c) the final recommendations are inconsistent with impacts identified in the reports—

Will he have more accurate public benefit tests carried out or maintain these reports, give weight to their contents and subsequently undermine confidence in the public benefits test process?

Mr Hobbs (24/6/97):

(a) Information Gathering Process

The information for the competitive neutrality reports on the urban water boards was gathered in accordance with Queensland Treasury's Public Benefit Test—Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Introducing Competitive Neutrality to Significant Public Sector Business Activities: Draft Guidelines (October 1996).

The actual process of information gathering for the competitive neutrality public benefit tests was conducted by the consultant under the overall direction of a Steering Committee comprising representatives of Queensland Treasury, each of the four urban water boards and my Department. Extensive guidance was provided to the consultant to ensure that the gathering of data for the public benefit tests was in accordance with the Guidelines.

In particular, the members of the Steering Committee provided the consultant with detailed information on the range of issues to be addressed and on those stakeholders (including local governments) to be consulted.

(b) Distancing by Local Governments

I am unaware of any local governments which have distanced themselves from the information attributed to them in the reports. The views of major customers and stakeholders were sought for recording in the qualitative analysis section of the public benefit tests reports.

For the Gladstone Area Water Board, the views of the local governments affected (ie Calliope Shire and Gladstone City Council) were similarly sought. Their views were detailed in the Report—and endorsed by the Chief Executive Officer of Gladstone City Council in a letter to the consultant as reflecting "the attitudes expressed by both councils" ie Calliope and Gladstone.

(c) Final Recommendations Inconsistent with Impacts Identified in Reports

The consultant's reports do not represent government policy. Following the Government's receipt of the competitive neutrality public benefit test reports and if the Government should consider there is value in implementing competitive neutrality reform for the boards, it is intended to consult fully with the boards and their major customers and stakeholders—including local governments as to any proposed approach to competitive neutrality reform. A two-month consultation period will be provided in such circumstances. Any

reservations that local governments may have with regard to the reports' findings and impacts could be expected to be addressed in such a process.

Further Public Benefit Tests

It is not intended to conduct further public benefit tests on the urban water boards. Rather, the data and analysis in the public benefit test reports provide a first step in the decision-making process and are designed to provide information as a basis for discussions.

While the Government will receive the final reports for noting prior to seeking comments from the boards' major customers and stakeholders on the competitive neutrality reform findings contained within the reports, the Government will not make any decisions about implementing competitive neutrality reform options at this time.

Should the Government consider competitive neutrality reform to be of value for the urban water boards, a suggested approach for competitive neutrality reform may be proposed to the Boards, their customers and other key stakeholders for comment.

No decision in regard to competitive neutrality reform, nor on any matters of concern related to competitive neutrality reform, will be made without full consultation with all the key stakeholders, including local governments.

The findings in the public benefit test reports for urban water boards need to be considered in the context of this framework of extensive consultation. Any competitive neutrality reform for the Boards will take into account the results of this consultation.

646.Sacking of Parole Board

Mr BARTON asked the Premier (4/6/97)—

With reference to his description of the members of the sacked parole board as pathetic and pitiful people—

(1) As these people were acting on the advice of a counselling psychologist, members of the prison assessment unit, a community corrections officer and the regional board, does he similarly regard these people as being pathetic and pitiful; if so, does he intend to also sack them?

(2) Is his real reason for placing the Police Commissioner in a position of final arbiter of parole board decisions a desire to sack the present Commissioner when the next prisoner granted parole re-offends in much the same way his Police Minister used the Woodford riot as an excuse to sack Keith Hamburger?

Mr Borbidge (4/7/97):

(1) There are no plans to remove the people referred to by the honourable member.

(2) No.

647.Kangaroo Quota

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (4/6/97)—

With reference to plans to split next year's kangaroo quota between meat and skin shooters on a 45/55 per cent basis—

- (1) What is the justification for this decision and what sections of the kangaroo industry were consulted on it?
- (2) What section of the industry has been the main advocate for the change?
- (3) What impacts does he believe this change will have on small rural towns in far western and north western towns that depend heavily on skin shooting for kangaroo for their financial viability?
- (4) As skin shooting has, in past years, accounted for the bulk of Queensland's kangaroo quota, what does he see skin shooters doing for an income once their 55 per cent of the quota is exhausted?
- (5) Why is the Department of Environment taking such an active role in management of the kangaroo industry?
- (6) As its primary role in this area is conservation of kangaroos, why aren't market forces being allowed to dictate what percentages of kangaroos are shot for whatever purpose?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97): As answered in Question 462, following discussion between shooters and dealers representing the kangaroo industry, I decided that 45% of the commercial quota for each of the three—eastern grey kangaroo, red kangaroo and wallaroo—should be identified for pet food and human consumption in the 1997 harvest period.

This has been done to provide the carcass industry with a reliable minimum supply of product throughout the year. It has always been intended that should the carcass industry not utilise this 45% allocation, it will be made available to the skin shooting sector of the industry.

The Department of Environment closely monitors the commercial harvest of kangaroos every year. From information to date it is unlikely that the carcass harvest will reach the 45% level as the total harvest is well below the quota for all species.

Given the wet weather conditions during the early part of this year, and the depressed state of skin markets, the rate of harvesting of kangaroos is not likely to place pressure on the 1997 quotas. However, should skin shooting approach 55% of the quota, and carcass shooting fail to reach 45%, a reasonable part of the remaining allocation for carcass shooting will be made available for skin shooting.

648. SES Volunteers

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (4/6/97)—

With reference to information from a number of SES officers that when assisting clients they are not always recognised as volunteers, and are therefore sometimes treated as though they were employees, rather than as public spirited citizens—

- (1) Does he have any information that confirms this perception of these volunteers; if not, will he consult with SES controllers to determine whether they consider it a problem?
- (2) If it is identified as a problem, will he give consideration to means of enhancing the public's perception of the SES as an organisation of public spirited volunteers?

Mr Veivers (3/7/97):

- (1) I am advised that this is an issue which requires periodical reinforcement to maintain the profile of the SES volunteer as a person who willingly supports their community without receiving any financial reward.

It is also a matter that I and the staff in the Department of Emergency Services never miss an opportunity to emphasise whenever we are speaking about the activities of the SES.

- (2) A public information brochure which depicts the functions and activities of the SES is available through a variety of public outlets, which often include Local Government offices and public libraries.

This brochure contains the statement that "SES volunteers do not receive payment".

A General Information Booklet published this year by the State Emergency Service also refers to the SES volunteers "donating their time to assist other members of the community who have been adversely affected by disaster".

Both these documents are available for distribution by local SES Units.

In addition, during the 1997/98 financial year, the State Emergency Service will be updating its corporate video used for public awareness programs. This video emphasises the fact that volunteer members of the SES contribute their time without financial remuneration.

In November each year, the SES conducts its SES Week with a focus on promoting community preparedness for the upcoming summer season and informing the community of the activities of local SES Units.

Press releases and media interviews generated by this activity are used to highlight the fact that SES volunteers are not paid but provide their valuable services freely and generously.

649. Queensland Symphony Orchestra

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/6/97)—

With reference to the proposed transfer of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra from the ABC to Symphony Australia Pty Ltd on 1 July—

- (1) What implications does this move have for orchestral music in Queensland and, in particular, for the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra which is funded by her department?
- (2) What action does she propose to take in relation to the review of the relationship between the QSO and the QPO commissioned by her department during the term of the

previous Government and undertaken by Associate Professor Helen Lancaster?

- (3) Will she make representations to Federal Arts Minister Senator Alston in support of the wishes of QSO players to transfer ownership of the orchestral studio at Ferry Road, West End to the QSO to enable the QSO to have a secure capital base for its move to corporatised status?

Mrs Sheldon (4/7/97):

- (1) On 1 July, the QSO will be transferred to Symphony Australia Pty Ltd. and in early 1998 when it is corporatised, the QSO will become a wholly owned subsidiary of the ABC.

Because the ABC did not pass on cuts to its Orchestras, all six, including the QSO have been guaranteed the same levels of funding as in 1996. The federal government has guaranteed \$32,000,000 a year (plus indexation) for a period of three years. According to the QSO, the orchestra will benefit from this change from the ABC culture, which the musicians themselves acknowledge lacked artistic clarity and commercial vision for the QSO. The corporatisation of the QSO has no implications whatsoever for the QPO which is also funded by the Queensland Government.

(2) The Orchestral Working Party (OWP) comprised of QPO, QSO, ABC and the Arts Advisory Committee and the Executive Director of Arts Queensland was to prepare, for Cabinet by 30 June, 1996, an information paper detailing costings of the preferred options outlined in the Report to the AAC, April 1995 by Professor Helen Lancaster.

(3) It has never been a consideration to transfer the Ferry Road asset to the QSO. When the corporatisation process is complete, the QSO will own 15% of the ABC studios in Ferry Road, previously owned by the ABC. The QSO (and the 5 other State orchestras) will share equally, the \$10,000,000 value of this asset on their books. The transfer of the asset ensures that the ABC no longer has the right to sell the asset without the permission of the QSO, placing the orchestra in a much more secure position. The QSO will continue to raise income from rental and hire of sections of the facility. The corporatisation process is being effectively managed and the QSO musicians fully informed of the changes which are designed in the best interests of the musicians and the orchestras.

650. LOTE Program

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (4/6/97)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement to this Parliament on 4 December 1996 regarding the study of foreign languages—

- (1) How many students have been exempted from studying LOTE in each Education Department region for each of the grounds provided for exemption?
- (2) What processes have been used to determine whether exemptions should apply?
- (3) Have any schools been granted exemptions from offering LOTE; if so, on what basis?

- (4) What alternative programs have been provided for students who are exempted from LOTE?

Mr Quinn (10/7/97):

- (1)

REGION	Exemption for Learning Disability	Exemption for Learning Difficulty	Exemption for Anti-discrimination	Exemption for NESB, Ethnic Schools
Capricornia	156	58	5	7
Darling Downs	7	40	3	1
Met East	36	18	4	3
Met West	170	168	4	47
North West	7	23		
Northern	175	72	5	6
Peninsula	16	134		2
South Coast		42		
South West	27	30	1	
Sunshine Coast*	68	40		2
Wide Bay	37	33	10	
Totals	699	658	32	68

* 60/120 schools only responded

2. The processes used to determine whether exemptions should apply are outlined in the memorandum (attached). Where responsibility for approval is at the school level (Categories 1 & 2) records are kept at the school, although some Regions require schools to forward this information to Regional Offices. Records are kept at the Regional level for Categories 3 & 4 where approval of the Executive Director is required.

The pro forma to be completed by schools details the reasons for exemption and contains the recommendations of the class teacher, LOTE teacher, support teacher/GO, parents and then the approval of the Principal or the Executive Director.

3. Under the policy whole schools are not normally exempted from the LOTE program. However, special schools have generally opted not to offer a LOTE program although there are some special schools where a modified LOTE program is available.

Schools servicing indigenous communities have not generally opted to offer a LOTE program although two schools in the Peninsula Region are offering a LOTE program based on the community language.

Students attending Special Schools or Community schools have not been included in these statistics.

4. According to the policy, alternative programs which meet the needs of individual students have been implemented by schools. These include alternative literacy programs, literacy/numeracy intervention, thinking skills and literacy programs, craft activities, reading recovery and tutorial time with specialist teachers. Programs will vary according to the specialised needs of the individual students.

NB: Schools have been asked to provide this information at relatively short notice. In some Regions show holidays have made collection difficult and sufficient time was not available to follow up non respondents. In most regions, response rates have been better than 85%. It is unlikely that figures quoted understate the true picture by more than 5%.

651. K R Darling Downs-Hormel Joint Venture

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (4/6/97)—

With reference to the primary producers co-operative, KR Darling Downs, and the fact that many

pork producers are members of this cooperative and were not informed of the decision of directors to joint venture with the USA company, Hormel—

- (1) Were any shareholders (pork producer members) included in the decision making process to joint venture with Hormel and the new structure prior to signing of the agreement?
- (2) Did all shareholders receive a copy of the business plan or strategic plan of the new venture company; if not, why not?
- (3) Were shareholders advised that USA product would be sold and marketed under the KR Darling Downs label in preference to their own Queensland products; if not, why not?
- (4) Is KR-Hormel joint venture partnership based on a 49 per cent KR/51 per cent Hormel partnership; if so, did the KR board advise shareholders that they would be the minority partner in this partnership?
- (5) How much cash was injected into the new joint venture by each party?
- (6) Who makes up the board of KR-Hormel?
- (7) How much canned product was being manufactured by KR prior to the decision to accept USA product?
- (8) With this joint venture agreement, (a) how much product marketed under the KR Darling Downs label is expected to be Queensland or Australian pork and (b) how much USA produced pork?
- (9) What USA canned products will be marketed under the KR label?
- (10) Will USA product under the KR Darling Downs label be marketed in Asia?
- (11) Will he immediately order an investigation into (a) the actions of all people involved in the development of the KR-Hormel joint venture and (b) whether any member of the board or staff of KR personally benefited from the decision to form this joint venture partnership; if so, would he refer this matter to the police or the Criminal Justice Commission for their investigation of any improper action by any person?

Mr Perrett (3/7/97):

1. The Darling Downs Bacon Cooperative Association Limited Board comprises five producer Directors and three independent Directors. The decision to enter into the partnership was made by this producer-controlled Board on behalf of shareholders.
2. Darling Downs Bacon does not distribute its Business/Strategic Plans to shareholders. This is consistent with accepted management principles in large organisations.
3. Shareholders were advised at meetings on 1 and 2 October 1996 prior to advice in writing that USA product would be imported and marketed by the KR-Hormel partnership.
4. The KR-Hormel partnership is 51% owned by Hormel Foods Corporation and 49% owned by Darling Downs Bacon Cooperative Association

Limited. In representing their best interests, the Board advised shareholders immediately after this arrangements was negotiated.

5. Hormel invested \$1 million in cash. Darling Downs Bacon invested a slightly lesser amount in the form of inventory. This inventory was subsequently sold into the retail market by the partnership.
 6. The KR-Hormel partnership is managed by a Committee comprising four Hormel representatives and three Darling Downs Bacon Representatives—in our case the Chairman, Chief Executive and General Manager-Sales and Marketing. Defined important resolutions must have support from six out of the seven representatives.
 7. Darling Downs Bacon 1996 sales of canned product (including the US-owned SPAM label) were less than 9% of total sales in that year.
 8. The purpose of the partnership is to distribute shelf-stable products into the retail market. KR label products marketed by the partnership which fit into this category (previously produced in Australia and now imported from USA) will represent less than 2% of Darling Downs Bacon turnover in 1997.
 9. KR canned Leg Ham and KR canned Shoulder Ham, which will represent less than 2% of total Darling Downs Bacon turnover in 1997.
 10. Darling Downs Bacon's preference would be to export Australian product to Asia. However, if an export opportunity arose which demanded a US-sourced product, consideration would be given to the proposal. This would be on the proviso that quality and competitive factors were favourable, and the decision was in the best interests of shareholders.
 11. The honourable member can be assured that all relevant decisions in respect of the KR-Hormel partnership were made by the Board and senior management in the best interests of shareholders. No Director or staff member benefited personally from this partnership.
- The partnership is now working exceptionally well, contributing expected levels of profit to Darling Downs Bacon. It is evolving into an important strategic alliance which will assist in the Darling Downs Bacon business development.

652.Family Protection (Domestic Violence) Act

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (4/6/97)—

With reference to his recent announcements regarding a review of the Family Protection (Domestic Violence) Act and plans to extend the protections of this legislation to other categories of people—

- (1) When does he anticipate that a draft bill will be available for public consultation?
- (2) What consultation process will be put in place to ensure the active involvement of the many community groups who work with domestic violence?
- (3) What involvement has his Domestic Violence Council had in the review of the legislation and proposed changes to the Act?

Mr Lingard (23/7/97):

(1) It is proposed that a Discussion Paper outlining proposed amendments to the Domestic Violence (Family Protection) Act 1989 will be released for public comment later this year.

(2) The Discussion Paper will be released specifically to community groups and individuals who are active in the area of domestic violence prevention as well as being made available publicly.

(3) The Council has been briefed on proposals for the amendments and given the opportunity to comment. The Council has provided advice at various stages of the review of the legislation to date. Their comments on a number of matters have been taken into account in developing the proposed amendments.

653. Traffic Accidents, Gold Coast Highway

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/6/97)—

With reference to the stretch of Gold Coast Highway between the Toolona Street intersection and the Coolangatta Airport intersection—

Will he advise (a) the number of fatalities over the past 10 years, (b) the number of traffic accidents over the last 10 years and (c) if his department considers this stretch of highway to be a blackspot?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): For the section of Gold Coast Highway between Toolona Street and Longa Avenue there were 6 fatalities and 127 recorded traffic accidents for the 10-year period to 31 December 1996.

It is more appropriate to consider the accident situation for this section of road over the last five years, given that more accurate accident data is available for this period and that five years is the usual length of time to consider in accident evaluation studies. In the five year period 1992 to 1996 there were two fatalities and a total of 68 recorded accidents in the subject section.

In regard to the question as to whether the section of road is considered to be a black spot, it is important to consider that this 3 kilometre section of road includes four major intersections—three traffic signal controlled and one unsignalised. The majority of accidents recorded in the section have occurred at, or on the approaches to, these intersections.

In this regard, it is not whether the section is a black spot, but whether any of the intersections within the section can be considered as black spots; that is, intersections with disproportionately high accident levels.

The Federal Black Spot Program has defined the minimum eligibility criterion for an intersection to be considered as a black spot, as:

"At least three casualty crashes in any one year, or three casualty crashes over a three year period, four over a four year period or five over a five year period."

In these terms, the intersections of the Gold Coast Highway with Toolona and Kirribin Streets certainly would be considered black spots, with 10 and 9

casualty accidents respectively in the five years 1992 to 1996. However, there are other intersections on the State-controlled Road Network in the South Coast Hinterland District that have a higher priority for attention, on road safety grounds, than these intersections.

You should note that the Pacific Highway, which includes this section of Gold Coast Highway, is defined as a Road of National Importance (RONI) and that National Highways and RONIs are specifically excluded from consideration under the Federal Black Spot program.

Whilst the Department of Main Roads has concerns about the level of accidents on this and all other roads in the District, the evidence is that the accident rate is consistent with the level of traffic activity on what is one of the busiest sections. You may be assured that Main Roads will continue to monitor the section and will be addressing the need for traffic signal improvements, particularly at Toolona and Kirribin Streets in response to traffic growth.

Also, in liaison with the Queensland Police Service, I will ensure that an appropriate level of enforcement continues to be applied to this section of the Highway.

Both the Departments of Main Roads and Queensland Transport are represented on an intergovernmental steering committee to investigate a bypass of this highway section. Main Roads officers are negotiating with the Federal Department of Transport to secure the \$60 million funding needed for this bypass.

654. Capital Works Projects, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/6/97)—

With reference to the following projects in the Nudgee Electorate (a) a new station building at Banyo Railway Station, (b) a new station building at Boondall North Railway Station to replace demountable huts currently used as a station building and toilet block, (c) an access ramp (overhead or via a grade level crossing) for Zillmere Railway Station, (d) additional car parking spaces on the southern and/or eastern side of Northgate Railway Station to cater for the up to 130 cars per day that currently park in streets on the western side of the station and which are causing increasing annoyance and safety hazards to residents and (e) an upgrade to the Banyo level crossing to address the increasing traffic hazards at this crossing—

- (1) What is the status of each project respectively?
- (2) What is the expected cost of each project?
- (3) What is the expected commencement and completion date for each project?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97):

(1) (a) The existing station building at Banyo has recently been refurbished. This work included a new ticket window, toilets refurbished, new cupboards to the station office and the station building painted in heritage colours.

The shelter on the outbound platform has also been painted in heritage colours.

(b) It is not proposed to replace the existing demountable buildings at North Boondall station in the near future.

(c) There are no current proposals for the replacement of the timber footbridge at Zillmere station by a ramp or an at grade level crossing.

(d) A detailed catchment plan for the current commuters at Northgate is currently being prepared based on a survey of number plates of vehicles parking at the station or dropping off passengers.

It is expected that this catchment will be consistent with similar earlier surveys and, accordingly, a master plan for future development is at a preliminary stage with informal discussions being held with the Brisbane City Council Town Planning and Traffic officers.

This plan, if adopted, would require the acquisition of a number of properties and possible closure of some roads.

A small off street car park adjacent to the track is being investigated. The preliminary planning layout will require consultation with Brisbane City Council.

(e) Queensland Rail has no further proposals for any significant work at the Banyo level crossing.

(2) (a) The cost of this work was \$22,118.00.

(d) It is expected that costs will be approximately \$1.5m.

(3) (a) In view of the work which has recently been carried out, there are no plans for a new station in the immediate future.

(d) Funds have been sought from Queensland Transport through the four year Intermodal Facilities Capital Works Program.

655. Senior Appointments in Environment Department

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (5/6/97)—

With reference to recent senior appointments within his department—

(1) Why was the officer formerly heading the National Parks and Wildlife Service (QNPWS) moved to head up the Conservation Strategy Branch of the Division of Conservation and has this officer retained his classification through the transfer?

(2) Is the officer he has appointed as Director of the QNPWS the same officer the National Party mercilessly persecuted from Opposition, in both the Parliament and the media, as being supposedly part of a Government conspiracy to smuggle palm seeds out of Cape York?

(3) Is the appointment an admission now that he got it all woefully wrong at the time, or as is more likely the case, that this officer was targeted as a cheap National Party political point scoring exercise?

(4) Does he admit that the CJC Inquiry findings into the matter at the time were correct, particularly with regard to the exoneration of his new Director of the QNPWS?

(5) Why has it taken him nearly 15 months to advertise for applicants for the position of Regional Director, Far Northern Region, or has it taken him this long to accept that the corruption allegations his Government in Opposition made against officers of this region were also baseless and again examples of cheap political point scoring by the National Party?

(6) Is the fact that he has only now advertised for the head of the Department's Cultural Heritage Branch further proof of the Government's disdain for the protection of our heritage?

(7) When is he going to finally appoint a permanent departmental Director-General to his department and stop wasting taxpayers' money on head hunting firms in the hope that a green saviour like Phillip Toyne might reconsider the bizarre approach the National Party made to him to accept the position of Director-General and come on board in a lesser capacity?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97):

(1) Such staffing matters are the responsibility of the Director-General.

(2) to (4) I presume you are referring to the matter that resulted in the Criminal Justice Commission's investigation and subsequent report into the Cape Melville Incident, which referred among others to then Director-General of the Department of Environment and Heritage, Dr Craig Emerson; then Director of then Premier Goss' Media Unit, Dennis Atkins; Mr Goss' then Principal Private Secretary, David Barbagallo; his brothers, Paul and Mario Barbagallo; and then Policy Adviser to the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Damian McGreevy, who is currently employed in the Opposition Leader's Office. I have nothing to add to what is in that report.

(5) & (6) I am advised that these positions were advertised within two days of becoming vacant.

(7) I am surprised the member is not aware that a Director-General (Mr Tom Tolhurst) was appointed in October 1996.

656. Shanghai Trade Delegation

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (5/6/97)—

With reference to the Courier-Mail article of 31 May which reports that during his recent trade mission to Shanghai, "the business contingent was excluded from lunches and functions for Economic Development and Trade Minister, Doug Slack"—

(1) What was the program for the Shanghai trade delegation?

(2) What were the lunches and functions that members of the delegation were excluded from?

(3) How many business people participated in the trade mission and what companies did they represent?

(4) Did any trade outcomes eventuate from this trade mission; if so, what were they?

- (5) How much did business people have to pay to participate in this trade mission and what did this entitle them to?
- (6) What was the total cost of this trade mission?
- (7) How much did the department collect from business people to participate in the trade mission?

Mr Slack (19/6/97):

(1) Full programs for both the North and South Business Missions are attached. (Attachment 1).

(2) The only functions that members of the delegation were not invited to were those of a purely protocol nature. These functions included courtesy calls on two Vice Mayors of Shanghai (Deputy Premier level) and an official dinner hosted by the Shanghai Museum. The invitation lists for these functions were determined by the Shanghai Government. The business mission members were included in all other functions.

(3) The companies represented in the trade missions are listed in Attachment 2. In addition a number of business people joined the activities in Shanghai as associate members. These people were Queensland business people who were either already in China or visiting other markets and were keen to be involved in the activities of the mission in Shanghai. In total the number of Queensland business people participating in the activities in Shanghai was 61.

(4) Specific details of trade outcomes are commercial in confidence and it would not be appropriate to release such details. Moreover it is too early to have any details of such deals available. Indications from business mission members provided immediately following the mission indicated that a number have significant leads regarding concrete business and a number of others have made arrangements to return to Shanghai to pursue connections established during the visit. Some broad indication may be available in the next few months. We expect to obtain these figures as part of the mission follow up over the next few months.

(5) The costs for the mission were dependent on which elements of the program business people chose to participate in. In order to offer the highest level of service business people were offered a number of options to suit their specific needs. Business mission members paid their full airfare, accommodation and also a contribution to on-ground costs. The on ground costs included local transport, attendance at official functions (dinners and lunches), attendance at the Queensland Shanghai Business Forum, visa applications, the provision of interpreters and facilitators for key meetings and business negotiations (on an as needs basis) and the facilitation of business matching and coordination of individual business meetings in China. As members joined the Missions from centres such as Townsville, Cairns, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brisbane and Sydney costs incurred by individuals vary dramatically.

The approximate costings for participants on the North Queensland Mission were \$4000 (economy) and \$8000 (business). The approximate costings for participants on the South Mission were \$4000 (economy) and \$6000 (business) for the core

program and \$4700 (economy) and \$7000 (business) for those that attended the Singapore leg. Associate members were charged for their accommodation and entrance to the Queensland-Shanghai Business Forum.

(6) The total cost of the trade mission is not available as the accounts have not been finalised, particularly those from China.

(7) The department did not collect any money from business people for the trade mission. An arrangement was made with Ansett Airlines to act as travel agent for the mission. This service was part of a sponsorship arrangement that Ansett Airlines provided that included very competitive travel prices and access to preferential accommodation costs. The contribution that the business people paid for on-ground costs were approximately \$50 per day.

657. Global Artslink

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/6/97)—

With reference to her recent launch of the Ipswich Global Artslink project—

- (1) What State Government financial support has been sought by Global Artslink, and what financial support, if any, has been forthcoming or pledged by the State Government?

Mrs Sheldon (7/7/97): (1) The Ipswich City Council has provided a briefing and a proposal for State Government support towards the development of Global Arts Link Ipswich.

At this stage no formal application has been submitted for subsidy under the Major Cultural Complex Capital Subsidy Scheme, an established program designed to assist local authorities in developing major cultural facilities.

A proposal by the Ipswich City Council for consideration of subsidy beyond the guidelines of the Major Cultural Complex Capital Subsidy Scheme is currently being considered. In the meantime The Arts Office is continuing to work with council in relation to the development of this project.

658. Mr P. McDonald; Fraud Investigation

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/6/97)—

With reference to the dispute between the Queensland Justices Association (QJA) and Peter McDonald, ex-Bjelke Petersen Press Secretary and sacked QJA Executive Officer of the almost bankrupted QJA, and to serious allegations which are currently being investigated by both the Australian Securities Commission and the Queensland Police Service Fraud Squad (CIB)—

- (1) What stage has the Fraud Squad investigation reached?
- (2) Why is this investigation still ongoing after almost one year when QJA officers were advised by police many months ago that all that was required to finalise the investigation was the provision of the QJA auditors report?

- (3) Is it likely to be finalised before the QJA is finally driven to the wall?
- (4) Has this investigation fallen into the same hole as the Allen Callaghan fraud investigation?

Mr Cooper (7/7/97):

(1) & (4) As these questions concern a confidential police investigation, it is not appropriate to comment on this matter until the investigation has been finalised.

(2) The investigation into the issues raised by the QJA are complex in nature. The investigation requires extensive searches for and production of documents held by financial institutions. The period of twelve months for such an investigation is not unusual.

(3) The date for finalisation of this investigation is dependent upon a number of variables including the capacity of the financial institutions to find original documentation, reconstruct accounts and forward the material to the Service for consideration.

659. Shanghai Trade Delegation

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (5/6/97)—

With reference to his recent trade delegation to China and an article in the Courier-Mail by Kate Collins, a journalist who accompanied the delegation—

- (1) Why were members of the business contingent excluded from lunches and functions organised for him and his wife?
- (2) Why did at least one member of the trade delegation remark that the trip was "business wise—an expensive waste of time"?
- (3) Why would this same delegation member have said that "there's nothing I couldn't have found out in my local library or from people who'd already been here"?
- (4) Why weren't members of the delegation advised that the Chinese only want prices in US dollars and expect goods to be shipped cost and freight (C & F) not free on board (FOB)?
- (5) Why did another member of the trade delegation complain that he was told not to come to Brisbane prior to the trip but that he would be briefed on the plane en route to China but that he was still awaiting the briefing as he didn't even see any Government people on the way over as they travelled business class while he was in economy?
- (6) What other disillusioned comments were made by members of his trade delegation?
- (7) Is he satisfied that everything possible was done to assist members of this delegation with business possibilities in China, or are these delegations under his direction becoming more a public relations stunt rather than a genuine Government attempt to promote Queensland trade with and export into China?

Mr Slack (19/6/97):

(1) The only functions that members of the business mission were not included in were those of a purely

protocol nature. In Shanghai these included : two official calls on two Vice Mayors of Shanghai (Deputy Premier equivalent); a lunch with officials of the Shanghai Foreign Affairs Office and the members of the Queensland-China Council (Mrs Slack was not invited to any of these functions); a dinner hosted by the Shanghai Museum (this event included the members of the Queensland China Council, Mrs Slack and a number of accompanying officials) to commemorate the opening of the Queensland Art Gallery Exhibition in the Shanghai Museum.

The guest lists for these functions were determined by the Shanghai Government. As the functions were either of a protocol nature or for purposes other than business it would not have been appropriate for business mission members to attend.

(2) The article from which this quote has been drawn has been roundly criticised by the business person it purports to quote. (Copies of letters are attached.)

(3) Refer to the answer to question (2).

(4) Refer to the answer to question (2).

Not only were business mission members provided with substantial background information on doing business in China they were also offered the services of the staff of the department, the members of the Queensland China Council and the staff of other Government Departments with experience in doing business in China. All of the business mission members were encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to talk with these people either before the mission or during. A large number of them did so and continue to do so on their return to Queensland.

(5) All business mission members were offered the same opportunities to be briefed. Those that were not able to travel to Brisbane were all offered the opportunity to be briefed either en route or in China. Officers of the Department were available to all business mission members at all times for the provision of advice and assistance on the activities in China or further background information. The majority of participants availed themselves of this opportunity and continue to use the same resources to pursue opportunities after their return to Queensland.

All business mission members were offered a choice of air travel and a significant number chose to fly business class. It is Government policy that staff fly business class when travelling overseas. In China the class of air travel was dependant on the availability of seats more than on which class is requested.

The business mission member quoted has since been working closely with organisers of the mission to coordinate a visit to his business by a prospective buyer from Shanghai and has received a series of other business enquires as a result of the mission. The business mission member has not raised any of these concerns with the people he is currently dealing with on a daily basis to further his business interests.

(6) I am not aware of any disillusioned comments from business mission members. Rather I have received a number of compliments on the arrangements for the mission and the avenues that it has opened for members to pursue their business interests in China.

(7) I am satisfied that everything that was possible to be done to assist business mission members was done.

Moreover, it was clear from the reception that the business delegation received, both the quantity and quality of the business meetings, that this mission was accorded a high priority by the Shanghai Government. This mission has added depth to the business activities and relations between Queensland and China. The State can expect to continue to materially benefit from the advances made by this business mission.

660. Pistol Range, Mount Molloy

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (5/6/97)—

With reference to the unlawful establishment of a pistol range on the public recreation reserve at Mount Molloy and his instruction some five months ago to the pistol club to remove its improvements from the reserve—

- (1) Why then is the area still fenced off, complete with signs, warning the public not to enter a public reserve?
- (2) What action has been taken to relocate the pistol range?
- (3) Has he been approached to reverse his decision on this matter; if so, on what basis and by whom?
- (4) What action has been taken to identify a management intent for the Mount Molloy reserves based on the objectives and community expectations put forward in the RPAC regional framework and by reports and studies done by the Department of Environment in Cairns?
- (5) When can the community expect resolution of this issue and the establishment of proper management of the strategically and intrinsically valuable Mount Molloy reserves?

Mr Hobbs (24/6/97): I received a deputation comprising the member for Tablelands and Mareeba

Shire Council officers earlier this year subsequent to my initial decision to request the Pistol Club to remove improvements from the site. Council presented evidence of a possible anomaly in the way that the pistol club had been treated compared to other sporting or recreational bodies which are allowed to operate under leasing arrangements with trustees of recreation reserves. This was sufficient for me to decide that the matter needed further consideration and investigation. As a result, eviction was not considered appropriate during the execution of this exercise.

Preparation of a management plan by trustees of a reserve is a requirement under Departmental policy following a request for allocation of tenure over trust land. The council's management plan was prepared following a process of public consultation which included input from the Department of Environment.

The required Departmental investigations have recently been completed. The Department has subsequently advised me that consideration should

be given to accommodating the pistol club's activities on the reserve with appropriate leasing arrangements to be put in place. Leasing of part of the reserve to the Pistol Club does not contravene the recommendations of the reserve's management plan.

661. Pistol Range, Mount Molloy

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (5/6/97)—

With reference to a letter he wrote to Mareeba Shire Council in July 1995 in which he stated that we would not support any proposal to lock away any part of the Mount Molloy Reserve as an environmental park—

- (1) Is he similarly opposed to a proposal to "lock away" this reserve from the community in favour of an unlawfully established pistol shooting range; if not, why not?
- (2) What steps has he taken as the local member over the last four years to finalise the removal of this range and return the reserve to the broader community?
- (3) When can the community expect resolution of this issue and the establishment of proper management of the strategically and intrinsically valuable Mount Molloy reserves?

Mr Gilmore (18/6/97): I am the Minister for Mines and Energy and if you want the answer to the question ask the appropriate Minister.

662. TAFE Colleges, Enterprise Bargaining Agreements

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (5/6/97)—

With reference to this Government's decision to introduce institute based enterprise bargaining agreements in TAFE colleges, and as this course of action will create unnecessary competition in education and training and cost cutting which will lead to job losses and lost training opportunities, and as this comes on top of his decision to cut literacy and numeracy courses for the disadvantaged in the community—

Will he ensure the job security of TAFE workers in Maryborough and the future training opportunities for the youth or our region by stopping the introduction of the institute based agreements?

Mr Santoro (3/7/97): I reject the honourable member's unfounded assertions that the Government's decision to negotiate Institute-based agreements will create unnecessary competition and cost cutting that will lead to job losses and lost training opportunities. I also reject the assertion that I have cut literacy and numeracy courses for the disadvantaged. In fact Training Queensland's allocation for language, literacy and numeracy programs throughout Queensland increased 8% in 1997. This funding is targeted at disadvantaged groups including: rural and isolated people; youth; people in custody; people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; indigenous Australians; Australian South Sea Islanders; job

seekers; workers with inadequate language, literacy or numeracy skills; and people with an intellectual disability, hearing or visual impairment, or psychiatric disability—

The job security of staff and the future of TAFE courses in Maryborough, and all areas of the State, is dependant on TAFE Institutes being competitive and offering quality services to their clients, and value for money for the taxpayer's dollar. Staff input to Institute-based Enterprise Bargaining initiatives is a major step in ensuring this positive future.

Institute-based Enterprise Bargaining Agreements give TAFE Queensland's staff the opportunity to have a direct say in determining their own working conditions and to be relevant and competitive within their region.

663.Sandmining, Bribie Island

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (5/6/97)—

- (1) Has he countermanded a directive from former Minister, Hon Tony McGrady, that it is not appropriate for mining to take place on the exotic pine plantations currently being harvested on Bribie Island; if not, is he aware that on 9 August 1996 an officer of his department briefed the Bribie Island Consultative Group considering future use of Crown Land on Bribie Island on "a forthcoming Cabinet submission relating to investigating sand mining potential on the island"?
- (2) If he was not aware of the briefing and has not countermanded the former Minister's instruction, is it normal for his department to prepare Cabinet submissions without his knowledge?

Mr Gilmore (18/6/97): The former Minister made his directive on Bribie Island in late 1995, but the mining interests wishing to explore the possibility of heavy mineral sand deposits beneath the pine plantations were not informed before the change of Government in February 1996. In June 1996 the Department of Natural Resources was attempting to finalise its strategic plan for State land on the island and required direction on the matter of possible mineral exploration. Accordingly, the Department of Mines and Energy briefed me and sought direction of the new Government on the issue so that both the mining interests and the Department of Natural Resources could be informed. I considered that it was a matter worthy of support and consideration by the whole of Government, and directed the Department to prepare a Cabinet submission. This was the submission foreshadowed at the Bribie Island Consultative Group meeting of 9 August 1996. However, since that time subsequent discussions within Government have determined that the matter should not be considered further, and the Cabinet submission has not proceeded.

664.Expo 2002; Brumfield, Bird and Sandford

Mr NUTTALL asked the Premier (5/6/97)—

With reference to his bid for an Expo at Coomera which is being led by Sir Llew Edwards—

- (1) Why is public relations for the Expo bid being done by Brumfield, Bird and Sandford, the PR company operated by Sir Llew Edwards' wife, Jane Brumfield?
- (2) When was this public relations consultancy offered for public tender?

Mr Borbidge (7/7/97):

- (1) Australian Corporate Marketing was selected by the Lead Consultant to the Expo 2002 project as the most suitable Brisbane-based public relations company to perform the necessary initial public relations and marketing functions relative to Australia's 2005 and subsequently 2002 bids.
- (2) This interim consultancy, on a subcontracted basis to the Lead Consultant, was offered following a selective tendering process.

665.Queensland Cultural Centre Trust

Mr PURCELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/6/97)—

- (1) When is she going to support staff working for the Queensland Cultural Centre Trust and tell them if their jobs are secure?
- (2) If staff of the Trust are to be dismissed, will they be offered jobs elsewhere within the public service at equal rates and position; if not, will redundancy pay be paid?
- (3) Will she assure Q-Build staff currently engaged in maintenance at the Queensland Cultural Centre that their jobs are secure?

Mrs Sheldon (7/7/97):

- (1) The staff of QCCT are being updated as all staff are in regards to their positions within the new structure for the Arts Portfolio. Briefings with staff have been undertaken in regard to the proposed structure. When Government approval has been granted all staff across the Portfolio will be notified.
- (2) Staff of the Trust will be given the same options as all staff across the Portfolio as per Office of Public Service recommendations.
- (3) The issues associated with Q-Build staff are a matter for the Minister for Public Works and Housing.

666.Social and Community Services Award

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (5/6/97)—

With reference to the answer to Question on Notice No. 336 to the Minister for Health which states: "There are few better examples of the greed and callousness of the union movement than the Social and Community Services (SACS) Award. The actions of Labor's mates, the ASU, in pursuing this award against the wishes of many working in the voluntary and non-Government sector, were calculated to strike at the aged, the sick, and the poor—and in this they have succeeded. Now they turn to Government and the taxpayer to cover up their heartlessness"—

Does he support the views of the Health Minister on the SACS award and the actions of the Australian Services Union?

Mr Lingard (23/7/97): The introduction of the Federal Social and Community Services (SACS) Award has been a difficult time for all parties directly and indirectly involved in the process.

I am aware that it has been difficult for volunteer management committees of smaller organisations.

It has also been a difficult process for staff employed by community organisations who may have experienced uncertainty about their future employment.

I might say it has also been a challenging time for the staff of my Department who have had to respond to the concerns of affected organisations, while at the same time, attempting to develop a departmental response to the many issues raised by the SACS Award.

Whilst the Queensland Government is not a party to the SACS Award, we nevertheless recognise that this award has had a significant impact on the operation of community services throughout the State.

With the assistance of my colleague, the Honourable the Treasurer, we have provided a total of \$ 13.2 M over the next three years to assist with the introduction of the SACS award in respect of those services funded through my Department.

This represents a major infusion of funds into the non-government sector which is simply aimed at subsidising the current level of service provision. This is an important point to make. These funds are being provided simply to assist with current service provision, and not with the expectation of new or enhanced services.

However, I would hope that with the introduction of an award into a sector which has been largely award-free up until now, that professional standards and service quality will improve over time, as working conditions and remuneration rates are regularised.

I am aware that the SACS Award imposes a significant financial burden on community organisations, particularly those who are required to pay penalty rates for work outside normal hours. In this respect, I believe that the SACS Award has not been an appropriate award for services providing 24 hour residential care and disability accommodation support. This has disadvantaged the clients of these services, and I believe that this aspect of the SACS award should be revisited by the Australian Services Union.

I acknowledge that many community services have been very positive in their responses to the Federal SACS Award. My own Department has exercised maximum flexibility, within the bounds of good accountability, to assist organisations to cope with the impact of this award.

667. Cloning Technology

Mr LUCAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (5/6/97)—

With reference to the recent instance overseas of the successful cloning of a sheep and reports that the extension of this technology to human cloning is technically almost identical—

- (1) Is he aware that the National Health and Medical Research Council Ethics Committee in 1996 resolved that experimentation with the intent to produce two or more genetically identical individuals, including producing a clone of individuals, is ethically unacceptable and ought to be outlawed?
- (2) When will he introduce legislation into the Queensland Parliament to specifically outlaw cloning of humans in this State?

Mr Beanland (2/7/97):

(1) No; I do not consider that, generally, the routine monitoring of views expressed by the National Health and Medical Research Council Ethics Committee to be a part of my ministerial responsibilities. This is the first intimation I have had in relation to this Committee's recommendation.

(2) As I understand the processes, cloning technology, in its present form, would generally, in effect, involve a surrogate mother.

Surrogacy is currently prohibited in this State under the provisions of the Surrogate Parenthood Act 1988 which was enacted with bipartisan support and which is administered by my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care.

To my knowledge, the issue of human cloning has not been considered by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General, a forum which could be expected to play a role in the development of Australia-wide legislation forbidding the cloning of humans.

I am personally opposed to human cloning but I am aware legislation to address it will need intense development because of the technical nature of the subject. Further, it is not clear which area of ministerial responsibility should have primary carriage of the matter as it impinges on a number of portfolios in addition to mine and that of the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care, such as Health.

There has been no significant action taken in this area because of the existing and effective ban on surrogacy. Further, the fact that it would be doubtful whether the requisite technology presently exists in this State indicates the issue does not have a special urgency.

As recently as Thursday, 12 June 1997, the Director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University (Melbourne), Associate Professor Helga Kuhse, writing in The Australian newspaper of that date in an article entitled "Caution, not panic, on cloning", counselled a considered response to this issue and advised against "legislation on morally sensitive issues (which) may have its source in 'moral panic' or political expediency rather than in sound democratic judgment and deliberation".

668. Conservation Plan for Whales and Dolphins

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (5/6/97)—

With reference to his draft conservation plan for whales and dolphins and, in particular, to concerns

expressed by a senior departmental officer in the background information to the plan that as whales encountered in the Moreton Bay Marine Park will be travelling, whale watching boats must maintain a moderate speed (with associated noise) or else leapfrog to remain in contact with the whales—

- (1) Did the officer also state in this same document that lactating females with calves may be at risk from such harassment and as these animals have less margin for error in their energy reserves than other individuals, any additional energy expenditure, including avoiding boats, increases the risk of mortality during the southern migration?
- (2) Did the officer also state in this document that this type of harassment was of concern late in the northward migration where late term pregnant whales may be impeded in their migration?
- (3) What does he have against whales or is he quite happy to personally bear the responsibility for the deaths of pregnant and baby whales?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97):

1. The background information to the whale and dolphin conservation plan was not prepared by any single officer of the Department of Environment, but represents a range of views held across the department.

2. The concerns expressed regarding any impacts of commercial whale watching refer to unregulated activities. There is no evidence that commercial whale watching, so long as it is properly regulated, has a detrimental impact on pregnant humpback whales or humpback whale calves. The majority of whales migrate past Moreton Bay at night and would not encounter commercial whale watching vessels. In light of recent research showing the steady increase in the number of whales visiting Queensland waters, in 1996 the Department of Environment increased the number of whale watching permits for Moreton Bay. There will be no increase in the number of commercial whale watching permits granted for Moreton Bay in 1997.

3. The rapid recovery of the east Australian humpback whale population is evidence of the resilience of the species, despite increasing levels of commercial whale watching in New South Wales, Hervey Bay and the Great Barrier Reef.

You may be interested to know that the Commonwealth Government's Action Plan for Australian Cetaceans published in September 1996 states that the commercial whale watching industry "provides an ideal vehicle to educate the community in regard to cetacean natural history, the marine environment and related conservation issues." The Action Plan further recommends that "State agencies regulate the expanding whale/dolphin watching industry in Australia".

669. Whale-watching Permits, Moreton Bay

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (5/6/97)—

With reference to plans by Kerry McTaggart's Akarma Cruises to start commercial whale watching in Moreton Bay Marine Park on 14 June—

- (1) As recommendation 4 of his department's policy model for the Moreton Bay Marine Park commercial whale watching industry written in December 1996 clearly states that this industry should be based solely on the southern migration of the whales, will he block Ms McTaggart's plans or does he intend to ignore his departmental advice?
- (2) As recommendation 2 of this same report says that the four existing whale watching vessels be included in the maximum of six allowable vessels in the marine park, how then can Ms McTaggart bring in a new 30 knot, 170 seat vessel from Fremantle for this year's industry?
- (3) On the basis of this same recommendation, can we assume that new applicants for whale watching permits in Moreton Bay, such as the Mooloolaba Reef and Game Charters who have expressed interest in getting a permit, will not be successful or, if this is not the case, why is he intending to ignore his departmental advice?
- (4) Can we assume from recommendation 2 that no public tendering process will be followed for the issuing of the Moreton Bay whale watching permits; if so, does he feel this is appropriate, proper and legal?
- (5) If he has legal advice that says he is bound to issue whale watching permits to persons in Moreton Bay who say they have previously been involved in whale watching, how then does he intend to block Sunshine Coast whale watching operators, who have been similarly involved in whale watching off the Sunshine Coast for years, from operating commercially within Area 3 on the maps which accompanied the draft whale conservation plan, and if he has legal advice to say he can block such a practice, will he table it; if not, why not?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97):

(1) The document "A policy model for the Moreton Bay Marine Park commercial whale watching industry" was written by a Departmental officer as technical advice to senior officers within the Department of Environment. Proposed Departmental policy on the management of commercial whale watching is contained within the whale and dolphin conservation plan and associated documentation.

(2) Current Department of Environment policy for Moreton Bay is to encourage a few large commercial whale watching boats rather than a large number of small boats. This strategy will minimise encounter rates between whales and commercial whale watching vessels.

(3) Commercial whale watching in Queensland waters south of Fraser Island will be limited to within the northern sector of Moreton Bay Marine Park. Three permits will be granted to persons who have operated previously under permit within the Marine Park.

(4) No public tendering process is necessary because whale watching in Moreton Bay in 1997 represents a continuation of an existing business

activity interrupted by the arrival and departure of whales on their annual migrations.

(5) The prohibition of commercial whale watching in the vicinity of the Sunshine Coast was first indicated in September 1994 when the Labor Government released the draft whale and dolphin conservation plan for public consultation purposes. Commercial whale watching in Queensland waters outside marine parks was first subject to regulation on 19 December 1994 upon proclamation of the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994. From that date it became an offence to conduct a commercial whale watching business in Queensland waters without an appropriate authorisation. I am advised that at the time of proclamation the Department of Environment was not aware of any commercial whale watching businesses operating in the vicinity of the Sunshine Coast.

670. Police Beat Shopfront, Strathpine

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/6/97)—

With reference to his promise during the recent Kurwongbah by-election to establish a police shopfront at Westfield Shoppingtown at Strathpine—

When will this police shopfront be opened and operational?

Mr Cooper (7/7/97): The State Co-ordinator Police Beat Shopfronts Program has been negotiating with the Westfield Shoppingtown's Leasing Division for the last twelve months, with a view to obtaining space in the Strathpine Shopping Centre. Whilst an area was offered it was not accepted as its location within the shopping centre was inconsistent with the aims and objectives of the program.

The State Leasing Manager for Westfield Shopping Centre Management initially advised on 4 March 1997 that, due to uncertainty surrounding the shopping centre's construction program, an appropriate area to house a Police Beat Shopfront would not be available until mid 1998. The shopping centre is due to undergo extensive refurbishments and extensions. Further advice has since been provided from the Leasing Division that an appropriate area may become available prior to mid 1998.

Negotiations are continuing with the Westfield State Leasing Manager with a view to establishing a Police Beat Shopfront at Strathpine.

671. Social and Community Services Award

Mr FOURAS asked the Premier (5/6/97)—

With reference to the answer by the Minister for Health to Question on Notice No. 336 on the supplementation of funding for the recently introduced SACS Award and his reply that "There are few better examples of the greed and callousness of the union movement than the Social and Community Services (SACS) Award. The actions of Labor's mates, the ASU, in pursuing this award against the wishes of many working in the

voluntary and non-Government sector, were calculated to strike at the aged, the sick, and the poor—and in this they have succeeded. Now they turn to Government and the taxpayer to cover up their heartlessness"—

Does he support the views of the Health Minister on the SACS Award?

Mr Borbidge (7/7/97): I fully agree with the Minister's criticism of Labor's mates in the ASU in pursuing the award against the wishes of many working in the voluntary and non-government sector.

The State Government has supplemented funding for the SACS award to ensure the aged, the sick and the poor will continue to enjoy the level of support they deserve.

672. Queensland Events Corporation Grants

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (5/6/97)—

With reference to Queensland Events Corporation (QEC) grants for sponsoring events in Queensland, the majority of which are in the south-east corner of Queensland and the absence of any funding for central Queensland based events—

- (1) Is it true that a Bundaberg group made application for funding for an international standard country music spectacular in Bundaberg and that the QEC had deceitfully contacted the Gympie Muster after the initial approach from the Bundaberg group and then deceitfully held discussions with the Gympie Muster Management Committee to expand their muster with State Government QEC funds?
- (2) Does he support this type of behaviour which disadvantages funding to Bundaberg and other provincial areas of Queensland, to benefit Gold Coast and south-east corner events?

Mr Davidson (7/7/97):

(1) Firstly I would like to clarify the false perception that Queensland Events Corporation (QEC) sponsors events. QEC invests in events that in the opinion of its Board will result in a return to the State either through the attraction of significant numbers of visitors from interstate and/or overseas, or through extensive national and/or international media profiling of Queensland.

With respect to QEC's support for the National Country Music Muster at Gympie, discussions between QEC and the organisers of the Gympie Muster on the future development of the event, commenced last August during the 1996 event. These discussions were followed up by further meetings with the organisers in October/November 1996 to further develop the concept. Since then there have been numerous telephone discussions and meetings to develop the final proposal that was submitted to and accepted by the QEC Board.

Coral Isles Events Co Pty Ltd first approached QEC in February 1997 with the concept of the Bundy Country Music Muster. At that time, discussions between QEC and the Gympie Muster organisers were well advanced. However, in respecting the confidentiality of those persons and organisations that approach QEC for support, QEC was not in a

position to disclose to Coral Isles Events the focus of its discussions with the Gympie Muster nor discuss the Coral Isles proposal with Muster organisers.

I am advised that the organisers of the Gympie Muster later approached Coral Isles with respect to its use of the term "Muster". I further understand that as a result of approaches by the Gympie Muster, Coral Isles deleted reference to "Muster" in the promotion of its event. I am further advised that these approaches originated from the Gympie Muster organisers and in no way involved QEC.

With respect to the proposed Bundaberg event, it is deceptive to describe it as an international standard country music spectacular. In its own proposal to QEC, Coral Isles stated that its aim was to "provide quality live entertainment by well respected artists and groups for the entire family at a price that the 90's family can afford".

The original proposal submitted to QEC by Coral Isles requested the Corporation to provide \$318,910.50 to Coral Isles to cover all costs associated with staging the event, despite the fact that the event budget projected a net profit to Coral Isles of \$227,263.50. The requested assistance was later reduced to \$120,166 to be fully paid at least some four and a half months prior to the event, with the event to still return a net profit to Coral Isles of between \$281,000 and \$431,000.

QEC indicated to Coral Isles that in the case of an event returning a sizeable profit in excess of the assistance provided by QEC, the Board of QEC may consider the provision of seed funding for the event on the basis that its investment was repaid from event profits. However, this option was not taken up by Coral Isles in its proposal.

Irrespective of the potential for the event to return a considerable profit, the Board of QEC declined support for the event on the basis of the organisers' unrealistic expectations of attracting 5,000 visitors from interstate in the first year of the event. Organisers advised QEC that their projections were based on those achieved by events such as the Gympie Muster. However, it should be noted that it has taken the Gympie Muster some 15 years to achieve the status and profile that now attracts thousands of interstate visitors to the event. While Coral Isles expect overall attendances of between 10,000 and 15,000 to its event, it is QEC's opinion that the vast majority of these will be from within the Bundaberg region and consequently not result in the injection of new money into the State.

In addition, it must be recognised that the Gympie Muster is Queensland's largest country music event and the largest of its kind in Australia. Before QEC could consider support for any other country music event in Queensland, it would need to be convinced that such support would result in additional visitors to the State and not just a shift in visitation patterns from Gympie to Bundaberg. That is, it would need to be convinced that patronage for Australia's National Country Music Muster would not in any way be adversely affected by QEC's support for a competing event in Queensland.

In any case, QEC's support for Gympie could hardly be described as favouring South East Queensland over Central Queensland when Gympie is only some 200 kilometres south of Bundaberg.

(2) This question has been answered in (1) above. QEC did not in any way engage in deceitful behaviour with respect to its handling of applications for assistance from the Gympie Muster or the Bundy Country Music Muster.

673. Level Crossing, Geebung

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/6/97)—

With reference to the Geebung level crossing traffic signals and, in particular, the traffic delays caused in part by deficiencies in the electrical control systems at this crossing—

- (1) When will design work be completed and modifications installed to address this problem?
- (2) What improvement is expected to the current delays to traffic on Robinson Road, Newman Road and Railway Parade?
- (3) Will he ensure that this matter is given the highest priority, given the significant safety implications and hazards which arise out of the current circumstances at this crossing?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97):

- (1) The design is completed and site work by Queensland Rail is close to completion. It is anticipated that the system alteration will be commissioned by 22 June 1997.
- (2) The Brisbane City Council will modify the working of the traffic lights to improve their system at the same time as Queensland Rail commissions the modifications.
- (3) This work will be given the highest priority and as stated previously it will be completed by 22 June 1997.

674. Bowen Tourism and Development Bureau; Merinda Hotel

Mrs BIRD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/6/97)—

With reference to the fact that the Victorian Government has given Buninyong (South of Ballarat) Football Club permission to hold a fundraising raffle of the Railway Hotel at Linton (50 kms west of Ballarat) without any difficulties and as this Queensland Coalition Government refuses permission for Bowen Tourism and Development Bureau to raffle the Merinda Hotel as a fundraiser to promote tourism in the Bowen Region—

Will she increase funding to this organisation to reflect loss of profit from the proposed raffle of the Merinda Hotel?

Mrs Sheldon (7/7/97): The fundraising raffle of the Railway Hotel at Linton in Victoria is quite a different raffle to that proposed by the Bowen Regional Development Bureau. The Victorian raffle involves the raffle of the freehold only, not the hotel as a going concern as is the case in Bowen. The prize involved is far smaller than that contemplated in

Bowen and hence the risks to all participants are much lower. Further, the Football Club running the raffle was able to satisfy all the licensing requirements of the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority. If and when the Bowen Regional Development Bureau can satisfy all the Queensland licensing requirements then they will be granted a permit. I should point out that the Queensland requirements are similar to Victoria's and are aimed at ensuring that the winner in a raffle does in fact get the prize that they have won irrespective of the outcome of ticket sales.

675. Criticism by Premier of High Court Wik Decision

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (5/6/97)—

With reference to the traditional role of the Attorney-General to defend the courts against intemperate and unfair criticism and to Premier Borbidge's intemperate and unfair criticism of the High Court Wik decision as judicial theft—

Will he disassociate himself from the Premier's intemperate and unfair criticism of the High Court; if not, is this yet another example of his failure to do his duty to defend the integrity of the legal system because of the Liberal Party's obsequiousness to the National Party as the major partner in the Coalition Government?

Mr Beanland (17/6/97): I am unaware of the intemperate and unfair criticism to which the honourable member refers. Consequently, the remainder of the question has no relevance.

676. Expo 2002; Brumfield, Bird and Sandford

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (5/6/97)—

With reference to his bid for an Expo at Coomera which is led by Sir Lew Edwards—

- (1) Was the public relations consultancy for the Expo bid offered for public tender?
- (2) Is it true Brumfield, Bird and Sandford have been awarded the public relations work for the Expo bid; if so, by what process was the contract awarded?

Mr Borbidge (7/7/97):

1. No.
2. Australian Corporate Marketing was awarded public relations and marketing work associated with the initial elements of the Expo bid by the lead consultant to the project, following a selective tendering process and based on the lead consultant's judgment that skills available within Australian Corporate Marketing are relevant to Expo requirements and the company's ability to quickly formulate a public relations/marketing plan for the initial phase of Australia's Expo bid.

677. Mapleton and Monkland State Schools

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (5/6/97)—

With reference to his decision to dispose of principals' residences at Mapleton and Monkland State Schools—

- (1) Why has he deliberately ignored the historical value of these buildings and community opinion, including opposition from members of this Parliament, in deciding to dispose of these buildings?
- (2) What processes were followed prior to making decisions on the disposal of these buildings?
- (3) Were either of the buildings being nominated for, or considered for, heritage listing at the time the decisions were made to dispose of them?
- (4) What other buildings, including schools and residences, are being considered for disposal?

Mr Quinn (10/7/97):

(1) The question of historical value of old school buildings in Queensland can be argued from many perspectives. However, while some buildings may be old they do not necessarily continue to have heritage value. In this context Education Queensland in conjunction with the Department of Environment commissioned a heritage audit by an independent firm with expertise in determining the heritage value of historical buildings. It was a comprehensive audit of older school buildings and residences designed to identify buildings which might have heritage value and therefore require further examination in the light any future plans for such buildings.

In relation to Mapleton and Monkland principals' residences, neither of these buildings were identified by the commissioned study. Mapleton was removed because it did not have any particular heritage value and to keep it at the school affected both the safety of the children and the future development of the school buildings. Plans to remove the Monkland residence are presently being reviewed.

(2) As part of Education Queensland's asset management strategy, it was intended to dispose of the Mapleton residence through sale, the proceeds of which are directed to support improved housing in remote areas of the State. Following an approach from the Mapleton and District Girl Guides Association, Education Queensland decided to forego the sale and donate the building to the Guides as a community gesture.

When preparations were being made to dispose of the residence to the Guides, an approach from Mapleton community members was made through the local State member The Honourable Neil Turner, MLA and the Maroochy Councillor for the Division Mr H. Schwabe. Community members argued strongly that the house should remain, not necessarily because of its inherent heritage value, but to preserve the streetscape.

Given the importance of the site for future development of the school, an option was proposed to resite the residence some 70-80 metres to the south of its old site and to share the cost of this relocation equally between Education Queensland and Maroochy Shire Council. This option to resite the residence was proposed, for two complementary reasons: to preserve what some community members thought to be part of the present streetscape; and to ensure that the strategic piece of land on which the house currently stood could be released for future school development.

Subsequently the Mapleton school community raised a number of objections to this option, based on the impact of excising existing school land and the possibility of compromising children's safety if the residence were to be used for community purposes, other than by the Guides, sometime in the future.

While it was still necessary for the residence to be moved from its current location for future school development, the fact that community feeling had now changed to such an extent that the resiting to another part of the school grounds was unacceptable, Education Queensland indicated its willingness to revert to its earlier proposal to dispose of the residence by way of a donation to the Girl Guides. Community opinion continued to be divided on this proposal.

The most important consideration, however, was the present and future safety of the children attending the Mapleton State School. In respect of this matter, their safety was considered in terms of the need for safe, off road set down areas and ensuring, as far as possible, the children's security in terms of access to outsiders entering the school grounds.

Future plans for the school include the development of a set-down area and a bus turn-around area which would intrude onto the present site of the school residence. The plans for this area were carefully examined by both the regional and Central Office of Education Queensland and it was believed that any modification to allow the school residence to remain on its original site would require significant and costly alterations to the most feasible design allowing students direct entry to the front of the school.

Future plans also included the redevelopment of the administration block and expansion of the current preschool grounds. Both these proposals required the use of some part of the site of the school residence. The location of any future administration block was of particular significance to ensure careful scrutiny of anyone who entered the school grounds. Given some recent incidents of breaches of school security, this safety issue loomed very large in Education Queensland's duty of care to children at the school.

The school residence was strategically located in relation to the other school buildings and commanded a view of all main entrances at the front of the school. If the house remained in its previous location, no matter how the future development proposals for the school were redesigned, it could have in some way compromised the safety of the children attending the Mapleton State School by allowing unscrutinised future access to outsiders. This was a prime consideration in the decision.

To excise the land and the residence for other than school purposes would have been to forfeit, on behalf of the school, a strategic piece of land which would forever constrain development on the already limited building platform for this school. This would not have been acting in the best interests of future generations of parents and children at Mapleton State School.

(3) The Mapleton residence was not nominated for heritage listing. It is unlikely that, given the criteria for

heritage listing and the many changes to the residence over time, it would be listed. I am not aware of any official moves to have the Monkland State School building listed.

(4) Education Queensland continues to identify residences for removal or sale if, and when, they become vacant and are in areas where other accommodation is readily available. This is a whole of government policy.

Education Queensland continues to closely monitor each application for residence disposal, and works with local authorities in determining issues such as heritage significance. A recent example of this was the successful project at Gin Gin, which saw an old school residence preserved in a heritage precinct. Last year another school residence at Buderim Mountain was retained due to its heritage significance. Similarly, houses have been identified which are considered to be of significant heritage value and will not be removed, as neither will houses in isolated communities such as at Federal State School.

Recent housing disposals where local authority heritage concerns have been identified have resulted in a process of consultation with local authorities over the future disposal options of old and possibly locally significant houses. The process of this consultation is still undergoing modification, as exemplified by the recent case at Silkstone State School.

678. Weapons Act; "Walkeasies"

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/6/97)—

With reference to the Weapons Act and, in particular, to devices declared illegal under that Act—

- (1) Do portable high pitched alarm devices called "Walkeasies" fall into this category; if so, why; if not, what is meant by Category R of the Act by the words "any audible anti-personnel device that is capable of causing bodily harm is prohibited"?
- (2) Does he agree with this banning; if not, what is he doing to address it?
- (3) What alternative personal alarm devices does he advise members of the community to use?

Mr Cooper (7/7/97):

- (1) There is a large range of battery and gas operated portable audible alarm devices available throughout Australia. These alarms have various decibel ranges, generally averaging between 110 to 120 decibels. The Ballistics Unit within the Forensic and Technical Services Branch, Operations Support Command is responsible for the certification of weapons pursuant to the Weapons Act. The Acting Officer in Charge, Ballistics has advised that no audible devices, including the "Walkeasie", have been referred to their office for determination regarding Category R weapons. Should any devices be referred to the Ballistics Unit for assessment, appropriate experts will be consulted to determine if they are capable of causing bodily harm.

In answer to the question, the "Walkeasie" portable high pitched alarm device has not been assessed as a Category R weapon.

Regarding the question, what is meant by Category R of the Act by the words "any audible anti-personnel device that is capable of causing bodily harm is prohibited", this statement suggests that devices capable of causing bodily harm are prohibited. If, in the case of audible alarm devices, they are assessed as capable of causing bodily harm, they are prohibited.

(2) The device referenced has not been banned.

(3) Although the Queensland Police Service does not endorse any products, the use of portable audible alarm devices is promoted in preference to dyes, or sprays which are currently being sold in Australia.

679. Coffee Growers; Papaya Fruit Fly Eradication Program

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (5/6/97)—

With reference to claims by north Queensland coffee growers that spraying practices insisted on by his department as part of the papaya fruit fly eradication program have damaged their crops—

- (1) What evidence can he provide to deny the claims being made by these growers?
- (2) If he cannot produce evidence to refute their claims, will he admit liability for the damage caused and pay due compensation?

Mr Perrett (3/7/97):

1. The growers' claim that the chemical treatment used to eradicate Papaya fruit fly has resulted in crop losses is a matter which could potentially involve litigation against the State of Queensland, and it would therefore be inappropriate for me to discuss the specific evidence relating to this case. This is a matter on which the Department will be seeking legal advice.

2. Notwithstanding this, I can assure the honourable member that appropriate steps are being taken to investigate these claims. I am also able to provide the following general information about the issue—

Coffee has been shown to be a preferred host for Papaya fruit fly. Failure to control the fly would not only impact on coffee production, but also endanger the whole eradication program.

Protein bait sprays are a widely used form of control for fruit flies, and have been used in coffee in Hawaii and Guatemala without any reported problems.

Treatment of coffee plantations was carried out after consultation with the affected growers.

A DPI coffee expert has visited the plantations in question and found no evidence to support or deny the claims. Further investigations are being carried out.

Experience with protein bait sprays indicates that the treatment would not be expected to influence yield, and there is no evidence to

support the claim of crop loss at this point in time. Unless such evidence is forthcoming, there is no basis for payment of compensation.

680. Rail Yard, Parkinson/Larapinta

Mr W. K. GOSS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (5/6/97)—

With reference to the proposal by Queensland Rail for the development of rail freight yards in the Parkinson/Larapinta area and, in particular, to the assurance given by the Minister for Transport that detailed discussions had been held with the Brisbane City Council, that consultation would occur under the processes laid down in the Brisbane Town Plan and that if the development proceeded an Environmental Impact Statement would be completed in accordance with Brisbane City Council requirements—

Given that the major impact in terms of local residents will be on residents of the Logan City Council area, will she agree to give the Logan City Council equal rights with the Brisbane City Council in terms of consultation and planning considerations?

Mrs McCauley (26/6/97):

The honourable member can be assured that the Logan City Council will be fully consulted and have equal rights throughout any planning process in relation to the proposed rail freight yards. Logan City Council would also be involved at the impact assessment stage. However, the timing of this stage is yet to be determined.

I understand that officers of Queensland Rail have already discussed proposals with some Logan City Councillors.

681. Ambulance Service; National Competition Policy

Mr WELLS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/6/97)—

With reference to statements to Parliament by the Minister for Emergency Services on 4 and 5 June, including his statement that "we will not be privatising ambulance services" and to the draft Cabinet submission tabled on the above days and as the submission argues for a process of authorising private ambulance operators from the standpoint of National Competition Policy—

Will she advise whether she remains committed to National Competition Policy; if so, whether it is her department's practice to apply its principles to ambulance services?

Mrs Sheldon (7/7/97): The Queensland Coalition Government, like the previous Labor Government is committed to the National Competition Policy (NCP).

The key objective of NCP is to develop a more open and integrated Australian market that limits anti-competitive conduct (except where such conduct is in the public interest) and removes the special advantages previously enjoyed by significant government business activities.

It should be emphasised (yet again) that NCP is not about privatisation or compulsory competitive

tendering or contracting out of Government services.

NCP principles (in particular, the legislation review, competitive neutrality and structural reform principles) will not be implemented without first assessing the costs and benefits to the community of proceeding with reform. There must be a net public benefit for the community as a whole from implementing reform. This public benefit test—guidelines for which were endorsed by Cabinet in April this year—must consider the potential impact of reform on factors such as: social welfare and equity, community service obligations, occupational health and safety, and industrial relations and access.

In respect of ambulance services, the Government's current NCP obligations are, under clause 5 of the Competition Principles Agreement (CPA), to review any potentially anti-competitive provisions of the Ambulance Service Act. This review is presently scheduled for 1998-99.

682. Director of Public Prosecutions; Report on Lindeberg Incident

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (5/6/97)—

When will the DPP report on the Lindeberg shredding incident be made public?

Mr Borbidge (7/7/97): The Director of Public Prosecutions provided legal advice to the Attorney-General.

Any questions regarding that legal advice should therefore be directed to the Attorney-General.

683. Use of Hand-held Mobile Phones in Vehicles

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/6/97)—

As the most recent research has shown that the use of hand held mobile phones whilst driving greatly increases the likelihood of an accident occurring, when will he introduce regulations banning the use of hand held mobile phones whilst driving?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): I can assure the member that the Land Transport and Safety Division of Queensland Transport and its road safety experts have been keeping a very close watch on this issue and on any research information coming to hand.

The research that is available suggests that any activity which distracts the driver such as tuning a radio, using a cigarette lighter or using a hand held telephone could constitute a road safety risk. At the same time though, I should point out that there have been very few reported accidents caused by using a hand held telephone.

There is currently no legislation in Queensland that specifically bans the use of a hand held mobile phone while driving, nor are there comparable specific bans in South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory.

In Queensland, however, a driver may be charged at any time with "driving without due care and attention". This would include using a hand held

mobile phone such that it was likely to distract the driver and cause an accident.

This situation will change late next year when legislation covering the use of communication devices is introduced as part of the new national Australian Road Rules. This legislation will state that a person must not use any telephone, two way radio or similar electronic communication device while driving unless it is safe to do so. This applies to all hand held and hands free communication devices. The Australian Road Rules will provide guidance on when it is and is not safe to use such communication devices.

Queensland will obviously participate in the development of the final version of these new road rules.

In the meantime, I would urge motorists to follow Queensland Transport's advice and fit a hands free kit if they wish to use their mobile phone while in the car.

684. Police Resources, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/6/97)—

With reference to his recent announcement that 100 additional police officers will be directed to the Gold Coast—

- (1) When will these officers arrive on the Gold Coast?
- (2) How many of these additional police will be deployed to the Coolangatta and Burleigh Police Stations?
- (3) What will the anticipated total police strength on the Gold Coast be as at 1 July and 1 December?

Mr Cooper (7/7/97):

(1) Unlike the member for Currumbin, my public statements are based on fact. Had the member bothered to read her local newspaper, which obviously she does not, she would know that my comments relating to the substantial Police increases in region were: during the 1996/97 financial year, 100 First Year Constables have been allocated to the South Eastern Region—satisfying our planned allocation of 71 to the Gold Coast District and 29 to the Logan District.

I empathise with the member's newfound interest and concern for additional police—a concern which she previously failed to voice under the Goss Labor Government when it drove police numbers on the Gold Coast down by 59 officers or 11.6% in a three year period.

I trust the member will now recognise the infinitely superior record of the Coalition in terms of delivering the policing services that Queenslanders everywhere expect and deserve.

(2) The 71 First Year Constables allocated to the Gold Coast District during 1996/97 are systematically rotated to different stations in the district to perform duties as part of their ongoing training regime.

The exact number of additional positions to be allocated to each Division in the Gold Coast District

has yet to be determined by the Regional Assistant Commissioner and endorsed by the Commissioner of Police. I am advised the allocations will be determined in August/September of the new financial year after the receipt of population data to be provided by the Government Statistician.

(3) I am assuming the member is referring to the 1997 year. As at 1 July 1997, the estimated actual strength for the Gold Coast District was 504, comprised of 496 police officers and 8 civilian support officers (communication room operators)

This compares with a District strength at the 30 June 1996 of 449—and an estimated net increase of 55 during the twelve month period.

The anticipated future total strength for the Gold Coast District at 1 December 1997 has not yet been determined by the Commissioner of Police—this figure will also be determined in August/September after the receipt of the relevant population data. A forward plan for future allocations across the State will be drafted in due course.

685. Tilt Train

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/6/97)—

Has he considered the need for an additional head end power vehicle/locomotive and the need for at least two extra cars for the tilt train project to provide emergency relief and regular maintenance to the two trains being constructed at Maryborough as it may be more economical to have these constructed while the manufacturers are tooled-up for the process?

Mr Johnson (3/7/97): The need for maintaining services in the event of emergency relief and to cover normal train maintenance and servicing have been considered in detail in the evaluation of the tilt train project and the number of cars ordered. For economic reasons the order for the trains has been restricted to 12 cars i.e. 2 x 6 car trains which will be the normal operating mode. Spare cars, particularly the driver units, would cost an estimated \$5-\$6 million each.

For normal maintenance and servicing, the units have been designed for quick interchangeability of components, good accessibility and high levels of system redundancy. Timetabling of tilt train services provides for a 30 hour window for each train every fortnight, to cover normal scheduled servicing. A few hours are also available each night to allow for cleaning and minor unscheduled repairs. A spare parts inventory to support this maintenance arrangement is being provided as part of the train manufacture contract.

For major unscheduled events disabling the units, the tilt train can operate with an interior car removed with virtually no loss of functionality, or with a number of cars removed with some loss of on-board functionality (e.g. passenger entertainment system).

The contingency plan for a major disabling event e.g. damage to the driver unit is to utilise an existing ICE train set in lieu of the tilt train until repairs could be effected. The tilt trains have been designed to be able to be towed by either a diesel or electric

locomotive should a train be disabled whilst in service on track.

686. Acquisition of Lighthouse Properties

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (5/6/97)—

With reference to Cabinet's decision during the week ending 7 June to acquire historic lighthouse properties from the Commonwealth—

- (1) What is the anticipated maintenance funding for these properties in the first year and each subsequent year?
- (2) Did Cabinet instruct Treasury to supplement the Department of Environment budget in the mid year budget review to meet these costs; if so, to what extent?
- (3) As these negotiations with the Commonwealth have been under way for some time, did he include in this 1997-98 Budget bid an allocation for this maintenance; if so, for what amount, and what allocation did Treasury make?
- (4) If none, why is he confident that Treasury will allocate the necessary funding in the mid year budget review?
- (5) Where will he obtain the necessary funding for maintenance of these properties between now and the mid year budget review and if it is from the departmental budget, what departmental program will be cut to free up this funding and to what extent?
- (6) Will all the 1100 hectares of land involved in this acquisition be made national park; if not, why not and what will happen to land parcels not declared national park?
- (7) What lighthouse properties are earmarked for demolition and why?
- (8) What expressions of interest has he received from tourism interests, for which sites and for what purpose?

Mr Littleproud (1/7/97):

- (1) \$750,000 and \$660,000.
- (2) to (5) The Department's bid for new initiative funds included a component for the lighthouses, but Treasury's allocation of \$18 million over three years did not include specific funding for them. However, Cabinet decided that the level of resourcing would be included in the mid-year Budget review. The results of that review are, of course, not able to be predicted at this stage. Meanwhile, the lighthouses will be covered from protected area management funding.
- (6) Firstly, you should be aware that the lighthouses themselves are operative lights and will remain the property of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Only the associated buildings are involved in the transfer. Land transferred with the seven heritage properties and others to be under Department of Environment administration will become national park or conservation park.
- (7) None.
- (8) Interest has been shown in Bustard Head Lightstation involving day tours from the Town of

1770, commercial camping and on-site development in regard to existing facilities.

687. Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (5/6/97)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 459 and to his reference therein to his answer of Question on Notice No. 428—

- (1) In view of the fact that no parts of either answer addressed parts 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Question 459, will he now provide a proper answer to what is a reasonable question?
- (2) If he is not prepared to answer the question, does this imply (a) he is not able to obtain the information from departmental records or (b) he does not think the people of Queensland are entitled to be informed about the Government of the day's management and dealings with publicly-owned land presently leased for grazing purposes?

Mr Hobbs (24/6/97):

(1) Answer to (5) in Question on Notice No 459: 42 Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases have been converted since 1992. The purchase prices of 29 of these leases are being paid by annual instalments.

Answer to (7) in Question on Notice No 459: The overall land area of Queensland under native title claim is approximately 536,702 square kilometres or about 31% of the State. However, the individual areas of the various tenure types, such as Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases, affected by native title claims has not been identified.

Answer to (8) in Question on Notice No 459: My Department is unaware of any native title expression of interest register. Furthermore, the Native Title Act 1993 does not make provision for native title expressions of interest to be lodged.

Answer to (9) in Question on Notice No 459: During the period 1 January 1994 until 29 April 1997, permits to clear trees over a total area of 2,281,846 hectares were approved. These permits were issued over various lease types (including Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases), reserves and other State land. No separate statistics are available for Grazing Homestead Perpetual Leases. No overall statistics were kept prior to 1994.

Not all Tree Clearing Permits are acted upon. This is especially the case with the current downturn in commodity prices and the prevailing drought conditions.

Answer to (10) in Question on Notice No 459: No statistics are kept for the total area of tree-clearing applications rejected over land held as a Grazing Homestead Perpetual Lease.

(2) Refer to (1)

688. Expo 2002

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (8/7/97)—

With reference to the formal presentation in Monaco recently of Queensland's bid for an Expo in 2002—

- (1) How was Queensland's bid for this Expo received by the Bureau of International Expositions?
- (2) How did it compare with the bid from the Philippines?
- (3) What likelihood is there of further bids coming forward from other countries for this Expo?
- (4) What likelihood is there of the bureau favouring the Philippines as a developing country ahead of Queensland's bid?
- (5) What is the present composition of nations in the bureau and how does this compare with that in existence at the time of Expo 88 and which countries have joined since Expo 88?
- (6) What likelihood is there of this changed membership favouring the Philippines bid for Expo 2002?

Mr Borbidge (7/8/97):

(1) Queensland's presentation on behalf of Australia to the General Assembly of the Bureau of International Expositions in Monaco on 12 June 1997 was very warmly received. In subsequent discussions between Bid Team members and delegates from a range of member countries of the BIE, Queensland has been complimented on the quality not only of its presentation but also the Expo display which was mounted in support of the bid.

(2) Queensland's presentation and bid documentation was superior to that of the Philippines but it would be a mistake to underestimate the Philippines as a competitor on the basis of its initial presentation.

(3) It appears unlikely that countries other than the Philippines and Australia will bid for the right to host a Recognised Exposition in 2002. However, under the Regulations of the Bureau of International Expositions, bids can be lodged by other countries until 19 September 1997.

(4) There is some sympathy within the Bureau of International Expositions for developing countries. The extent of this sympathy is however not known at this stage and this is being examined by both the Exposition Bid Team and the Federal Government. However, irrespective of this sympathy, the theme for Queensland's Expo is widely considered one which is important for developing and developed countries alike.

(5) The Bureau of International Exposition currently comprises 82 member countries which is double the number of members which existed at the time the Australian bid was lodged. Of these current members, over two thirds could be considered as developing countries. Many of the countries which were members of the Bureau of International Exposition in 1984 when Australia was awarded the right to host Expo 88 remain members of the Bureau but it needs to be recognised that Australia was awarded the right to host Expo 88 in the absence of any other bids.

(6) The sudden significant increase in membership of the Bureau of International Expositions, particularly in circumstances where new members comprise principally developing countries, makes the contest with the Philippines a challenging one. However,

given the relevance and timeliness of Australia's information technology theme and the fact that this theme is seen as an important one for developing countries, it is not considered that the increase in membership will disadvantage Australia's bid. In addition Australia's Expo format will act as a model for future Expositions by significantly lowering the costs of participation and increasing international exposure for participants by merging the physical site at the Gold Coast with electronic virtual sites in overseas countries.

689. Shooting Permits

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/7/97)—

With reference to the practice of gun dealers advertising Shooting Permits for sale—

- (1) Is he aware of this practice?
- (2) Does the practice circumvent the weapons legislation; if so, will he be taking action to prevent the sale of Shooting Permits?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97):

- (1) I am aware of this practice.
- (2) The matter has been fully investigated by the Queensland Police Service Weapons Licence Branch personnel.

690. Kleinschmidt Land, Stretton

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

With reference to the parcel of land on the eastern severance of the Southern Brisbane Bypass at Stretton commonly known as the Kleinschmidt land which is now owned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads—

- (1) How much of the land formerly owned by the Kleinschmidt family does the department now own?
- (2) How much did the department pay for this land?
- (3) Does the department intend to transfer ownership of this land to the Brisbane City Council for inclusion into Karawatha Forest; if so, when?
- (4) How much of the eastern severance of the Kleinschmidt land will be transferred to the Brisbane City Council?
- (5) If the Kleinschmidt land is not to be transferred to the Brisbane City Council, what does the Department of Transport intend to use this land for in the future?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97):

- (1) The department has acquired and now owns approximately 56.1 hectares of land formerly owned by the Kleinschmidt family.
- (2) A prepayment in the form of an advance of \$6 million has been made for the land; however, negotiations are still continuing to determine the final compensation due.

(3) This Government's intention is to honour the promise made by the previous administration. Discussions between officers of Brisbane City Council and the Department of Main Roads are continuing and it would not be unreasonable to expect that the transfer may be effected in the near future.

(4) Of the total area acquired approximately 6.4 hectares are utilised as road reserve. The remaining 49.7 hectares are available for transfer.

(5) This Government has no current plans for transport infrastructure on that land and intends to proceed with its transfer to the Brisbane City Council.

691. Diversionary Centre, Carramar

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (8/7/97)—

- (1) What long-term role does he see for the former orphanage Carramar in his diversionary concept for Townsville?
- (2) When were the contracts or work orders issued for the refurbishment of Carramar?
- (3) Prior to those contracts or orders being made, was there any consultation with the North Ward Community; if not, why not?
- (4) What does he understand by the term "Community Consultation"?
- (5) On 24 May, did he conduct a press conference before he had met with all the groups of individuals who wished to express their concerns to him concerning Carramar?
- (6) Why did he not give those persons the opportunity to be heard before he held his press conference?
- (7) On Thursday, 5 June, did he telephone any North Ward resident and did he tell any person that he would not use Carramar as part of his "Diversionary Concept" and that before it was used for anything, he would consult with local residents?
- (8) On Friday, 6 June, did he tell any person at a press conference that Carramar would definitely be used; if so, when did he change his mind and why?
- (9) Did he telephone any resident of North Ward on the evening of Sunday, 15 June, and did he tell any person that Carramar would not be used as part of his diversionary concept but that it would be used as emergency accommodation for young girls, some of whom have babies?
- (10) On 17 June, did he receive a facsimile from a group of North Ward residents in which they sought to confirm that Carramar was to be used for overnight accommodation for young females and that it was to be utilised strictly on a trial basis for six months?
- (11) What does he understand by the term "Trial basis for six months"?
- (12) How can he justify spending \$270,000 on a facility which is on trial for six months?

- (13) In the light of his assurances to North Ward residents and his answers to the Estimates Committee on 19 June, how can he explain the report in the Townsville Bulletin of 6 July that a 35 year old woman, Ms Doomadgee, had been housed in Carramar for three successive nights?

Mr Lingard (23/7/97):

- (1) "Carramar" will be utilised as part of the diversionary concept. It is expected that a site at the Bohle will become a full diversionary centre.
- (2) 14th May, 1997
- (3) & (4) The decision was taken to refurbish the property for Departmental use, irrespective of whether it was used as part of the diversionary concept, and has been discussed with people in the North Ward community in particular; as well as with the wider Townsville community.
- (5) Press conferences were conducted during the day, the exact timing of which I do not recall.
- (6) All delegates to the consultation process were given the opportunity to present their case, and were informed that an announcement of my decision would be made during the day in question.
- (7) I do not recall particular details of the dozens of conversations relating to this issue.
- (8) I have consistently made it clear that "Carramar" would be used as part of the diversionary concept.
- (9) Following consultation with North Ward residents, I decided that "Carramar" would be used to accommodate teenage women. I discussed this fact with many residents.
- (10) On that evening, I phoned a number of North Ward residents to discuss my plans for "Carramar" to be used for adolescent females and, when appropriate, their babies.
- (11) The reference to a 6 months trial is quite correct as I have consistently informed residents that I would review the operations of "Carramar" over a period of 6 months.
- (12) "Carramar" is a Departmental building which can be used for a range of purposes. I made the decision to refurbish "Carramar" on the basis that this would be money well spent regardless of its ultimate use.
- (13) This was simply a misunderstanding on the part of the organisation charged with the responsibility for operating the centre. This matter was rectified immediately.

692. Century Zinc

Mr McGRADY asked the Premier (8/7/97)—

What were the total costs to the Queensland Government in relation to the negotiations of the Century Zinc Mine, in particular (a) the travelling costs, (b) consultancy fees, (c) sitting fees and (d) any other costs associated with this project borne by the Queensland Government?

Mr Borbidge (7/7/97): The Queensland Government has expended approximately \$905,699 on directly identifiable items in relation to the negotiations of the Century Zinc mine, comprised of the following amounts:

Travel	\$275,884
Consultancies	\$328,178
Sitting Fees	\$53,669
Other Costs	\$247,968

This expenditure does not include staffing costs and operating costs which were incurred by Government Departments in the normal course of business, and not apportioned to the Century Mine Project. Other expenditure of approximately \$1,296,265 has been incurred over the period 1993 to 1997, in legal and related costs and associated Crown Law advice in relation to the Waanyi case, principally before the Mining Wardens Court, the National Native Title Tribunal, the Full Federal Court and the High Court.

As was stated in 1997-98 Budget Papers, the successful negotiation of the Century Zinc Mine project is expected to make a significant contribution to the Queensland economy. The estimated construction cost of the mine and associated infrastructure is approximately \$1.2 billion, of which approximately 60% will be expended in Queensland. In addition, once the mine is operational, it is expected to contribute around \$400 million to exports annually and directly employ 490 Queenslanders. The Queensland Government has also approved a \$30 million package of measures to be expended over several years which will provide significant benefits to local Aboriginal people and communities. The expenditure committed or incurred by the Queensland Government in relation to the Century Project is more than justified on the basis of the future economic and social benefits that the Century Mine will provide to the people of Queensland.

693. Whale-watching Permits, Moreton Bay

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (8/7/97)—

With reference to three whale watching permits that he has issued in the Moreton Bay Marine Park under the Marine Park Act—

- (1) How can these three operators conduct their whale watching operations without a conservation plan in place, as required by the Nature Conservation Act?
- (2) When will the cetacean conservation plan be finalised and tabled in the Parliament?
- (3) Will he stop the three operators in the Moreton Bay Marine Park from operating until such time as the conservation plan is finalised; if not, why not?
- (4) Why isn't he allowing these three operators to conduct their commercial operations an illegal act on their part, and official misconduct on his?
- (5) Does he intend to allow these three operators access to both the northward and southward migrations of humpback whales?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

- (1) The three permits have been granted under the Marine Parks Act 1982 which does not require a conservation plan to be in place.
- (2) Soon.

(3) No. The operators are conducting their activities lawfully and are not posing a threat to humpback whales or to the values of Moreton Bay Marine Park.

(4) The three permittees are operating lawfully under their marine parks permits. The permits were granted after an extensive consultation process involving the whale watching industry, scientists and conservation groups. No misconduct was involved.

(5) Yes.

694. Closure of TAB, Petrie

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/7/97)—

With reference to the closure of the TAB at Petrie—
What are the reasons for its closure, what consideration was given to the people of Petrie and where do they now go if they wish to place a bet or take his invitation to drop into the TAB and have a go at Keno?

Mr Veivers (7/8/97): The management of TABs comes within the administrative responsibilities of my colleague the Honourable Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing, Mr Russell Cooper, MLA. Therefore I am unable to offer any comment in relation to the closure of the TAB at Petrie.

695. Sand and Gravel Extraction, Burnett River

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (8/7/97)—

With reference to the extraction of sand and gravel from the Burnett River in the Walla Weir area before the required studies were completed, the necessary permits issued by the Department of Environment and an environment management plan prepared—

- (1) What legal action under the Environmental Protection Act is he now taking and against whom; if none, why not?
- (2) What action is he taking to return the normal flow in the river pending the completion of baseline data for the lungfish, platypus and elseya tortoise?
- (3) What is the current status of these reports?
- (4) What discussions has he had with the Minister for Natural Resources and the Federal Environment Minister over this matter?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) The Minister for Environment has no authority to take legal action under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

(2) No action is required. Baseline data reports have been prepared for the lungfish and platypus. Monitoring studies for the Elseya sp. tortoise relate to the pre-regulation phase of the project rather than the pre-construction phase. I am advised that baseline monitoring for the Elseya sp. tortoise is in progress and it is anticipated that a report will be provided by the end of August 1997 in accordance with agreed arrangements with the Department of Natural Resources.

(3) The current status of baseline monitoring reports for lungfish, platypus and Elseya sp. tortoise is listed below:

Lungfish—The State review report for the Walla Weir project required completion of baseline lungfish monitoring to the satisfaction of DPI (Fisheries).

Platypus—the baseline (pre-construction) monitoring has been completed to the satisfaction of the Department of Environment.

Elseya sp. tortoise—As stated above monitoring studies for the Elseya sp. tortoise relate to the pre-regulation phase of the project rather than the pre-construction phase. I am advised that baseline monitoring for the Elseya sp. tortoise is in progress and it is anticipated that a report will be provided by the end of August 1997 in accordance with agreed arrangements with the Department of Natural Resources.

(4) Formal discussions on this issue have been undertaken at departmental level.

696. Sand and Gravel Extraction, Burnett River

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources (8/7/97)—

With reference to breaches of the Environmental Protection Act that have occurred at Walla Weir as a result of the extraction of sand and gravel at the site without relevant permits from the Department of Environment and before an environment management plan has been finalised—

- (1) How could he have allowed such flagrant violations of this State's environment laws and what steps has he taken to correct this violation and ensure it never happens again?
- (2) Why has he allowed the normal river flows in the Burnett River to be altered before the reports on the threatened species likely to be affected are completed and published?
- (3) What discussions has he had with the Federal Environment Minister on this matter?

Mr Hobbs (30/7/97):

(1) The Walla Weir Project has been approved by Government and my Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is committed to complying with the approval conditions relating to environmental management and assessment. The reality is that an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was prepared for the construction phase and was approved in principle by the Department of Environment (DoE) in April. The works which commenced on site were undertaken in accordance with the EMP and none of this work has had adverse environmental impact.

Initial works included a limited amount of sand and gravel extraction to prove the sand source, enable commissioning of the aggregate plant and for the production of trial concrete mixes. This activity was away from the river flow and the risk of interfering with the river conditions was negligible. Officers from DoE inspected the site during the initial stages of construction and any issues were resolved.

The EMP provides the framework for regular reporting between the relevant departments connected with this project and this remains the appropriate mechanism to ensure that commitments are fulfilled.

(2) Normal river flows in the Burnett River have not been altered.

(3) The normal project reporting and compliance monitoring is reported to the Commonwealth through DoE. All matters are being satisfactorily handled within government and recent contact has occurred between DNR and Environment Australia to clarify matters which have emanated from ill-informed sources or which were incorrectly reported in the media.

697. Privatisation of Air and Sea Ports

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

With reference to The Courier-Mail article (page 16, 12 May) which reported a renewed interest in the private sector purchase of Queensland Government-owned air and sea ports in the aftermath of the Brisbane Airport sale—

- (1) Does he agree or disagree with the Commission of Audit finding that "there is no need for the State to retain ownership of airports (eg. Mackay or Cairns)"?
- (2) Does he believe there is a continuing role for Government-owned port corporations to control and/or operate Queensland's port infrastructure?
- (3) Has his department conducted, since the Coalition took office and since the Commission of Audit report was finalised, any research, investigation or analysis of the possibility of selling all or any of the Government's port authorities or their assets?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97):

(1) The Commission of Audit in its 1996 report (page 174) did state that there are no compelling reasons why the ports and non-core businesses should remain in government ownership when viewed from an overall state development objective.

The report's recommendations with respect to ports included an examination of the privatisation of ports (and pilotage and conservancy services), and their capital structure to determine the relative merits of them remaining publicly owned. It also recommended an evaluation of non-core activities such as airports, stevedoring and city developments with a view to enhancing competition in their delivery, and selling these assets and further, that the ownership of airports be evaluated in the context of a Statewide aviation infrastructure and services plan.

My Department is currently preparing a Queensland Aviation Infrastructure and Services Plan. Consultation has already commenced and a discussion paper will be released in the near future. It would be premature to even contemplate any possibility of the sale of airports prior to this plan being considered. In any event, the Commission of Audit recommendations do not reflect Government policy on all transport matters.

(2) Queensland's government owned port corporations have successfully fulfilled their responsibilities (at a profit) in terms of providing common user port infrastructure to serve Queensland industry. There is no suggestion that port authorities are not performing well—bulk commodity ports in Queensland are ranked amongst the best in the world.

(3) The Department has recently prepared a report on the devolution of pilotage to Port Authorities (from the Department). This report also addresses issues such as the continuing provision of conservancy services and the future management of certain Crown boat harbours. Queensland Transport is currently consulting with relevant parties regarding the proposals, with the aim of ensuring better provision and use of maritime infrastructure and services. In all cases, the Department will continue to perform the policy and regulatory functions required for Maritime issues to ensure it remains a safe and viable sector of the community.

698. Gas Turbine Generating Plants

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/7/97)—

With reference to State-owned gas turbine plants—

- (1) Where are they located?
- (2) What is the generation capacity of these plants?
- (3) What is the current availability?
- (4) Has any plant been unavailable for more than a three month period; if so, which plant?
- (5) When will plant be available?
- (6) Does any Government-owned generation corporation plan to decommission any gas turbine plant; if so, which plant?

Mr Gilmore (29/7/97):

Station	Location	Capability Mwe	Age in years	Availability
Swanbank C	Ipswich	26	28	Available
Middle Ridge	Toowoomba	56	27	Available
Tarong	Tarong Power Station	15	13	Available
Rockhampton	Rockhampton	25	30	Unavailable
Mackay	Mackay	34	21	Available

- 1. See table above.
- 2. See table above.
- 3. See table above.
- 4. None at present—Rockhampton unavailable from 1 June 1997. The Mackay plant is now fully available, but further testing will be carried out over the next week. The faulty engine has been out of service for four months and several attempts have been made during that period to rectify the problem. The Rockhampton plant is currently not available for service. AUSTA Electric made the decision to move the engines from Rockhampton to Swanbank C to reduce the vulnerability of plant in the southern region of its operation. The decision on whether or not to refurbish the Rockhampton plant by purchasing two engines will depend on economic forces.
- 5. The Rockhampton Gas Turbine return to service date has yet to be determined.

6. There are no current plans to decommission any of the Gas Turbines owned by the Government corporations.

699.Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/7/97)—

With reference to the merger of Suncorp, QIDC and Metway Bank—

- (1) What was the budgetary impact (revenue and cost of Government activities related to) of the Suncorp Metway merger in 1996-97?
- (2) As her incomplete answer to Estimates Committee A Question on Notice A3 stated that dividends from the new Suncorp Metway will exceed the income received through dividends from Suncorp and QIDC, will they exceed the total dividend/tax equivalent stream from those two organisations (just under \$90m in 1995-96.)?
- (3) How much of the proceeds from the sale of Metway shares will need to be reinvested to replace the previous dividend/TER stream mentioned above?

Mrs Sheldon (7/8/97):

(1) Consultancy costs primarily relate to legal advice, accounting and tax advice, financial advice and the independent expert's report to Government. Also included are public relations and marketing costs associated with the cash offer to Metway shareholders. All consultancy and other operating costs associated with the merger will be recouped from sale proceeds as the Government sells down its share in the merged entity.

(2) Yes. Treasury analysis indicates that, if Suncorp and QIDC had been retained as separate entities, their dividends and tax equivalent payments were likely to fall significantly over time due to increasing competitive pressures on each of these organisations.

(3) Such an amount depends on the extent of the revenue stream to be replaced (see answer to Question 2), the type of investment and the relevant rate of return which will fluctuate over time in line with trends in the market. Consideration will be given to this matter at the appropriate time.

700.Women's Historical Sites

Ms SPENCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/7/97)—

With reference to her Landmark Women's Speech of 1996 in which she announced the signposting of women's historical sites in Queensland as one of the Government's major initiatives—

- (1) How many women's historical sites have been identified and given signage in the last 14 months?
- (2) Where are these sites?
- (3) Which department is undertaking this work?
- (4) What is the cost of the project to date?

Mrs Sheldon (7/8/97): No mention or reference

to women's historical sites was made in my Women's Landmark speech in September 1996.

The Executive Director of the Office of Women's Affairs, Mrs Meredith Jackson, did speak about this very important issue and stated that "women's landmarks have been overlooked in the preservation of the State's heritage".

As a result this government has listed many women's historical sites.

32 places associated with women are entered in the Queensland Heritage Register and 28 additional sites have been identified in the last 14 months.

These sites are located throughout the State. The locations of the 28 sites identified during the past 14 months include Brisbane, Rockhampton, Maryborough, Charters Towers, Bundaberg, Warwick, Ipswich, Mackay, Mt Isa, Atherton, Barcardine, Babinda, Toowoomba, Aramac, Isisford, Ingham, Mundubbera, Gin Gin, Millaa Millaa and Yungaburra.

The work is being undertaken by the Department of Environment. This Department consults with other departments where necessary.

The Department of Environment has spent approximately \$24,000 on the project during the past 14 months. It has allocated approximately \$50,000 for the work over a three year period.

701.Shopping Complex, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

In 1996, he was reported in Maryborough media stating that a start would be made in 1997 on the establishment of a major shopping complex on redundant Queensland Rail land in the city centre and as there has been no obvious signs of progress made towards this end, will he explain why this important project for Maryborough has stalled?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97): The contract of sale with the developer to allow for development of this land as a shopping centre is conditional upon a major tenant being secured to anchor the shopping centre project.

The developers have sought and been granted by QR an extension of time past the 30 June 1997 deadline stated in the contract to secure a major tenant. The extension of time provided to the potential purchaser will maximise the opportunity to see this development proceed. The developers are now required to secure the tenant by 30 August 1997.

From the time that the original conditional contract was executed Queensland Rail has detailed the town planning requirements of Maryborough City Council, resolved heritage issues and undertaken detailed investigation and testing of the remediation requirements for the site. There has also been the removal of some buildings and arrangements have been made to begin the removal of trackwork and clear the site by December 1997.

It is also pointed out that progress on this matter has been far more productive than when under the previous Labor administration.

702. Ambulance Services at Sporting Competitions

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/7/97)—

What arrangements are in place for the provision of ambulance services at sporting competitions?

Mr Veivers (7/8/97): Since November 1995, the QAS has had a policy in place for the provision of ambulance services at special events, including sporting events. The policy was developed because the QAS recognised its role in the provision of pre-hospital care and the coordination of emergency medical response at a diverse range of community events.

The policy recognises that the overall responsibility in determining the duty of care and the quantity and mixture of health services to be provided is the overall responsibility of the event organiser. Upon request, the QAS will assist event organisers to determine the level of pre-hospital health care to be provided at a special event. These range from the provision of advanced first aid services to participation in the coordination of emergency services at major sporting and cultural events.

By arrangement with the event organiser, QAS will provide an ambulance unit at an agreed location and during defined time periods to facilitate both emergency and routine responses to event participants and spectators. The ambulance unit will be dedicated to the special event and will not respond to cases outside the event venue, except where the need for pre-hospital health care within the broader community exceeds the immediate capacity of the QAS to meet demands, particularly emergency responses.

The QAS will recover the cost of providing services at certain special events under the user pays principle. Full fee recovery will apply to all events conducted on a commercial basis.

The QAS policy covering special events does allow for an assessment of non-commercial events whereby the Commissioner may waive or remit a fee upon the advice of an appraisal team consisting of the local Officer in Charge, in consultation with the Local Ambulance Committee.

703. Coal Freight Services, Electric Locomotives

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

With reference to his answer to my earlier Question on Notice No. 523 received on 4 June, regarding the opportunities to limit the noise of trains operating between the Moreton Coal Fields and Fisherman Island, and noting his comment that the quietest locomotives are the new generation diesel electric locomotives, although axle load limitations at certain points along the route preclude their use—

- (1) What works would need to be undertaken to upgrade bridges and track west of Redbank to allow coal trains to utilise the new generation diesel electric locomotives?
- (2) What would be the cost of any such works, and what would be the cost of the necessary

number of new locomotives to perform the coal haulage task?

- (3) Do these axle load limitations extend beyond the Moreton Coal Fields onto the Darling Downs; if so, what works would need to be undertaken to upgrade bridges and track to allow grain and other port-bound trains to utilise the new generation diesel electric locomotives?
- (4) What would be the cost of any such additional works, and what would be the cost of the necessary number of new locomotives to perform the grain/other haulage task?
- (5) Is it likely that any of these track/bridge upgrading projects would be undertaken in any event as part of the long term rail infrastructure development plans of QR?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97):

- (1) Preliminary investigations into the infrastructure upgrade requirements to run the quieter new generation 2800 class diesel electric locomotives (or proposed new Coal and Minerals new diesel locomotives) on the West Moreton coal traffic are:-

Replace Saddliers Crossing bridge—Bremer River (requires new deviation to allow bridge to be reconstructed).

Strengthen/replace remaining timber bridges (10)

Strengthen track (installation of sleeper plates on timber sleepers and railanchoring)

Some structure clearance modifications

To obtain full benefits of the additional power of the 2800 class locomotives (and reduce number of coal trains), longer trains are possible, or alternatively higher payload coal wagons (80 tonne in lieu of 63 tonne) could be operated. These options involve extension of holding roads and refuge loops (eg. Redbank), replacement wagons (cascaded from the Central Queensland coal operations and the acquisition of new even heavier wagons in lieu), and major track upgrade, particularly west of Ipswich to strengthen the track (particularly to replace the light 41 kg/m rail on the Main Line west of Ipswich).

- (2) The minimum scheme to allow operation of the 2800 class locomotive (or equivalent) on the West Moreton coal traffic would cost an indicative \$45 million (in 1997 \$s).

Infrastructure Upgrade \$27 million

Locomotives 6 No. \$18 million

The additional cost to allow for longer coal trains (and reduce the number of loaded coal trains from a current average 6 per day to 4-5 per day) is of the order of \$10 million, but partially offsetting this is a potential reduction of two locomotives (\$6 million) in allowing for the number of current consists to be reduced by one.

To provide for heavier axle load coal wagons (80t gross in lieu of 63t) would require an additional expenditure of \$20 million on track upgrade and \$12 million on wagon replacement.

The above assessment of trip and train consist numbers depends on total railings of coal and the future projections on these are uncertain, given the current state of the world coal markets.

(3) To operate the 2800 class locomotives west of the Yarrowlea (the Ebenezer spurline junction) to the Darling Downs for grain and other traffics, would require major investment in bridge and track upgrade (to upgrade from 15.75 tonne to 20 tonne axle load) and increased clearances through the tunnels between Ipswich and Toowoomba.

(4) No detailed cost estimates for these works has been undertaken (depends on options adopted—eg. whether it included a new Toowoomba Range crossing?); however the infrastructure cost would be substantial (>\$300 million even excluding the rebuilding of the Toowoomba Range and Liverpool Range crossings) and new locomotives would be required. The total number of diesel electric locomotives in Freight Group's south Queensland fleet is approximately 130. New higher capacity locomotives could be expected to replace these on a 3 for 4 basis, thus requiring approximately 100 new locomotives with an acquisition cost of \$300 million (in 1997 \$s).

(5) Any new infrastructure built in the south west region will be built to contemporary standard eg. bridge replacements and the proposed new Toowoomba Range crossing will be designed for 30 tonne axle load; however there is no business case to justify upgrading existing infrastructure above the existing 15.75 tonne axle load limit west of Ipswich. Current upgrade works are directed at upgrading branch lines to achieve this 15.75 tal, and these have included the recently completed Roma-Charleville bridge and track upgrade, and the current Goondiwindi-Thallon track upgrade.

QR's replacement locomotive strategy is to eventually acquire new locomotives to fit within the existing constraints of mass and rollingstock gauge west of Ipswich, whilst meeting operational performance requirements and noise emission criteria. Current available equipment unfortunately cannot yet meet this requirement and considerable effort is being directed at the major locomotive manufacturers to develop a locomotive to suit this track.

704. Workplace Health and Safety Procedures, Queensland Rail

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

With reference to the involvement of the Division of Workplace Health and Safety in the investigation of workplace incidents which result in serious injury to or the death of Queensland Rail employees—

Who determines when the Division of Workplace Health and Safety shall be involved in the investigation of an incident and what procedures are in place to ensure that Queensland Rail is accountable to its employees in so far as the integrity of any investigation?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97): In accordance with Part Three, Division Two of Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 1995:

1. Queensland Rail is required to notify the Division of Workplace Health and Safety of any incident involving injury to an employee where they are required to be treated as an inpatient or overnight

hospital stay or if the incident results in death of an employee.

2. Queensland Rail is also required to notify any incident or dangerous event where no injury occurred but the event may have caused a serious bodily injury or death.

3. Internal policy of the Division of Workplace Health and Safety is that all deaths and traumatic amputations are investigated. Investigations of other matters would depend upon Divisional priorities and available staff.

4. Between August 1996 and August 1997, Queensland Rail has notified the Division of 54 complaints, serious bodily injuries and other events relating to Queensland Rail which have been investigated by the Division of Workplace Health and Safety. Twelve of which were deemed by the Division to be of a serious nature. The integrity of investigations undertaken by the Division of Workplace Health and Safety is a matter left to the Division.

705. Capital Works Program

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Premier (8/7/97)—

With reference to the establishment of a capital works monitoring system in his department which confirms his responsibility for the overall management of the capital works program—

- (1) Why did he allow the situation where over 170 different capital works projects failed to meet their budget, such that \$480m was not spent on those projects, and \$400m of this year's announced spending is just recycled funding from last year?
- (2) If he claims that many of these funds were reallocated within the financial year, where were they reallocated to, and did these alternative expenditures create as many jobs as would have been created if the money had been spent as planned?

Mr Borbidge (7/8/97):

(1) As part of its emphasis on actively managing the capital works program, the Government has taken action to adjust project timings within portfolios both within and across years. Specifically, this has included advancing high priority, approved projects from future years where current projects could not proceed. This strategy is consistent with the Government's long term focus on delivering a Rolling Capital Works Plan for Queensland rather than focusing solely on year-on-year issues. It has also ensured that the maximum benefit has been achieved in terms of employment generation and infrastructure development.

The Government has thus delivered its capital works program with a substantially lower carryover than in previous years and against a record budget.

With yet another record capital works budget in 1997-98, the systems and procedures that the Government has put in place to provide for the effective management of the capital works program will continue to ensure delivery of the Government's capital works commitments.

(2) The answer to the second part of the question is included above.

706. Fish Habitat, Bramble Bay

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Environment (8/7/97)—

With reference to the Bramble Bay area—

- (1) What action is the Department of Environment taking to identify the extent of the reported decline of macrobenthic invertebrates?
- (2) Will this entail subtidal sampling as well as intertidal sampling?
- (3) What action is the department taking to identify the causal agent for any decline of the macrobenthos?
- (4) What implications does the reported decline have for the fishing and crabbing industries, given that Bramble Bay is recognised as one of the most important fish habitats in south east Queensland?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) Following reports of an apparently serious decline of macrobenthic invertebrates at Nudgee Beach and adjacent areas, the Department of Environment convened an expert Scientific Panel to provide advice and direction on the apparent problem. The Scientific Panel consists of representatives from the Department of Environment, Brisbane City Council, University of Queensland, Griffith University, National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology, Australian Marine Conservation Society, Nudgee Beach Environmental Education Centre and the Queensland Museum. The Scientific Panel has recommended that a biological study be undertaken to substantiate the reported decline of macrobenthic invertebrates and identify the extent of any such decline. The Study will involve collecting two sets of samples over a wide area (including control sites at Deception Bay and Waterloo Bay), one during Winter and the second later during Spring. Sampling commenced on Monday 14 July 1997 and is expected to be completed by the end of August. When available, the results of the sampling exercise will be referred to the Scientific Panel.

(2) The Study will involve collecting macrobenthic invertebrates and samples of sediments from intertidal, subtidal and mangrove sites.

(3) Until reliable data is available on the macrobenthic invertebrates of the Nudgee Beach area and their natural variability in space and time, it is not possible to indicate whether the reported decline is the result of natural fluctuations in population numbers or the result of human influences such as polluted runoff. It should be noted that in response to the reported problem, the Department of Environment has undertaken chemical analyses of sediments from this area and found no significant concentrations of chemical contaminants.

(4) As the reported decline in macrobenthic invertebrates has not been substantiated, it would be inappropriate to comment at this stage on the implications for the fishing and crabbing industry. It should be noted that Department of Primary

Industries Fisheries and Forestry is being kept informed of the objective and results of this study through liaison with the Department of Environment.

707. Noise Barriers, Brighton

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

With reference to an area of land adjacent to the Deagon Deviation at Brighton where a number of homes have been built in recent times (Walton Place, Brighton) and as the homes abutting the Deagon Deviation have been excluded from noise amelioration measures undertaken by the Department of Transport when a program was put in place to ease the noise levels for other residents living next door at the Bayside Caravan Park and further along the deviation in the older established areas of Brighton—

- (1) With regard to the residents living in Walton Place, Brighton whose homes are severely affected from the lack of appropriate noise amelioration measures, can he advise whether negotiations between his department (Main Roads) and the Brisbane City Council have reached an outcome that will be satisfactory to the residents of Walton Place?
- (2) In the event that the Brisbane City Council refuses to accept any liability for the situation, is he in a position to guarantee to the residents of Walton Place that his department will provide the funding required to erect an appropriate noise amelioration fence on the correct boundaries; if so, will he give an indication of what time-frame his department would be considering to implement the program that will provide relief for the residents of Walton Place from the noise emanating from the adjacent Deagon Deviation?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97):

(1) As the member is aware, the residents of Walton Place were provided with noise reduction barriers by the developer of the estate as part of the conditions of subdivision imposed by Brisbane City Council. That these barriers have proved ineffective due to the use of low quality materials and poor construction is of concern to Main Roads.

Main Roads has discussed this problem with Brisbane City Council officers and made a proposal to Council to resolve the issue. Council are considering the Main Roads proposal.

(2) I am confident that Brisbane City Council will respond in a positive way to the Main Roads' proposals and expect this response shortly. It serves no good purpose to speculate on Main Roads' position should Council not cooperate in this matter.

708. Mr D. Weaver; Purchase of Property by Main Roads Department

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

With reference to the ongoing negotiations between the Main Roads Department and Mr Doug Weaver of Considine Street, Ellen Grove over the purchase of

his property by the Main Roads Department required for the construction of the Centenary Highway extension—

- (1) Is he aware that during negotiations, police were called in by his officers to harass Mr Weaver?
- (2) When will the department enter into meaningful discussions with Mr Weaver to effect a reasonable settlement over the purchase of Mr Weaver's property; if not, will he use his discretion and intervene personally and directly during the negotiations?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97):

(1) During an inspection of Mr Weaver's property at 199 Considine Street, Ellen Grove on 29 October 1996, by Mr John Horrigan (the department's consultant valuer), Mr Weaver stated that unless he received the amount he wanted for his property, he would not be moving and that John Horrigan's inspection was a waste of time.

Mr Weaver then went on to state that unless he got the amount he wanted "the fiasco in Hobart would be nothing compared to what could be expected in relation to his property".

Mr Horrigan reported this threat to the property officer involved in the acquisition of properties for this scheme, by letter dated 5 November 1996. The Principal Manager of Property Services, consulted the department's Senior Adviser Security, out of concern for the safety of staff and consultants engaged on the case.

The Senior Adviser Security contacted Oxley Police regarding this threat on 2 December 1996. This department is unaware of what further action the police may have taken in this matter.

(2) At all times Property Services Branch of the Main Roads Department has been ready, willing and able to engage in meaningful discussions with Mr Weaver regarding the acquisition of this property, as evidenced by the history below:

- (a) Mr Weaver was initially contacted by the property officer with the responsibility for acquiring property required for the Camira Bypass, on 29 August 1995.
- (b) Mr Weaver advised that he would be out of town for approximately two weeks and he would contact the department upon his return to commence negotiations for the purchase of his property. Mr Weaver made no further contact with this office.
- (c) The property officer's next contact with Mr Weaver was on 13 November 1996, when he advised that Main Roads valuation had been completed and it may be in Weaver's best interest to engage a solicitor and valuer to assist him in this matter.
- (d) Mr Weaver advised that he had engaged a solicitor and valuer and was advised that he should have his solicitor contact the property officer when they were in a position to do so.
- (e) A call was received from Mr Michael Sparksman, the solicitor acting for Mr Weaver, on 4 December 1996 and a discussion followed

regarding how the department would pay his fees.

- (f) On 11 December 1996, a further letter was received from Michael Sparksman advising that Mr High Bristow, valuer, had been retained to provide a valuation on Mr Weaver's behalf.
- (g) On 18 March 1997, a meeting between Mr Weaver's professional advisers and the department's property officer and consultant valuer was convened. As a result of this meeting, no agreement as to the quantum of compensation payable could be agreed upon and Michael Sparksman was to contact the department once further investigation on his client's behalf had been attended to.
- (h) On 12 May 1997, Michael Sparksman advised that his client required the department to make an offer in this matter.
- (i) On 21 May 1997, an offer of \$230,000 under all heads, subject to conditions regarding possible site contamination, was made through Mr Weaver's solicitor.
- (j) Mr Weaver contacted the property officer on 26 June 1997 regarding the department's offer and the property officer agreed to meet with him on site to further discuss this matter.
- (k) The property officer met with Mr Weaver on-site on 1 July 1997 and it was agreed that Mr Weaver would contact his valuer so a conference could be arranged to further discuss compensation payable in this matter.
- (l) The property officer has contacted Mr Weaver on several occasions to ascertain any progress regarding a meeting with his valuer, but to date the property officer has had no success with Mr Weaver in arranging such a meeting.
- (m) Mr Weaver has advised the property officer verbally, on a number of occasions, that Michael Sparksman no longer acts for him and that the compensation he requires for his property was initially \$750,000 then \$600,000 then \$400,000-\$450,000.

709.Oil and Tyre Levies

Mr WELFORD asked the Premier (8/7/97)—

With reference to the failed tyre and oil levy proposed by the Minister for Environment, and abandoned by the Premier—

- (1) Is he pursuing avenues with a view to introducing a levy on tyres and/or oils?
- (2) What role does Mr John Loxton perform in the Premier's Department?
- (3) Is Mr Loxton involved in selective consultations with various recycling operators with a view to implementing a tyre levy?
- (4) What role is Mr Doug Elmer playing in the secret consultations regarding the disposal or recycling of tyres?
- (5) Is the Premier's Department proposing to provide any funding for a future waste tyre management scheme?

- (6) What funding is currently being provided to conduct these consultations?
- (7) Have any industry operators put in a proposal or a quote to establish a scheme?
- (8) Should such a scheme be established, what will be the size of the levy?
- (9) What role is Mr Bruce Heath playing in these secret negotiations?
- (10) Is Mr Heath employed by the Government; if so, by which department; if not, by whom?
- (11) When will he disclose the outcome of these secret consultations to other participants and industry stakeholders who are currently being kept in the dark?

Mr Borbidge (7/8/97): (1) to (11). The Government is not proposing or pursuing the introduction of a levy in relation to these matters. My Government will continue to work with Industry and I note that an Industry based scheme to redress waste tyre management has been taken up by the Queensland Scrap Tyre Advisory Council through the MTAQ who are progressing this matter with all interested parties. As well Industry has released for public consultation a draft environmental code of practice for the management of used lubricating oil.

710.Arts Funding

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/7/97)—

With reference to the future drain on funding for the arts arising out of her bankcard-style recoverable loan of \$6.8m for implementation of her arts portfolio restructuring—

- (1) What areas of future arts funding are to be cut to pay back the \$6.8m?
- (2) How many further arts portfolio jobs are to be lost in order to find the future savings to pay back the massive implementation costs of \$6.8m?

Mrs Sheldon (7/8/97):

(1) It is not the government's intention to reduce funding in the Arts portfolio in the future. In fact the government has increased funding in this year's budget and will continue to look for avenues where efficiencies can be gained to allow for further moneys to be invested in the portfolio.

(2) This issue was covered on page 60-61 of the State Budget 1997-98 Ministerial Program Statements for the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts.

711.Waste Treatment Facilities

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Environment (8/7/97)—

- (1) What waste facilities are currently receiving medical or clinical waste in Queensland?
- (2) How many incineration facilities are operating in Queensland to receive medical waste and where are these?

- (3) How many autoclave facilities are operating in Queensland to receive medical waste and where are these?
- (4) Which of the autoclave facilities holds the required licence under the Environmental Protection Act?
- (5) What action is being taken in respect of those autoclave facilities not holding a licence?
- (6) Who are the owners of each of these inner incineration and autoclave facilities?
- (7) Did an autoclave facility commence operation in Townsville without the appropriate licence?
- (8) Is he aware whether waste being dealt with by each of these autoclave facilities is being properly segregated?
- (9) Are these autoclave facilities authorised to deal with human tissue and infectious and cytotoxic waste?
- (10) What action is he taking to ensure these facilities are operating in accordance with National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines for the management of clinical wastes?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) Facilities currently receiving medical waste in Queensland are incinerators, autoclaves, chemical disinfection plants and landfills.

(2) The Department knows of seven incineration facilities operating throughout Queensland to receive medical waste. These are located in: Brisbane, Ipswich, Mt Isa, Mackay, Doomadgee, Rockhampton and Thursday Island.

(3) There are currently two autoclave facilities operating in Queensland for the receipt of medical waste. These are located at Yatala and Townsville.

(4) Both autoclave facilities are licensed as Environmentally Relevant Activities under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

(5) As the autoclave facilities hold current licences, no action is necessary.

(6) Australian Waste Services Pty Ltd and RegWaste Australia Pty Ltd own the autoclave facilities.

The incineration facilities are owned by Ace Waste Pty Ltd, Ipswich City Council, Rockhampton Port Authority and Queensland Health.

(7) The autoclave facility in Townsville commenced operation prior to receiving a licence. However, in accordance with the Departmental guideline Enforcement guidelines for Environmental Protection Act 1994, the action taken was to proceed with the processing of the application. The licence was processed within the statutory period, and the facility now has a current licence.

(8) I am advised both autoclave facilities undertake close examination of the waste that is received for processing. Occasionally, waste is found that does not correspond with the waste acceptance criteria as stated in the licence. When this occurs, the waste is removed and placed in containers for disposal in an appropriate manner. The occurrence of incorrect wastes being found in the waste to be autoclaved is low.

(9) The autoclave facilities are licensed to accept infectious clinical and related wastes, including sharps, blood-soaked dressings and disposable linen, blood and body fluids and human and animal tissue. They are not authorised to accept human or animal body parts or cytotoxic waste.

(10) Licence conditions placed on autoclave facilities take into consideration any existing information, guidelines or standards. The licence conditions provide regulatory enforcement under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The guidelines referred to were developed nationally through input from many stakeholder groups. They were not prepared to be enforceable under legislation but to be adopted voluntarily by industry to aid in establishing good operating practices.

712. Diesel Shed, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

With reference to the restructure of the Rockhampton diesel shed—

- (1) How many employees will be required when the restructure is completed?
- (2) How many of these will be "dual" tradespeople?
- (3) Will all electric locomotives continue to be serviced at that diesel shed or is there some truth in the rumour that half of their locomotives are to be transferred to other Queensland Rail business units?
- (4) Why has the proposed redevelopment of the diesel shed been reduced?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97):

- (1) It is now planned that the Rockhampton Locomotive Depot (currently the Rockhampton Diesel Shed) will undertake all scheduled maintenance on the 29 electric locomotives (3900 class) and unscheduled maintenance (repairs) on diesel electric locomotives. Such a workload will necessitate a staff level of no more than 20 locomotive maintainers. QR has given an undertaking however, that all 35 trainee locomotive maintainers will be allowed to complete their training and will be appointed to the Depot. Staff numbers will reduce over time via natural attrition.
- (2) All locomotive maintainers will be dual tradespeople ie with both mechanical fitting and electrical trades.
- (3) Internal QR discussions have taken place regarding the possible use of some electric locomotives (3900 class) in coal traffic, although this is not seen as a likely option at this stage. In any event there are no plans to change the present arrangement whereby all scheduled maintenance on them is undertaken in the Rockhampton Locomotive Depot.
- (4) The proposed redevelopment of the Rockhampton Diesel Shed has been reduced due to the commercial need to reduce QR's capital expenditure. This can be accommodated by reducing the number of locomotives that the Locomotive Depot carries out scheduled

maintenance on. The original proposed redevelopment was based on 29 electric locomotives (3900 class) and 30 diesel electric locomotives. The current proposed redevelopment is only based on the 29 electric locomotives. The 30 diesel electric locomotives will be maintained at either the Stuart Locomotive Depot in Townsville or the new Redbank Locomotive Depot which is expected to be completed in late 1998.

713. Asbestos in Hospitals

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/7/97)—

With reference to audits conducted throughout Queensland to locate, identify and document the presence of materials containing asbestos in hospital buildings—

- (1) What hospitals have had asbestos removed since February 1996 and who were the builders who removed the asbestos?
- (2) How were these builders nominated?
- (3) Where was the material containing asbestos dumped?
- (4) Was the code of practise followed and monitored?

Dr Watson (7/8/97):

(1) Asbestos removal works in hospitals have been undertaken by Q-Build since February 1996 as per the attached list.

There is also a hospitals redevelopment program managed by Queensland Health. Questions in relation to "builders" engaged under the redevelopment program should be directed to the Honourable Mike Horan MLA, Minister for Health.

- (2) Asbestos removals arranged by Q-Build were carried out by selected, quality assured, licensed asbestos removalists. Removalists for this work are included on a pre-qualified list from which Q-Build invites quotations. Removalists were contracted through the accepted tender process and in strict accordance with the requirements of the State Purchasing Policy.
- (3) Materials were disposed of by arrangement at authorised Local Government land fill waste disposal sites in accordance with legislative requirements. The attached list details disposal sites.
- (4) Yes.

714. Government Air Wing

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (8/7/97)—

With reference to the operations of the Government Air Wing in 1996-97—

- (1) What was the total number of flying hours performed by the Government Air Wing in that year, and how did this compare to the budget estimate for flying hours?
- (2) How much was expended on unscheduled maintenance?
- (3) What was the 1996-97 budget for retained revenue from organ retrievals?

Mr Borbidge (7/8/97):

(1) During the 1996-97 financial year a total of 928.6 hours were flown by Government Air Wing aircraft. The estimates for that year were prepared by the Department of Emergency Services on the basis of 620 flying hours.

Because of the increased level of flying hours the Treasury supplemented the Air Wing Sub-Program during the mid year budget review process to the extent of 1000 hours being flown.

(2) No major unscheduled maintenance was required on either aircraft during the last financial year.

(3) The 1996-97 budget, as prepared by the Department of Emergency Services, provided \$296,000 as revenue retention for organ retrievals. This was subsequently adjusted to \$110,000 in the mid year budget review.

715.National Schools Network

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (8/7/97)—

With reference to the National Schools Network (NSN) which has provided significant financial assistance in the form of professional and administrative support to Queensland schools—

(1) How much was expended on the NSN in 1996-97 and will the NSN continue in 1997-98; if so, how will it be funded and to what extent?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97): (1) During the 1996 calendar year NSN funding totalled \$2.2million.

The national coordinating committee of the NSN has agreed to continue funding the salary and infrastructure support for the national coordinator until early 1998, with each state and territory giving a commitment to support their network for a similar period.

716.Family Support Worker Program

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (8/7/97)—

With reference to the Family Support Worker Program—

(1) What is the name, location and region of each service?

(2) What funding is currently allocated to each service?

(3) When was each service funded?

(4) What is the total funding for this program in each departmental region?

(5) What is the total funding for the State as a whole for this program?

Mr Lingard (23/7/97):

(1) A list of the names, locations and region of each service is attached.

(2) Funding for each service with full time workers has recently been increased to \$48,875.00. Two services have half-time workers and their annual payment has been increased to \$24,437.00.

(3) The list provided includes when each service was originally funded.

(4) The list also includes the total funding for this program to each departmental region.

(5) To date, total funding for the State for the whole of this program is \$1,661,749.00 full year effect.

717.Enterprise Bargaining, TAFE Queensland

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (8/7/97)—

With reference to discussions relating to the Industrial Relations proposals, in which it was stated over and over that the new Act would give full flexibility to workers to act independently or as a group, with or without union representation, and as the new Act would also ensure any enterprise bargaining reflected the individual workplace needs—

(1) Why then will he not negotiate with TAFE (Qld) as a single unit as employees have requested?

(2) Why has there been a set enterprise bargaining wage increase of 4 per cent per annum across the varied departments when this fails to give recognition to the fundamental principles of enterprise bargaining flexibility?

Mr Santoro (7/8/97):

(1) A key object of the Workplace Relations Act 1997 is "ensuring the primary responsibility for determining matters affecting the relationship between employers and employees rests with the employer and employees at the workplace or enterprise level." (Section 3(b)) Consistent with this, the Act allows either the employer, the employees or a union to seek to negotiate an enterprise agreement in relation to employees who are employed in a single business or part of a single business (see Sections 12 and 40). Section 25(4) of the Act requires a valid majority of the employees whose employment will be subject to an agreement to have genuinely approved and made the agreement in order for it to be certified by the QIRC. As such it is the employees who have the ultimate say as to whether a proposed agreement is acceptable to them. This, combined with the "no-disadvantage" test, guarantees that the interests of employees at the individual workplace are protected under our legislation.

The decision to pursue enterprise agreements at the Institute level within TAFE Queensland was taken following substantial input from a cross section of key stakeholders including staff members, institute college chairs and local community and industry representatives.

It is the Government's view that the negotiation of agreements with substantial flexibilities at the local level would enable TAFE Institutes to better meet the varied needs of local industries and communities, which is an appropriate response to the increasingly competitive marketplace in which TAFE Queensland operates, whilst still protecting the working conditions of TAFE Queensland employees.

In an attempt to reach a reasonable compromise, on 18 July 1997 I initiated meetings of my Director-General and the Presidents/General Secretaries of the relevant unions with a view to developing system-wide parameters for institute-based

bargaining. These negotiations are yet to be finalised.

(2) The Workplace Relations Act 1997 provides workplaces with the flexibility to ensure that agreements can be reached between employers and employees which reflect the needs of individual workplaces.

In respect of the public sector, the Government in its capacity as employer, has established a reasonable and responsible set of principles within which public sector agencies must negotiate enterprise agreements with staff and/or their unions. These principles were determined in July 1996 and expanded on in November 1996.

The principles include a target maximum quantum for wage increases of 4% per annum, which may only be exceeded under exceptional circumstances (such as significant "buyouts" of working conditions) and only if agencies can fund additional wage increases from improved productivity without a reductions in the delivery of services to clients.

The quantum of 4% per annum was established in support of a target limit on wage increases recommended by the Reserve Bank of Australia and supported by the Federal Government and all other State Governments, in an effort to keep inflation low and encourage economic growth and the creation of jobs. The current inflation rate is 1.7% per annum, making the 4% target an increase in real wages of 2.3% per annum.

As you would be aware, for inflation to remain low, wages growth can only exceed inflation growth by an amount equal to the increase in labour productivity. It has been estimated that productivity improvements will be in the order of 1-1.5% per annum (reinforced for the Queensland public sector in the Report of the Queensland Commission of Audit). By adding the target inflation rate to the estimated growth in productivity, the Reserve Bank has arrived at a target maximum increase in wages of 4-4.5% per annum.

In supporting the Reserve Bank's target for wage increases, the Queensland Government is leading by example in its capacity as an employer, to achieve low inflation rates of 2-3% over the economic cycle.

718. Cystic Fibrosis Unit, Prince Charles Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (8/7/97)—

With reference to the fact that people with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) now have a life expectancy well into adulthood, whereas previously most CF sufferers died before completing their teenage years; and recognising that CF units have traditionally been based mainly in children's hospitals—

Will he respond favourably to the submission by the Cystic Fibrosis Association of Queensland requesting proper funding in 1997-98 for a fully-staffed adult CF unit at the Prince Charles Hospital, or will he and the Treasurer allow the situation to continue where overworked medical and nursing staff are trying to spread sparse resources to too

many patients, which results in unnecessary concern and suffering for CF patients?

Mr Horan (6/8/97): The issues concerning delivery of services to CF patients need to be addressed on a Statewide basis.

There is general agreement amongst service providers that a statewide strategy for the future delivery of adult CF services is required. The submission provided to Queensland Health suggests development of a statewide coordinated hospital based adult and paediatric service. This proposal needs to be considered and costed in detail.

Health Outcomes Unit and Performance Management Branch in Queensland Health are currently working on a plan to identify and evaluate a range of options for delivering adult cystic fibrosis services across Queensland including, taking into account the proposal for a specialised unit at Prince Charles Hospital.

719. Queensland Field Days, Townsville

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/7/97)—

With reference to the recent refusal of North Queensland Field Days Townsville Australia to allow a three day Rural Merchandise Mart in September, which has been approved by the Acting General Manager of the Townsville Correctional Centre, subject to approval being granted by the North Queensland Field Day Committee—

- (1) As this is public land under the control of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, on what basis do the North Queensland Field Days have the right of veto over applications of other organisations wishing to use these public facilities, who are prepared to pay appropriate rental or lease costs?
- (2) As this gives North Queensland Field Days an effective monopoly over the use of public land, controlled by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, what is the specific basis for this right of veto exercised by North Queensland Field Days with the express permission of the management of the Townsville Correctional Centre?

Mr Cooper (31/7/97):

(1) The North Queensland Field Day Committee do not have a right of veto. Over eighteen years that field days have been conducted on this site many improvements have been made by the North Queensland Field Day Committee. These improvements include water, electricity, toilets, and buildings. It has therefore been the policy of the General Manager, Townsville Correctional Centre to consult with the Committee on proposed usage of these facilities.

(2) On 24 April 1997, the North Queensland Field Day Committee advised the General Manager, Townsville Correctional Centre that the North Queensland Field Day Committee agreed, in principle, to the event proposed by James Saddlery, pending the provision of additional information to that already provided by James Saddlery in

correspondence to the Committee dated 22 April 1997.

James Saddlery have not provided the specifics of the proposed event to the satisfaction of the Committee as at 22 July 1997.

The General Manager has explained Centre policy in relation to approved use of the facilities, and its basis, to James Saddlery.

720. Port Road; Lytton Road

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/7/97)—

With reference to the proposed Port Road between the Gateway Arterial Road and Fisherman Island, and to the very dangerous nature of Lytton Road and intersections at Paringa Street, Lindum Road and Pritchard Road—

- (1) What is the proposed route for the Port Road?
- (2) What is the anticipated cost for construction of the Port Road?
- (3) What is the timetable for construction of the Port Road and, in particular, when will construction commence?
- (4) How many traffic accidents resulting in personal injury and how many traffic accidents resulting in fatalities have occurred, in the last ten years, along Lytton Road in the section from the Gateway Bridge to the bridge over the former rail spur at the Ampol Refinery?
- (5) Of these accidents, which have occurred (a) at the intersection of Lytton Road and Paringa Street, (b) between Bulimba Creek and Aquarium Avenue, (c) at the intersection of Lytton Road, Gosport Street and Lindum Road and (d) at the intersection of Lytton Road and Pritchard Street?
- (6) Given that Mr S Golding (Executive Director—South East—Department of Main Roads) told the Parliamentary Estimates Committee on 11 June (p.188) that the Department recognised that "... there are existing aspects of Lytton Road which need fairly urgent attention." and "An intersection with Paringa Road is a safety problem and we recognise that. We are looking at that one in particular." And "We are not planning on any major works in 1997-98.", what action will be taken to upgrade the safety of Lytton Road, and when, in order to stem the ever-increasing number of injuries resulting from a road which is clearly of an inadequate design to service one of Australia's busiest ports, at the same time as providing a major thoroughfare for the people of Wynnum and Manly?
- (7) Does he not recognise that the 4-lane undivided carriageway of Lytton Road at Hemmant is extremely dangerous and that it could, relatively inexpensively, be separated by a raised median street by widening Lytton Road on to the very large verge area on its northern side at Hemmant?

- (8) Will he give a commitment to urgently undertake the upgrading work referred to in questions 6 and 7?

Mr Johnson (7/8/97):

(1) The proposed route for the Port Road has been identified in the Draft—Port Road Impact Assessment Study which was released in October 1995. Following further public consultation in 1995 the interchange at Pritchard Street, Lytton was altered to minimise impact to local vegetation.

(2) The estimated construction cost for the proposed Port Road from the Draft Impact Assessment Study is \$75.22 million with acquisition of the corridor being \$20 million.

(3) The Final—Port Road Impact Assessment Study Report and issues paper has recently been completed following the necessary review period by the participating Advisory bodies to the study. A decision on an outcome of the study findings and recommendations will be announced by Government after Cabinet has deliberated on this important State transport initiative.

(4) From the time of the State gazettal of Lytton Road in July 1994 to the present, the number of traffic accidents have been:

27 minor injuries; 9 hospitalisation; 2 fatalities.

Prior to this and, based on six years of Brisbane City Council records, there were:

40 personal injuries; 4 fatalities.

(5) From July 1994 the accident statistics along Lytton Road at:

Paringa Road intersection—no injury or deaths

Bulimba Creek to Aquarium Avenue—7 minor injury/2 hospitalisation

Gosport Street/Lindum Road intersection—4 minor injury/1 hospitalisation

Pritchard Street intersection—2 minor injury/1 hospitalisation/1 fatality

Brisbane City Council records are:

Paringa Road intersection—1 personal injury

Bulimba Creek to Aquarium Avenue—8 personal injury

Gosport Street/Lindum Road intersection—10 personal injury/1 fatality

Pritchard Street intersection—4 personal injury.

(6) Action is being taken at the moment, as consultant's are preparing plans and estimates for the upgrading of the Paringa Road intersection as well as the Lytton Road interchange with the Gateway Motorway. Based on these estimates and possible staging opportunities, this work will be ranked with other sections of roadway which have a similar or higher accident history than Lytton Road.

(7) Lytton Road is the only distributor road through Hemmant and to divide it by a narrow raised median without appropriate provision for turning manoeuvres would not only disadvantage all the major commercial businesses and trucking operations but also decrease safety. Main Roads' planning has recognised the need to protect the road reserve for future possible six lanes with adequate provision for B-double truck turning manoeuvres.

(8) The necessary steps are under way for the detailed planning and design stages over the restricted two lane section from the Gateway Motorway to Bulimba Creek. A priority is being given to the Paringa Road intersection upgrading to alleviate traffic congestion and improve the road geometry for Gibson Island and general industrial traffic to the area.

721.Rehabilitation of Mines

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/7/97)—

With reference to his use of a figure of \$700m as the total estimated cost for rehabilitation for the mines in Queensland—

- (1) Will he confirm that figure?
- (2) If this amount is correct, on what basis is that figure calculated?
- (3) If he no longer supports the \$700m figure, did he set out to deliberately mislead the people of Queensland as to the true situation on this issue, or was he misled by his department?
- (4) If he was misled by his department, what action has he taken, or will he take to find out which departmental officers sought to mislead a Minister of the Crown and why they should do such a thing?
- (5) If the department did not mislead him and through him the people of Queensland, is it the situation then that the department data base is so inadequate that it honestly produces a figure that respected industry sources predict will turn out to be less than half the true figure; if so, what action has he taken, or will he take to rectify the situation?
- (6) Will he initiate an audit, internal inquiry or review of some sort to get to the bottom of this matter; if not, why not?
- (7) Given the massive amounts of toxic materials, acid mine drainage and salinity silt that can be produced from mining operations, does he agree that it is vital for both him and his department to have accurate, reliable and up to date information about the management and regulation of mine site rehabilitation?

Mr Gilmore (29/7/97):

- (1) I confirm that in November 1996 I indicated that the total liability for rehabilitation of mines in Queensland was estimated to be \$700 million.
- (2) The amount was calculated from the Department of Mines and Energy's MERLIN data base which lists the liability for each mining project. This information is supplied to the Department of Mines and Energy by mining lease holders through their Plans of Operations. Each Plan of Operations is accompanied by an environmental audit statement that the Plan of Operations is consistent with the environmental management overview strategy for the mining project.
- (3) The most recent estimate of total liability for rehabilitation of mines in Queensland, calculated from the MERLIN data base in May 1997, is \$774 million.
- (4) I was not misled by the Department.

(5) There are a number of reasons why different people could generate different estimates of the total liability. The Department has the advantage of a data base with information on all current mining projects.

The data base is not infallible, but is more reliable than an educated guess.

The MERLIN data base records the company's estimate of potential rehabilitation liability, the required security and the security held. The MERLIN data base is a strategic data base of the Department and as such is maintained diligently.

The data base does not include data on mines which are no longer covered by mining tenures and generally does not include the cost of rehabilitating historic mining sites currently under mining tenure where there has been a break in the mining tenure since the mining took place. These would increase the total liability by several percent but would not double the figure.

The appropriate way to handle abandoned mines and the method of calculating rehabilitation liability and security deposit requirements for current mining projects have received detailed investigation by the committee preparing the EPP for Mining and Petroleum Industries.

(6) There is no evidence of deception or fundamental deficiencies in the MERLIN data base. The Department regularly checks the data base and is currently investigating a number of Plans of Operations which are recorded as being no longer current. A full evaluation of the Environmental Compliance Program is also under way. It will involve persons from outside the Department. The evaluation is part of a systematic evaluation of all programs as required by the Financial Administration and Audit Act and is not an indication that this program is at fault. The MERLIN data base is under continual review and a major redevelopment is currently being tested.

(7) I can assure the Member for Archerfield and the Queensland public that I will not tolerate inadequate environmental management of any mining operation. Modern mining practice is striving for no release of toxic material from a mine site during its operational phase and also after mining has ceased. In specific cases where some release may be necessary, conditions are placed on the discharge to ensure that it is managed to prevent or minimise any environmental harm.

The amount of security deposits held is only one factor in ensuring good environmental management. Other more important factors include good environmental design and operating practices and a financially stable mining industry which is able to complete its mining projects. The Department's Technical Guidelines for the Environmental Management of Exploration and Mining in Queensland are highly regarded throughout Australia.

722.Palm Beach Police Station

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/7/97)—

With reference to comments made by him in the Gold Coast Bulletin, regarding the Palm Beach Police Station—

- (1) Will any police officers be drawn from the Coolangatta and Burleigh Heads Police Stations to staff the Palm Beach Police Station?
- (2) How many officers will be located at the Palm Beach Police Station when it opens?
- (3) How many civilians will be employed at the Palm Beach Police Station?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97):

(1) Between six and ten additional police will be assigned to the new Palm Beach Police Station. These police will be in addition to the South Eastern Region's present entitlement under the staffing allocation model.

Further police will be assigned to the Palm Beach Police Station from elsewhere within the South Eastern Region and from additional growth in the sworn strength of the Region (which will be finalised in Sept/Oct 97). The precise number of police to be reassigned to the Palm Beach Police Station from elsewhere within South Eastern Region has yet to be determined, and will depend in part on the final boundaries of the new Palm Beach Police Division, but it is anticipated that the additional growth in the Region during 1997/98 will be between 35-40 new positions.

(2) It is anticipated that the total initial establishment for the Palm Beach Police Station will be between 16-22 officers.

(3) The allocation of civilian positions throughout the Service is presently being determined. It is anticipated that 1 (one) Administrative Officer will be assigned to the Palm Beach Police Station.

723. Birthing Unit, Bundaberg Base Hospital

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (8/7/97)—

With reference to the State Government's decision to close the birthing unit at the Bundaberg Base Hospital and the representations made by the public and myself to retain the services of this unit—

- (1) Why did the Government close this birthing unit?
- (2) Why are these services being offered in other areas of Queensland yet closed in Bundaberg?
- (3) In the interests of equity and fairness for birthing mothers and their families in Bundaberg will he intercede in this issue and reinstate this very important service to the Bundaberg region?

Mr Horan (6/8/97):

(1) The Birthing Unit was one of a number of pilot projects funded through the Commonwealth Birthing Services Program which was always known to be time-limited funding ending on 30 June 1997.

Commonwealth funded programs such as the Birthing Unit are undertaken as pilot or demonstration projects to examine the advantages and disadvantages of implementing different models

of care. The aim is to incorporate positive aspects of these programs into existing health service settings, not to develop ongoing separate services. Consequently, the Bundaberg Hospital Women's Unit now provides a range of birthing services which increase the choices available to women. These options include:

Midwifery clinics which are conducted four days a week.

Women are given choices for labour and the birthing process, with encouragement for delivery in their chosen position, whilst being supported by a midwife.

Families are encouraged at antenatal classes and at birth to participate in the entire delivery process.

The Women's Unit physical environment has been improved to reflect a more homely environment.

Bundaberg Base Hospital now offers an extended midwifery service. Midwives from the Women's Unit visit mothers at home for up to two weeks post-discharge.

The hospital's Education Centre has developed a Workshop for midwives, who, following certification by medical staff, can perform minor birthing medical procedures. This will decrease the waiting time for women in the birthing area and maintains privacy and dignity as the midwife is already known to the mother.

(2) Each District Health Service is responsible for making operational decisions about local service delivery. These decisions are dependent on priorities and the need to manage within the context of a finite budget.

Some Districts have determined to continue alternative birthing services and to absorb the cost into their base budgets. The model trialled at Bundaberg under the Commonwealth program resulted in duplication of resources with the traditional Women's Unit service. Also, cost savings were not reliable and a major contributing factor was the location of the existing Women's Unit in a poorly designed, labour-intensive setting.

Continuation of the Birthing Program as a separate service after the Commonwealth funding ceased would have resulted in additional costs that would compromise other services provided by the District. The most cost-effective approach for the Bundaberg District Health Service at this stage was therefore to combine as many of the positive aspects of the program as possible into the existing Women's Health Unit service.

(3) There is no need to intercede, as the service has not closed. Services delivered by the existing Bundaberg Hospital Women's Unit have been changed to incorporate valuable components of the Family Birthing Program.

Queensland health has recognised the benefits of midwifery models of care. Additionally, a Health Outcomes Unit has been established to examine a range of different models in order to develop birthing services which are targeted on expanding birthing choices to women.

724. Strategic Plan for State Land on Bribie Island

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (8/7/97)—

With reference to the strategic plan for the State lands on Bribie Island being prepared by the Department of Natural Resources—

- (1) Will he confirm that a draft document is circulating within his department and other departments with an interest in the matter?
- (2) Will he advise whether or not this document recognises that sand mining is a potential use for some of those State lands?
- (3) Will he indicate when the final document will be released?

Mr Hobbs (4/8/97):

- (1) Yes, a draft document is circulating within my Department and the Department of Environment.
- (2) The document recognises that sand mining was an issue in earlier consultation processes but indicates that such use is not under consideration.
- (3) The document will be released after detailed consideration by Government.

725. Firefighters

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/7/97)—

Which fire stations, of those staffed by full-time officers of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, have only one officer rostered on a shift at a time, for any part of the 24 hours, and which fire stations have only two officers rostered on for any shift for any part of the 24 hours and which stations, as a matter of recent practice, generally have only one or two officers rostered on at a time?

Mr Veivers (7/8/97): Fire Stations which have one officer rostered on a shift at a time, for any part of the 24 hours are:

Mossman—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Kingaroy—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Stanthorpe—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Bribie Is—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Deception Bay—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Proserpine—1 officer on day shift, 7 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Yeppoon—1 officer per shift—24 hour coverage/7 days a week plus auxiliary backup

Emu Park—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Mt Morgan—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Ayr—1 officer on duty from 1600-0800 hrs plus auxiliary backup

Bowen—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Home Hill—1 officer on day shift, 5 days per week plus auxiliary backup

Fire Stations which have two fire officers rostered on for any shift for any part of the 24 hours are:

Warwick—officers (24 hours a day) plus auxiliary backup

Gympie—2 officers (24 hours a day) plus auxiliary backup

Noosa—2 officers (24 hours a day) plus auxiliary backup

Atherton—1 officer on duty from 0600 hrs to 1400 hrs; 1 officer on duty from 0800 hrs to 1600hrs; 1 officer on duty from 1000 hrs to 1800hrs. Therefore from 0600hrs to 0800 hrs and 1600hrs to 1800hrs the station is staffed by 1 officer.

Mareeba—1 officer on duty from 0600 hrs to 1400 hrs; 1 officer on duty from 0800 hrs to 1600hrs; 1 officer on duty from 1000 hrs to 1800hrs. Therefore from 0600hrs to 0800 hrs and 1600hrs to 1800hrs the station is staffed by 1 officer.

The Chief Commissioner assures me that current staffing policy is reflective of the needs of the community and is under constant review.

726. Sale of Cigarettes to Minors

Mr HOLLIS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (9/7/97)—

With reference to the growing open use of tobacco products by young people and many who are still attending primary school—

- (1) What is the law in regard to the sale of cigarettes to underage children?
- (2) Is this law being enforced; if not, why not?
- (3) Whose responsibility is it to ensure that cigarettes are not being sold to underage children?
- (4) How many shop owners are prosecuted for selling cigarettes to minors?
- (5) If there are not prosecutions for selling cigarettes to minors, why not?

Mr Beanland (8/8/97): (1) to (5) All of these matters are covered by the provisions of the Juvenile Smoking Suppression Act 1905, which Act is administered by my ministerial colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Health. There are no issues in the matters raised in the Question which relate to my portfolio.

727. Inertisation Equipment for Use in Coal Mines

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (9/7/97)—

With reference to Recommendation 11 ("Inertisation") of the Report on an Accident at Moura No. 2 Mine on 7 August 1994, which, in part, reads:—

"It is further recommended that funds be made available through the Queensland Government in order to obtain such a system, such that the 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."—

- (1) What equipment options are being considered by him and the Department of Mines for purchase?
- (2) When will a decision be made on the preferred option?
- (3) What is the expected cost of the preferred option?
- (4) Does he and the Chief Inspector of Mines intend to ignore the recommendation of the Mining Warden and place the equipment under the control of SIMTARS?

Mr Gilmore (29/7/97):

(1) The Warden's Report into the 1994 Moura No 2 accident recommended the Government purchase appropriate inertisation equipment for use in Queensland coal mines.

The Only inertisation equipment that I or the Department of Mines and Energy will consider for purchase will be that which is recommended by Task Group 5. Task group 5 has considered a broad range of inert gas generators available throughout the world. Gas outputs from these units range from 0.5 m³/sec (Tomlinson Boiler) to 20m³/sec (GAG-3A Polish jets). The increasing methane gas levels in the coal seams of Central Queensland is a matter that was seriously considered in the selection of the equipment. We need to have inertisation equipment that meets the safety needs of our mines, both now and into the future.

Use of this equipment will assist mines prevent disasters causing multiple loss of life as well as loss of coal reserves due to fires and explosions. This meets the Government objectives of mines being safe places for people to work and companies to invest in.

A special Task Force 5 was convened by the Moura Implementation Committee with membership comprising all Government/industry sectors. This Task Force conducted a study of industry needs in Queensland.

The study proved that a risk of fire and explosion existed in most large underground coal mines in Queensland, and no mines have access to even moderate supplies of inert gases.

Following an extensive study of various systems available elsewhere in the mining world, the Task Group selected the Polish GAG-3A system of inertisation for further assessment.

The Polish GAG-3A jet engine high capacity inert gas generation system, capable of controlling underground mine fires, will assist mine safety in Central Queensland underground coal mines. All Queensland underground coal operators could potentially use the equipment which must also be in a form that is readily transportable from mine to mine.

My Department, through the Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station (SIMTARS), successfully

demonstrated the GAG Unit at Collinsville No 2 Underground Mine in April/May. It was pleasing that this demonstration testing was largely funded by industry, with a significant contribution through my Department. The scientific results of the demonstration have now been analysed and a report recently provided to Task Force 5.

Concurrently a low volume inertisation unit (the Tomlinson Boiler) has been under assessment at underground coal mines in Queensland. This demonstration was funded by industry and the unit may have the potential to satisfy the productive inertisation needs of coal mines.

In this regard, the unit is only suitable for inertising small areas in underground mines and is thus not suited for high volume inertisation capability required to seal large bord and pillar extraction panels, and to respond to major mine emergencies.

(2) Task Group 5 are now in the process of releasing their final report including recommendations which I understand will endorse purchase of the GAG 3A high volume flow equipment.

This decision will be reviewed by the Moura Implementation Committee which I have established to implement all Moura Recommendations.

I expect to be in receipt of the final recommendation during the next few weeks.

(3) The expected cost of the GAG Unit is in the order of \$600 000, which includes basic spare parts and essential training by the overseas supplies of this equipment.

(4) The Chief Inspector of Mines is the Chairman of Task Group 5. He thus contributes to the overall recommendation of the Tripartite Committee whose recommendation endorsing the GAG unit has been unanimous.

I am advised that the Task Group 5 report endorses the recommendations of the Mining Warden in that the inertisation equipment will be the responsibility of the QMRB, with SIMTARS providing expert scientific assistance in gas monitoring and interpretation.

728.Schools, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (9/7/97)—

With reference to the unacceptable cost on the community of arson, break-ins and vandalism at schools—

- (1) For the last five years, which State schools within the Lytton electorate have reported break-ins, and in what number?
- (2) For the last five years, which State schools within the Lytton electorate have experienced arson and vandalism attacks, and in what number?
- (3) Which State schools in the Lytton electorate have comprehensive electronic security systems fitted?
- (4) Which schools in the Lytton electorate do not have them?

- (5) Which State schools within the Lytton electorate have electronic fire alarm systems fitted?
- (6) Which schools in the Lytton electorate do not have them?
- (7) Of those schools which do not have comprehensive electronic security systems fitted, when, if at all, are they proposed to be fitted?
- (8) Of those schools which do not have electronic fire alarm systems fitted, when, if at all, are they proposed to be fitted?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97):

(1) For the last five years State schools within the Lytton electorate have reported the following break-ins: Darling Point Special—1, Lindum State School—8, Lota State School—10, Manly State School—33, Manly West State School—11, Wondall Heights SS—23, Wynnum State High School—16, Wynnum Central State School—10, Wynnum North State School—17, Wynnum North State High School—14, Wynnum West State School—25.

(2) For the last five years State Schools within the Lytton electorate have reported fires and vandalism incidents as follows: Lindum State School—no fires, 1 vandalism; Lota State School—no fires, 3 vandalism; Manly State School—2 fires, 43 vandalism; Manly West State School—no fires, 12 vandalism; Wondall Heights State School—no fires, 24 vandalism; Wynnum State High School—2 fires, 42 vandalism; Wynnum Central SS—1 fire, 5 vandalism; Wynnum North State School—3 fires, 18 vandalism; Wynnum North State High School—no fires, 4 vandalism; Wynnum West State School—no fires, 25 vandalism.

(3) The following state schools within the Lytton electorate currently have official electronic security systems: Lindum State School, Manly State School, Wondall Heights State School, Wynnum State High School, Wynnum Central State School, Wynnum North State School, and Wynnum North State High School.

(4) The following State schools within the Lytton electorate do not currently have official electronic security systems fitted: Darling Point Special School, Lota State School, Manly West State School, and Wynnum West State School.

(5) Official electronic security systems normally incorporate smoke alarms in the school resource centre. These smoke alarms report to the Central Operations Room of State Government Security as a fire alert. In addition, the intruder detectors are generally activated by fire, again being monitored by State Government Security. Therefore all State schools within the Lytton electorate which have official electronic security systems also have a measure of fire alarm incorporated.

(6) No State schools are provided with a dedicated fire alarm reporting to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority. Therefore the State schools within the Lytton electorate listed above as having no official electronic security system do not have fire alarm systems.

(7) Of the four State schools within the Lytton electorate which do not currently have official electronic security systems, Wynnum West State School is the only one which has been given a very high risk rating in the regional risk review recently completed. If resources are available in the Building Better Schools Security Upgrade Program in 1997/98, it is likely that Wynnum West State School will receive a complete security upgrade. The position of the other schools may be reviewed if an emergent situation warrants such action. However again, any consequent security upgrading would be dependent on available resources.

(8) It is not intended at this time to fit electronic fire alarm systems to any State schools.

729. Ms P. Hanson; Police Presence at One Nation Party Launches

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/7/97)—

With reference to the recent public launches of Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party and the use of police to monitor demonstrations outside meeting venues—

- (1) At which meetings of the Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party have Queensland police been used to monitor demonstrations?
- (2) How many police have been used at each of the One Nation Party launches?
- (3) Who requested the presence of Queensland police at these One Nation launches?
- (4) Were any police paid overtime to monitor these demonstrations; if so, how many police have been paid overtime and at which One Nation launches?
- (5) What is the total overtime bill incurred by the Queensland Police Service to provide a police presence at One Nation Party launches to date?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97):

(1 & 2) Queensland Police have been in attendance at the following launches of Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party:

Municipal Theatre, Rockhampton, 18 April 1997—39 officers

Hervey Bay, 8 May 1997—11 officers

Kawana Waters, Sunshine Coast, 23 May 1997—40 officers

Burrum Heads, 28 May 1997—2 officers

Maryborough, 4 June 1997—2 officers

Cairns Showgrounds, 14 June 1997—80 officers

Gold Coast Arts Centre, Bundall, 1 July 1997—89 officers

Townsville, 21 July 1997—7 officers

(3) For the Rockhampton launch, police were utilised at the direction of the Rockhampton District Officer and the Supervising Inspector for the Rockhampton police complex, the decision made based on all available intelligence and a commitment to maintain

public order and to ensure the safety of all people present.

For the Sunshine Coast launch, the request for police assistance was made by Dr Ettridge, National Director of the One Nation Party. No requests were made for police to attend the launches at Hervey Bay, Burrum Heads, or Maryborough, however, the Maryborough Police District Officer decided to send officers as a result of intelligence provided to him.

With regard to the launch at the Cairns Showgrounds, police were notified by the organiser, Mr Selwyn Johnson, of the venue being used. Senior Police Management for the Far Northern Region decided to provide a police presence at the meeting after considering the amount of violence displayed at previous meetings in Adelaide and Canberra.

At the Gold Coast launch, Gold Coast Police District Management directed the planning and operation to ensure community safety issues were addressed, although no formal request was made from the One Nation Party for police to attend.

At Townsville, no official request was made for police to attend the launch, but, given recent public responses to similar launches, the Townsville District Officer considered it to be in the best interests of public safety for police to monitor the situation.

(4) Yes. 12 officers were paid overtime for the Rockhampton launch, no overtime was paid to officers for any of the launches in the North Coast Region, one officer was paid overtime for the launch at Cairns, 14 police officers were paid overtime for the Gold Coast launch, and no overtime was paid to officers at Townsville.

(5) The total overtime bill to date which has been incurred by the Queensland Police Service to provide a police presence at launches of the One Nation Party is \$2874.96.

730.Bridge, Granville

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/7/97)—

With reference to an answer to a Question on Notice on 5 September 1996 regarding an additional bridge across the Mary River to Granville, in which he stated that a 1989 study identified the need for an additional bridge as low priority and that the Bundaberg office of Main Roads had concept planning proposed to commence in the next two years and in light of a recent survey of Granville residents which indicated that 83 per cent of respondents now believe that it is extremely important that an additional bridge be built to cope with the growing population in Granville and the coastal zones along the Cooloola Coast Highway—

Will he reconsider his position and make a firm commitment to the citizens of Maryborough that he will take immediate action to secure a corridor and commence planning for an additional bridge?

Mr Johnson (8/8/97): Prior to commencing any planning, it is appropriate that there be consultation with Maryborough City Council to determine the extent of community need for the new bridge and associated roadworks.

Main Roads representatives will arrange a meeting with Council shortly to discuss community expectations, the study process and when it should be carried out.

A concept planning study for an additional crossing of the Mary River would identify a route for the road and the bridge site and, thus, allow a road corridor to be preserved.

The concept planning would include public consultation and consideration of environmental factors and other impacts.

The timing of commencement of work on this planning will be dependant on discussions with Maryborough City Council.

731.Sandgate Dental Clinic

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health (9/7/97)—

With reference to the Sandgate Dental Clinic—

- (1) What is the current waiting time for a person requiring new dentures, repairs to existing dentures, or a person seeking an appointment for a check-up?
- (2) How many full-time and part-time dentists are currently employed at the clinic?
- (3) What is the clinic's normal staffing capacity ie how many dentists and administrative staff are usually employed on a full-time basis?
- (4) Are there any plans to undertake any improvements or refurbishment of the clinic during 1997-98?
- (5) During the past two financial years, what refurbishment or improvements have been carried out and what was the total costs involved?
- (6) What is the operating budget for the clinic for 1997-98 and is this an increase on the budget allocation for 1996-97 or has there been a reduction in the clinic's operating budget for 1997-98?

Mr Horan (7/8/97):

- (1) The current waiting time for new dentures is 15 months. Repairs to existing dentures are within one working day. The waiting time for routine check-ups is 18 months.
- (2) There are 4.2 full time equivalent Dentists working at the clinic.
- (3) The clinics normal staffing capacity is:
 - 4.2 Dentists
 - 5.0 Dental Assistants
 - 3.0 Dental Technicians
 - 2.0 Administrative Staff
- (4) Yes, there are plans for improvement of the clinic during 1997-98 and they are as follows:
 - Refurbishment of surgeries with respect to cabinetry
 - New x-ray machines in each surgery and lead lining of walls
 - Improved infection control equipment
 - Cassette system for dental instruments

(5) Improvements in 1995/96:

Computerised clinical management system
 Improved reception and administration area
 New switchboard
 Total cost \$37,400

Improvements in 1996/97:

Four new dental chairs, units and lights
 Four new Siemens autoclaves
 New reception seating
 Completion of reception, office area and waiting room
 Total cost \$97,000

(6) The budget allocations for 1997/98, 1996/97 and the variation are as follows:

Operating budget for 1997/98 is \$944,100
 Operating budget for 1996/97 was \$893,300
 Increase for 1997/98 is \$50,800

Minerals Social Impact Study, Mt Isa social and economic impact study—\$0.60m

Audit Commission Implementation Office operating costs—\$1.90m

Remote Access Power Scheme, Rebates to residents in remote areas—\$2.00m

BHP Royalty Refunds, BHP paid excess for coal freight in 1995 and 1996—\$8.00m

Brisbane Festival Funding—\$0.70m

Native Title, Establishment of Native Title Tribunal—\$1.50m

Additional Inmates, To house inmates in secure and open correctional centres—\$6.00m

Papaya Fruit Fly, Eradication and monitoring—\$1.11m

International Market Development Program—\$4.00m

Miscellaneous—\$3.43m

TOTAL—\$41.80m

732. Advance Account

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/7/97)—

With reference to her answer to Estimates Committee A Question on Notice B8 asking for a detailed schedule of amounts transferred from the Treasurer's Advance, which indicated that the second largest item on the list provided was "Other Purposes" with a value of \$41.8m—

What are the detailed items and respective amounts for each of the expenditures contained in the "Other Purposes" category?

Mrs Sheldon (8/8/97): The amount of \$41.8M indicated in Estimates Committee A Question on Notice B8 comprised estimated expenditure for a number of items, the majority of which are not of significant size to have previously warranted separate identification. Details of these items are listed below.

ITEM—ESTIMATED ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

Kangaroo Point Boardwalk, Litigation costs JL Holdings compensation case—\$0.37m

Queensland Events Corporation, Grants and incentives for events in Queensland—\$0.25m

Electoral Commission By-election Costs—\$0.20m

Accelerated competitive bidding process to secure new electricity generating capacity in Qld for 1999-2000—\$0.16m

Commercial in confidence payments—\$7.63m

Regional Drought Initiatives, State matching of Commonwealth contribution—\$0.50m

Moura Mine Inquiry, Implementation of recommendations—\$0.43m

Kuranda Infrastructure, To Mareeba Shire Council for Skyrail infrastructure—\$0.17m

Land Regional Assessments, Implementation of Comprehensive Assessments—\$1.20m

Queensland Competition Authority, Provision for establishment costs—\$1.65m

733. Ministerial Expenditure

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (9/7/97)—

What is the cost to the public for Queensland Government Ministers travelling overseas since February 1996 in air fares, hospitality, accommodation, other travel and incidentals and what is the total for each minister under each of those headings, for each trip, together with the relevant dates and venues?

Mr Borbidge (8/8/97): As the Honourable Member would be aware I tabled in accordance with the guidelines for the financial management of the Office of the Minister the expenses of the Ministers of the Crown for the 1995-1996 financial year on 25 March 1997.

I will table the expenses of the Ministers of the Crown for 1996-1997 financial year shortly.

As the Honourable Member would also be aware every Minister must comply with the requirements of the Members' Salaries, Allowances and Services Handbook and furnish a report to the Parliament on any overseas visit.

I refer the Honourable Member to those reports and documents.

734. Tyto Wetlands

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (9/7/97)—

With reference to his Budget Estimates Debate in which he made mention of a delegation that the member for Hinchinbrook brought to him regarding a development in the Tyto wetlands in his electorate—

- (1) What precisely is the proposed tourist development and where are the Tyto wetlands?
- (2) Who are the proponents of the proposal and is a company called Australian Environment International involved?
- (3) Is land, either owned or leased by the member for Burdekin, involved in the proposal?
- (4) Are local environmentalists aware of the proposal and supportive of it?

- (5) Will it be subject to an environmental impact study before final decisions are taken on it proceeding?
- (6) What role does the Minister for Environment have to play in the proposal?

Mr Davidson (7/8/97):

(1) The project proposed for the Tyto Wetlands is an interpretative and educational eco-tourism experience. The 190 hectare wetland site will be enhanced through a management program overseen by a prominent wildlife specialist with assistance from the Department of Environment. Strategic earthworks will reinstate natural lagoon features and overcome adverse impacts caused by introduced paragrass. Removal of weed species and selective planting of endemic native wetland trees and other plants will enhance the number and diversity of bird species visiting the site.

The Tyto Wetlands are covered by Lot 125 on CWL 3109 and Lot 45 on CP855061, Parish of Trebonne, Hinchinbrook Shire. The site is one kilometre west of the Ingham Town Centre, and within walking distance of all major transit routes.

The site is of high ecological significance, as it forms part of the Herbert River Floodplain Wetlands Complex which has been nominated for inclusion on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

(2) The proponent of the proposal is the Hinchinbrook Shire Council. The proponent has no knowledge of a company called Australian Environment International.

Project Management Team will include a range of community (North Queensland Economic Development Board, Development Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires), environmental (Queensland Department of Environment, Department of Natural Resources), indigenous (Girrigun Reference Group, Waragamay Native Title Holders, Nwaygi Native Title Holders) and employment (NQ Area Consultative Committee, CES) groups.

(3) The land concerned is Unallocated State Land.

(4) The following groups are aware of the proposal, and are supportive of same :

North Queensland Conservation Council
 Wet Tropics Tree Planting Scheme
 Herbert River Catchment Coordinating Committee

The project also has the full support and endorsement of local Naturalist and Wildlife Consultant, John Young.

(5) Verbal support from Department of Environment indicates that no Environmental Impact Assessment is required before this project can proceed.

(6) The Department of Environment supports the project, and acknowledges that appropriate developments such as proposed boardwalks and bird hides will assist in presenting conservation values to the broader community, without significantly impacting on the site.

Funding application through the Natural Heritage Trust Program has been made to the Department of Environment.

735. Petrie State School

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Education (9/7/97)—

With reference to the urgent need for the expansion of hall facilities at Petrie State School, will he advise why a school is only eligible to receive a hall subsidy once, even though it was made 21 years ago and the school population is now 5 times greater than the present hall seating arrangements?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97): Education Queensland operates a subsidy funding scheme which assists state school parents and citizens associations to undertake a specific range of projects on school sites.

Assistance is provided through the School Improvement Assistance Scheme (SIAS) by way of a dollar for dollar subsidy for funds generated by a parents and citizens association. This subsidy is available for eligible projects at state pre, primary, secondary, special and distance education schools.

School halls are among the list of eligible projects under the subsidy scheme.

Governments have limited resources and no scheme, including the School Improvement Assistance Scheme administered by Education Queensland, can provide unlimited funding.

To ensure the restricted funds are available for distribution to as many schools as possible it is essential that maximum limits of subsidy assistance are applied to each category of eligible project and further, that access to subsidy funds for major projects such as school halls and swimming pool complexes is limited to a once only occasion per school.

The 1997/98 SIAS subsidy program includes approximately ten hall projects. It would be considered inappropriate to allocate the limited funding towards the upgrade of an existing school hall to the detriment of a school endeavouring to achieve construction of its first hall.

The Petrie State School Parents and Citizens Association received the maximum subsidy limit, applicable at the time, towards its school hall project and would therefore be ineligible for further subsidy assistance for works associated with the existing building or towards a new hall complex.

736. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/7/97)—

(1) Did the funding for subsidised equipment for rural fire brigades run out after four months during 1996-97?

(2) How long will the funds available for subsidised equipment be likely to last in 1997-98?

Mr Veivers (8/8/97):

(1) Funding for subsidised equipment did not run out after four months in 1996/97. The majority of funds available for subsidised equipment is allocated between the 14 District Inspectors of the Rural Fire Division who approve the ordering of equipment by their brigades based upon their share of the allocated funds. It may well have been the case that

individual District Inspectors expended their allocated funds on bulk brigade orders within the first few months of the 1996/97 financial year in anticipation of the forthcoming fire season.

Conversely, brigades in country areas, such as that covered by the Roma District Inspector, historically order in the second half of the financial year. Accordingly, I can advise that the Rural Fire Division was still filling orders and purchasing equipment throughout the 1996/97 financial year.

(2) For the reasons noted in my response to part (1) of this question, the Rural Fire Division expects that funds will remain available throughout 1997/98.

737. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/7/97)—

With reference to the proposal to increase the budget for support staff for rural brigades and division coordination by \$0.43m—

Will he please detail the job descriptions of support staff who will be employed out of this fund, with an indicative budget for the employment for each of those support staff, and provide information relating to the rural fire service purposes that will be achieved as a result of the additional staff?

Mr Veivers (8/8/97): The 1997/98 budget for the Rural Fire Division provides an increase of approximately \$496,000 over 1996/97 for salaries, wages and related costs. Further additional amounts have been made available for items such as office space, motor vehicles, communication costs and the purchase of office equipment and maintenance.

The 1997/98 Budget includes provision for: the employment of new staff; making permanent some long term temporary positions; and the enhancement of working hours for existing staff.

New Staff

The Rural Fire Division intends to appoint the following new staff: five additional Training Officers, a Fire Management Officer, a Research and Development Officer, an Executive Assistant and one administrative officer.

Training Officers are responsible for providing training management and instructional support to rural fire brigades. Approximately \$84,000 is required to employ and use each Training Officer, including the cost of brigade training courses. Seven Training Officers are currently employed to cover the 14 District Inspector's areas in rural Queensland.

The Fire Management Officer will assist in the development, implementation and monitoring of fire management planning with local authorities. The Officer will also provide an initial investigative service for rural fires. These services have not previously been available. Approximately \$130,000 has been budgeted to employ and use this Officer.

The Research and Development Officer will undertake whole of Division research across a range of fire management and volunteer issues. This service has not previously been available. Approximately \$130,000 has been budgeted to employ and use this Officer.

The existing position of Executive Secretary will be abolished and replaced by the new position of Executive Assistant. This position will provide a high level of secretarial and administrative support to the Commissioner (Rural Operations). A sum of approximately \$10,000 above the amount allocated for the previous position will be required.

A new Administrative Officer position will be created. This position will assist in the performance of routine administrative and financial functions of Rural Fire Division headquarters. Approximately \$35,000 has been budgeted to employ and use this person.

Permanency for long term temporary positions

Two positions that have been staffed by long term temporary employees will be converted to permanent status. The first position will be one employed primarily to manage the volunteer data base of the Rural Fire Division. The second position will provide administrative support to the Planning & Support Section of Rural Fire Division Headquarters. Minimal additional costs are anticipated.

Enhancement of employment hours for existing staff

Administrative Officers are employed on a casual basis in each District Office and perform the routine administrative and financial functions of those offices. Approximately \$53,000 has been allocated to permit employment of the existing Administrative Officers for longer periods each week.

738. Moving Ahead Post-school Services Program

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (9/7/97)—

With reference to the "Moving Ahead" program—

- (1) What access will students with an intellectual disability who currently attend either non-Government schools or State secondary schools, other than special schools, have to this program upon completing high school?
- (2) What is the maximum funding which will be available to each individual in the program?
- (3) How many of the 106 Queensland students eligible to access the first phase of this program are currently receiving services?

Mr Lingard (23/7/97):

- (1) The number of students with intellectual disabilities attending non-Government schools is not known. However, my Department has been contacted by parents of young people attending non-Government schools and a number of teachers in these schools regarding the eligibility of these young people to access the Moving Ahead Post-school Services Program. This contact is currently being followed up by officers of the Department and the identified young people will be included in the pool of young people with disabilities considered for entry to the program later this year. Non-Government schools providing education to young people with severe disabilities and these students' parents are encouraged to contact my Department to discuss eligibility and will not be excluded from the program because of exercising their parental choice in enrolling their child in a non-Government school.

Departmental officers have made contact with the Association of Independent Schools of Queensland and discussions will continue to ensure non-government schools are fully informed regarding the Moving Ahead Program.

It is recognised that not every student with an intellectual disability enrolled in the State school system attends a special school. Education Queensland has provided information on students with intellectual disabilities accessing State secondary schools and the School of Distance Education. These young people will also be included in the general pool of young people with disabilities considered for entry to the program later in the year.

(2) The maximum level of funding available to each young person is \$16,500 per year. This funding is for the purchase of supports. The cost of transport and equipment is considered separate to this funding.

(3) The initial figures provided by Education Queensland indicated that there were 106 young people with severe disabilities, enrolled in special schools, who had accepted the option to remain at school until June 1997. Of these original 106, 80 young people are either now accessing the program or arrangements are under way for them to do so. The decrease in numbers occurred for a range of reasons including a number of young people and their families declining the program, a number of young people were accepted into open employment or supported employment prior to the implementation of the program and two young people died during the implementation phase. Currently 71 approvals of support packages have been completed and the majority of these 71 young people are currently receiving services or are in discussions with service providers about their supports. Families have been actively involved in the recruiting and training of support workers through their preferred service provider. Of the balance of 9 young people, 5 young people have indicated they do not require a service at this time but will be reviewed within the next 6 months, 3 young people have not decided on who their service provider should be and one young person and her family have not returned from overseas.

739. Nursing Home Type Patients in Acute Care Hospitals

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (9/7/97)—

With reference to his Ministerial Program Statement (Page 26) regarding residential cover—

- (1) Why was there a doubling in the number of nursing home type patients in acute care hospitals?
- (2) How many beds at Royal Brisbane Hospital are occupied by nursing home type patients?
- (3) What effect does it have on nursing home type patients to be held in acute facilities?

Mr Horan (6/8/97):

(1) There was not a doubling of the number of nursing home type patients in acute hospitals as is shown by the data on occupied bed days, which fell from 227,334 to 204,765. The difference between

1996-97 Estimated and Estimated actual figures for admissions for Nursing Home Type Patients in Acute Hospitals for the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 results from an enhancement in the recording process for admission data. The recording of 'episodes of care' was introduced from 1 July 1995 to enable the recording of discrete periods of care where there may be more than one episode of care recorded for any single hospital stay. The estimated 1996/97 admission figures were based on 1994/95 data.

(2) There is one ward at the Royal Brisbane Hospital which is used exclusively for nursing home type patients. It has 25 beds. On 14 July 1997 there were 7 additional patients making a total of 32, which is not unusual at this time of year as winter illnesses affect older people.

(3) There is a need to ensure that appropriate care is available to people who are awaiting placement in residential aged care facilities. In larger centres, nursing home type patients in acute hospitals are usually waiting for an appropriate placement in a residential facility. The level and distribution of residential care is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Minister for Family Services. In rural communities, acute facilities have for many years been an option for frail older people and to enable them to remain close to their relatives and carers.

740. Gun Control Laws; Laser Sights on Firearms

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/7/97)—

With reference to the new gun laws that exist in this State and the Port Arthur massacre of thirty-five people—

- (1) Did the gunman at Port Arthur use a set of laser sights on the firearm used?
- (2) Didn't the Police Ministers who laid the framework for the new gun laws also recommend that laser sights be banned from sale in Australia?
- (3) Why therefore is there an advertisement in the July edition of the Australian Shooters Journal for these very sights?

Mr Cooper (8/8/97):

(1) Martin Bryant did not have laser sights on any of the weapons used in the Port Arthur tragedy.

(2) The Australasian Police Ministers' Council (APMC) meetings did not discuss the banning of laser sights. No resolution was made by the APMC in this regard. The inclusion of laser sights as Category R or restricted articles was the suggestion of the Queensland State Opposition. No other jurisdiction has this restriction and it is intended to remove laser sights from this Category to bring the Weapons Act 1990 into line with the other weapons legislation throughout Australia.

(3) The Australian Shooters Journal is a national journal. Possession of laser sights is not restricted in all jurisdictions, therefore national publications can advertise the sale of these items.

741. Fishing Bans

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (9/7/97)—

With reference to the information available to him from both GBRMPA and the QCFO—

Will he re-assess the extent and type of fishing bans and in what time-frame?

Mr Perrett (5/8/97):

1. Thank you for raising this issue as it is of extreme concern to the commercial fishing sector and I strongly support a resolution without unduly disadvantaging individual commercial fishers.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council confirmed on the 14th June 1997 that it will be necessary to ban gill netting in agreed dugong protection areas along our coast line.

The Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council is a joint Commonwealth and State Council which has overall responsibility for the protection and management of activities carried out in the Great Barrier Reef region.

The Queensland members on the Council are the Honourable B G Littleproud, MLA and the Honourable B W Davidson, MLA and it is through these Ministers that I have had personal input into the Council.

My preferred position has been to develop net fishing protocols to minimise impacts on dugong in consultation with the commercial fishing industry. This would have included measures such as net dimensions, netting closures, attendance rules and conditions of use. However, given this decision I now seek to ensure that fair and comprehensive compensation arrangements are settled for fishermen, marketers and others affected by net restrictions and that fishing effort is not displaced to other fisheries.

Subsequent to the Ministerial Council's decision, I have managed to gain the Council's agreement to set up working groups to review the proposed boundaries of the dugong protection areas, to consider the impacts of all types of nets in these areas and to propose compensation principles.

To achieve the outcomes of this review, the Ministerial Council has also agreed to the establishment of the Dugong Protected Areas Advisory Group consisting of representatives from the Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation (QCFO), my Department, Queensland Fisheries Management Authority, Department of Environment, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Environment Australia, independently Chaired by Professor T Hundloe from the University of Queensland.

Additionally the QCFO is now undertaking independent action in discussion with Senator the Honourable R Hill, Minister for the Environment.

2. It is anticipated that all reviews will be completed prior to the next Ministerial Council meeting scheduled for late August 1997. I will be involved in re-assessing the Queensland position in relation to this matter based on the outcomes of these reviews.

However, I am acutely aware of the urgency in addressing this issue in a way that minimises impacts

on individual fishers, on the fishing industry, associated industries and the regional coastal communities that would be affected by this decision.

742. Mater Hospital

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Health (9/7/97)—

With reference to the significant rise in patient numbers and as the Mater Hospitals have had Medical, Surgical and Children's Wards closed for all or parts of the year—

- (1) What further closures of Mater wards has he been advised will be needed to manage the 1997-98 budget?
- (2) When will such closures take effect and what wards will be closed?

Mr Horan (7/8/97):

(1) The Mater Adult, Children's and Mothers' Hospitals exceeded patient activity targets set by Queensland Health for 1996/97, within the budget set for that year and deserve congratulations for this marvellous result.

The Mater's bed management strategy emphasises the efficient and effective use of resources through understanding about the seasonal nature of illness and factors such as medical staff availability (eg. annual and conference leave). This strategy ensures that any patient requiring acute hospital care, is not denied admission either at the Mater or at another public hospital. It is not a question of whether a bed is opened or closed but rather whether it is available when it is needed. All Mater hospitals continue to explore opportunities to improve patient services.

The Mater hospitals plan to meet the agreed Queensland Health patient activity targets within the agreed budget and will be seeking extra funding under the "Surgery on Time" surgical waiting list program initiated by this Government.

(2) The Mater bed management strategy removes the emphasis on closed or open beds and is intended to ensure that patients requiring acute admission to hospital are not denied that care and attention. Beds will be utilised to meet demand, in keeping with agreed patient activity levels and budgets negotiated with Queensland Health.

743. Health Capital Works Projects

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (9/7/97)—

What is the value of work completed to date in each of the Capital Works projects identified in the 1997-98 Budget Papers for Capital Works Projects in Health?

Mr Horan (8/8/97):

Project	Value of Work Completed
COMMUNITY	\$'000
Smithfield Community Health Centre	607
Centenary Park Community Health Centre	1,304
Cunnamulla Community Health Centre	151
Palm Beach Community Health Centre	1,293
Stanthorpe Community Health Centre	22

Pine Rivers Community Health Centre Stage 1A	642
Toowoomba Community Health Centre	937
Thursday Island Community Health Centre	1,819
Badu Island Primary Health Care Centre & RAA Redevelopment	1,799
Boigu Island Primary Health Care Centre Redevelopment	941
Rural Hospital Projects, Emergent, Statutory and Other Works	3,776
Cooktown Multi-Purpose Centre	116
Bamaga Hospital Redevelopment	24
Barcardine Hospital Redevelopment	704
Proserpine Hospital Redevelopment	784
Clermont Multi-Purpose Centre	401
Mornington Island Primary Health Care Centre Redevelopment	514
Mundubbera Hospital Redevelopment	69
Woorabinda Primary Health Care Centre Redevelopment	104
Palm Island Primary Health Care Centre Redevelopment	360
HOSPITALS	
Redland Hospital Redevelopment	3,956
Bundaberg Hospital Redevelopment Stage III	873
Cairns Hospital Redevelopment	20,702
Cairns Hospital—Multi Storey Car Park	4,812
Emerald Hospital Redevelopment	1,151
Gladstone Hospital Redevelopment	989
Gold Coast Hospital Redevelopment	6,543
Robina Hospital Development	109
Hervey Bay Hospital Redevelopment	41,309
Maryborough Hospital Redevelopment	456
Logan Hospital Redevelopment—Stage IV	2,610
Beaudesert Hospital Redevelopment	76
Mackay Hospital Redevelopment	1,963
Mackay Hospital Air Conditioning Upgrade	62
Princess Alexandra Hospital Redevelopment	13,655
Princess Alexandra Hospital—Central Energy Plant	1,467
QE II Jubilee Hospital Redevelopment	8,304
Redcliffe Hospital Redevelopment	954
Caboolture Hospital Redevelopment	734
Rockhampton Hospital Redevelopment	1,535
Herston Hospitals Redevelopment	22,931
Herston Hospitals Complex—Central Energy Plant	20,398
Herston Medical Research Centre	1,644
Royal Children's Hospital—Rehab & Infill Building	1,317
Caloundra Hospital Redevelopment	131
Nambour Hospital Redevelopment	205
Nambour Hospital—Multi Storey Car Park	453
Noosa Hospital Development	1,229
The Prince Charles Hospital Redevelopment	8,025
Toowoomba Hospital Redevelopment	9,987
Toowoomba Hospital—Multi Storey Car Park	1,131
Thursday Island Hospital Redevelopment and Thursday Island RAA	9,225
Townsville/Kirwan Hospital Redevelopment	2,791
Ipswich Hospital Redevelopment	4,548
Ipswich Hospital—Multi Storey Car Park	988
Dental School	704
Information Technology	90,698

Program Management	2,343
Planning & Management Studies	20,176
Equipment Replacements	28,329
MENTAL HEALTH	
Winston Noble Unit Redevelopment	824
Mental Health—Various	754
RESIDENTIAL CARE	
Eventide Home, Rockhampton Redevelopment	824
Jacaranda Village Redevelopment	318
Aged Care—Various	1
PATHOLOGY & SCIENTIFIC SERVICES	
Scientific Services Complex	1,015

744. Cattle Train Service

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/7/97)—

With reference to his plans to put in place a new cattle train service through Queensland's northern inland to Townsville to facilitate the live cattle export trade—

- (1) What infrastructure has been put in place in Karumba to facilitate the export of live cattle?
- (2) What numbers of cattle are presently being exported through the port of Karumba?
- (3) What costs are involved in establishing this new rail service through Townsville?
- (4) What assurances has he received that cattle producers will use the new rail service and not truck their cattle to either Karumba or Darwin?
- (5) Why has he duplicated transport infrastructure to service the live cattle export trade in North Queensland?

Mr Johnson (8/8/97):

(1) The only additional infrastructure to date is the dredging of the channel into Karumba, to a depth of 2 metres below low water. As well as facilitating the export of live cattle, this is the first stage of the dredging required for the export of Century Zinc product.

Dredging and associated environmental work to date has cost \$4.56M.

(2) Karumba live cattle exports in the 1996 calendar year were 51,000 head. Exports for 1997, to June 30, were 36,000 with an expected total of 70-75,000 head exported for the whole year.

Townsville exports in the 1996 calendar year were 62,000 head. Up to June 30 1997, the exports for the 1997 calendar year were 28,000. Estimates for the whole of the year are 55-60,000 head.

While the areas supplying stock to these ports overlap, the Townsville exports generally come from a more southerly area than the Karumba exports.

(3) The service being provided by Queensland Rail is simply an extension of existing rail services for livestock. Cattletrain, the new transport product recently announced by Queensland Rail, service the live export trade through the Port of Townsville, the Port of Karumba by unloading cattle at Julia Creek for road haul to Karumba, and the Port of Darwin by

unloading cattle at either Cloncurry or Mount Isa for road haul to Darwin.

Export cattle for the Port of Townsville are railed into the Julago spelling facility as part of the normal scheduled services. After being spelled, the cattle are then railed to the Port on a fee-for-service basis. Cattle can also be roaded into Julago for spelling prior to railing to the Port of Townsville.

The Cattletrain service that provides the majority of inbound cattle to the Julago facility was launched in April 1997 as a total product that covers the state. The product involves marketing, training of staff, the contracting of external staff on a fee-for-service basis for handling the cattle and the operations of fixed scheduled services. It is not practical to allocate the costs of this service to a particular line, but the additional costs associated with the service are recovered via the freight rates and the reduction in costs that will accrue to this operation.

A best estimate of the direct costs associated with establishing the live export service through the Port of Townsville is less than \$0.5M.

(4) It is not possible in a competitive environment to get any assurances that a particular service will be supported in favour of another. The choice made by cattle producers take into account many factors, of which service quality, reliability and price are key determinants.

However, demand from Queensland Rail customers led directly to the decision to enter the growing export market, and the service has been well received by the industry.

(5) The development of transport infrastructure to service the live cattle export trade in North Queensland has evolved over a number of years since the market for live exports developed in the early 1980s.

Ports Corporation of Queensland (managers of the Port of Karumba), Townsville Port Authority and Queensland Rail are operating in a commercial manner to service clients and, if viable, expand their current infrastructure to meet the needs of their clients. Any duplication of infrastructure is therefore undertaken by the service provider on a commercial basis.

745. Public Housing

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (9/7/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that tenants of public housing are now being advised that maintenance work normally carried out by private sector landlords is the responsibility of the tenants?
- (2) Will he take steps to ensure that sufficient labour, resources, and funds are made available to carry out normal repairs to compensate for normal wear and tear on public housing?

Dr Watson (8/8/97):

(1) The department does not require tenants to carry out maintenance works which would normally be carried out by private sector landlords. I am informed that no advice has been forwarded to tenants suggesting that this situation will change.

(2) Funding of \$45.1M has been provided in 1997/98 for the provision of maintenance to public housing which includes repairs attributable to wear and tear.

746. Schools, Nudgee Electorate

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (9/7/97)—

With reference to the Connect-Ed Program—

- (1) What is the timetable for connection to the Internet for each school respectively in the Nudgee Electorate, that is not already connected?
- (2) Will he ensure that smaller schools that do not have the capacity to raise funds for earlier connection to the Internet, be given preference under this program?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97):

(1) Education Queensland has released a Request for Offer for equipment and telecommunications services to connect all state schools to the Internet. A specific timetable for individual schools to be connected to the departmental network and the Internet cannot be formulated until these offers are evaluated and an implementation plan developed.

(2) Connect-Ed will connect all 104 Leading Schools to the Internet by the end of this year. The department is cognisant of the difficulties faced by some small schools in connecting to the Internet and in recognition of this a number of small schools will be connected to the Internet by 31 December 1997.

747. Mining Wardens Court

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (9/7/97)—

With reference to his recent statements regarding the future of the Mining Warden's Court—

What are his proposals and when will they be implemented?

Mr Gilmore (29/7/97): I have determined that the Mining Wardens Court is to transfer to the Department of Justice, wherein it ought always to have resided. It is intended that all future inquests pertaining to injury or death will be dealt with by the Magistracy rather than by the Mining Warden. Indeed, in the case of death, the investigating inspectors will in future report to the Magistrate appointed as Coroner rather than to the Warden. The hearing of administrative land issues in dispute will continue to be heard by the Mining Warden. I anticipate that the administrative details associated with these changes will enable these arrangements to become operative from 1 September 1997.

748. Public Works and Housing Department Land, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (9/7/97)—

- (1) How many of the department's housing blocks of land have been sold in Bundaberg city and district in 1996, 1997 and proposed to sell in 1997 and 1998?

- (2) What was (a) the price received from the sale of these blocks of land and (b) the address of the blocks of land sold or proposed to be sold?

Dr Watson (8/8/97):

(1) In 1995/96, 29 allotments were sold; in 1996/97, 2 allotments were sold; in 1997/98 it is proposed to release 41 lots of land for sale.

(2)

(a) The land sold in 1995/96 and 1996/97 ranged in price from \$25,000 to \$29,000.

(b) The estate was called "Norville Gardens", and the street addresses were Mooney, Nicholson and Shaw Streets. In 1997/98 the addresses of land to be sold are as follows:

Dr Mays Rd and Montgomery Street,
Svenssons Heights

Scotton Street, Quinlan

Bruce and McGregor Streets, Kepnock

Porras Court, Avenall Heights; and a

6.2 ha site at Avoca Street, Millbank.

749. Toyota Fishing Classic; Tagging of Fish

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (9/7/97)—

With reference to fish tagging undertaken at this year's Toyota Fishing Classic held at Eurong on Fraser Island—

- (1) How many fish, and of which species, were tagged during the classic?
- (2) How many of these tagged fish, and of which species, were re-caught during the fishing competition and how many tagged fish, and of which species, have been re-caught since?

Mr Perrett (5/8/97):

1. There was no official tagging of fish during the recent Toyota Fishing Classic at Fraser Island.

2. The Toyota Fishing Classic had a catch and release section operating in which about 200 fish were caught and retained for display purposes for a period of two hours.

The fish were held in specially made tanks situated at Waddy Point. The water in the tanks was constantly being changed to maintain the water quality for the fish, and the fish were later released.

Officers of my Department have carried out major tagging studies of tailor at Fraser Island. This research work commenced in the early 1980s and it enabled the migration patterns of tailor to be determined. The recapture rates for tagged tailor varied from year to year in the range of four per cent to twenty per cent.

Other species have been tagged in the Fraser Island region to a lesser extent. Tagging is a common research technique to determine the movements and migrations of fish and other aquatic animals. The cooperation of commercial and recreational fishers is often sought by fisheries researchers in capturing and tagging fish as well as in their subsequent recapture.

750. Sale of Gold by Reserve Bank

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (9/7/97)—

With reference to the Reserve Bank's decision to sell off 2/3rds of its gold reserves (167 tonnes) and supported by the Federal Treasurer—

- (1) Does he support the Federal Treasurer on this issue?
- (2) What impact will this decision have on Queensland gold mining operations and exploration in Queensland?
- (3) What actions will he be taking to help stabilise the Queensland industry?

Mr Gilmore (30/7/97):

(1) Support for the Federal Treasurer on this issue is immaterial given that the decision to sell 2/3rds of the Reserve Bank's gold reserves was made independently by the Reserve Bank. This decision was made without political consultation, consistent with the notion that the Reserve Bank operates independently, free from political influence. Therefore, the Federal Treasurer would have had little choice but to support the Reserve Bank's move soon after hearing the announcement of their decision, especially given that the decision had been made and the gold had been sold well before the announcement was made.

(2) The decision by the Reserve Bank to sell gold stocks will not impact directly on Queensland's gold industry but the recent decline in the gold price will have an effect. The impact of the price fall will vary between companies depending on a number of factors including the average production costs of companies, exchange rate movements and the ability of companies to hedge against losses through forward sales and other risk management measures. However, the sustained weakening of the gold price has undoubtedly put pressure on the profitability of Queensland's gold producers.

(3) The recent decline in the gold price is a result of market forces over which the Queensland Government has no influence. However, I intend to monitor the situation closely in consultation with key industry representatives.

751. Arsenic Contamination in Waterways between Noosa and Gympie

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (9/7/97)—

With reference to the unacceptably high levels of arsenic contamination found in waterways between Noosa and Gympie—

- (1) Why was the lack of response from his department to reports of this problem so poor that the Sunshine Coast Environment Council received continual requests for assistance from frustrated residents?
- (2) Is arsenic a known carcinogen which tends to accumulate in the human body?
- (3) What investigations have been undertaken by his department of this pollution problem, particularly water testing?

- (4) What have been the results of these investigations and what is the source of this contamination?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) Your introductory statement is not only erroneous, but also scare mongering and irresponsible. My Department received a range of complaints relating to perceived health problems in the area. Complaints received have been promptly investigated.

Initial concerns were regarding the possible presence of formaldehyde. In response to this the Department established that significant levels of formaldehyde or any other contaminants from wood product manufacture were very unlikely. This has been borne out by subsequent tests showing no detectable formaldehyde.

Until very recently there was nothing to indicate that arsenic, or any other heavy metal, was involved, and there is still no evidence for a link between the arsenic detected in dams on one property and the alleged health problems in the area.

(2) Studies have shown a link between human consumption of water contaminated by arsenic and cancer in humans. It does not tend to accumulate in the human body except at high exposure levels, when uptake exceeds the rate of excretion.

(3) Water testing has been conducted in fifteen dams, and the laboratory results have been received for eight of those dams. Low levels of arsenic ranging from 10 to 45 micrograms per litre were detected in four samples from dams on the one property. There was no detectable arsenic in the dam immediately downstream of these dams.

While these arsenic levels do not meet the National Health and Medical Research Council's drinking water standard of 7 micrograms per litre, the water is not used for drinking. The Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council's standard for irrigation is 100 micrograms per litre and 500 micrograms per litre for stock watering. The water is well within those criteria.

Cooloola Shire Council has also taken six samples in Six Mile Creek and the Mary River with no detectable levels of arsenic. So far low levels of arsenic have only been detected in four dams on a private property at Mothar Mountain near Gympie, none has been found in tests of waterways between Noosa and Gympie.

(4) Allegations have been made that the contamination is due to particle board which has been used as fill and mulch or soil conditioner in the area. No detectable levels of arsenic have been found in the samples of fresh or mulched particle board analysed and it is not used in its manufacture.

Investigations are continuing to determine possible sources of this contamination. Initial indications are that there may be elevated levels of arsenic in the soils of the area. This is not unusual for soils in a gold mining area.

752. Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, Access from Ipswich Motorway

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/7/97)—

With reference to the increasing problems being experienced by people attempting to access the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre from the Ipswich Motorway—

- (1) Will he consult with his counterpart, the Minister for Transport and Main roads, with a view to improving the exit from the centre to Ipswich Motorway and the entry from the Ipswich Motorway travelling outbound from Brisbane?
- (2) Will he give consideration to the provision of a footpath from the Wacol Station to the centre for the benefit and safety of the many visitors who walk to and from the centre daily?

Mr Cooper (5/8/97):

(1) Yes. Contact with Transport and Main Roads has occurred on a number of occasions during the life of the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. The Queensland Corrective Services Commission is currently having discussions with the appropriate government departments regarding this issue.

(2) The issue of a footpath has been raised previously with the Brisbane City Council and is the subject of ongoing negotiations between the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and the Council.

753. Airconditioning of Government-owned Housing

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (9/7/97)—

With reference to the fact that some Education Department residences, and other Government houses in North Queensland, are being air-conditioned—

What is the current Government policy on air-conditioning Government-owned houses?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97): On 23 January 1996 the Deputy Director General, Corporate Services approved that:

"Departmental housing standards, in particular the installation of air cooling/heating devices, be aligned with the Government Employee Housing Scheme Scales and Standards."

Queensland Property Management, Department of Public Works and Housing have advised that:

GEHS Scales and Standards provide for all units of accommodation to be air-conditioned. Evaporative cooling units are installed in hot dry climates and refrigerative cooling units are installed in areas that are more humid. The Scales and Standards are guidelines only and it is accepted that they relate to the minimum provision. Heating devices are not provided under current GEHS standards;

Refrigerative air-conditioning (cooling only) units are installed in bedrooms and living areas.

Evaporative air-conditioning (cooling only) is normally ducted, with the actual unit being ground mounted for ease of cleaning. Average cost \$8000 per house; and

There is an ongoing program administered by Queensland Property Management to upgrade climate control in all government residences.

754. Rockhampton Police Station

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/7/97)—

With reference to the need to replace the Rockhampton Police Station—

- (1) Does he agree that the current Rockhampton Police Station is totally inadequate?
- (2) Given that the station was set down as a priority for replacement by the previous Labor Government whereby a sum of \$10m was promised to replace the existing station, does this still stand?
- (3) Is he prepared to look at a possibility of relocating the police station into a nearby existing building?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97):

(1) Operational policing requirements have changed substantially since the Rockhampton Police Station was constructed and a major refurbishment is required to increase the functionality of the complex.

(2) A rolling 10 year Capital Works Program was developed by the Queensland Police Service in March 1996. This program allocated future funding of \$6.5M toward the refurbishment/replacement of the police station and the replacement of the watchhouse.

(3) The Queensland Police Service is currently examining the feasibility of refurbishing the existing police station or the construction of a new facility on the current site. It is believed that whatever course of action is adopted the facility will adequately meet operational requirements.

755. Appointment of Women to Boards

Ms SPENCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (9/7/97)—

With reference to the special State Budget Edition of "Queensland Woman" in which the following statistic was highlighted "Over the period February to May, 47 per cent of board appointments were female"—

- (1) How many boards were appointed during this period?
- (2) What are the names of these boards?
- (3) Who are the appointees on these boards?

Mrs Sheldon (8/8/97):

(1) The figure of 47% of board appointments being female for the period February to May was calculated from figures produced by Queensland's Register of Statutory Authorities—the national benchmark. According to those figures, during the period

February to May 363 individual new appointments were made to statutory authorities across all portfolios, 169 of which were female.

(2) & (3) In view of the large numbers of Boards and Board Members involved, the collation of the information sought would require the diversion of considerable Departmental resources. Information on the functions of State Government Statutory Authorities and the names of Board members is available via the internet on the State Government's home page and in the Government Gazette.

756. Nursing Homes

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Health (9/7/97)—

With reference to his Ministerial Program Statement (Page 26) and given the recognition that the average length of stay for nursing home type patients is rising due to the increased dependency and difficulties associated with those patients (Note 2) (9/7/97)—

Why are nursing homes being down skilled as per Note 1, Page 28 of his Program Statement?

Mr Horan (6/8/97):

(1) Managers of District Health Services are responsible for assessing the staff mix at State government nursing homes in their Districts to determine the appropriate skill mix required to best meet residents' needs in those facilities, and to meet the State's obligation to comply with Commonwealth standards for residential aged care facilities. Queensland Health has identified that state government nursing homes operate with a different mix of staff than the industry in general or than is provided for by Commonwealth funding.

757. Education in Music and the Arts

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Education (9/7/97)—

With reference to the education of students in music and the arts—

- (1) Will he outline (a) what initiatives, if any, he has taken to enhance education in music and the arts and what expenditure has been made in respect of any such initiatives and (b) whether all Labor Government initiatives in this area have been maintained; if not, the reasons for any such changes?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that the increased emphasis on vocational education will not result in any decrease in resources devoted to education in music and the arts?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97):

- (1)
 - (a) The Coalition Government is committed to enhancing education in music and the arts. To facilitate an improved understanding for and appreciation of the arts, in general, this Government has expanded both the instrumental music program and the Minister's Awards for Excellence in Art.
 - (b) The programs and activities, relating to this matter, that were in place prior to the

commencement of the Coalition Government have continued.

(2) There is no expectation that any emphasis on vocational education will effect funding for education in music and the arts.

758. Fishing in National Parks

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (9/7/97)—

With reference to his undertaking in the Second Reading debate on amendments to the Nature Conservation Act removing the sunset clause relating to fishing in national parks—

- (1) Does he recall informing the Parliament that fishing would be confined to approximately 19 national parks to be identified by subsequent regulation?
- (2) Has he issued a press release listing the 19 national parks concerned in anticipation of taking a consequential regulation to Executive Council for approval?
- (3) Is he aware of media statements by the member for Burdekin, Mr Stoneman, claiming that recreational anglers would continue to have full fishing access to the State's national parks?
- (4) Is it the case, as stated in northern newspapers, that he has blundered in issuing a press release stating that less than 10 per cent of national parks would be open to recreational fishing?
- (5) Notwithstanding his commitment to Parliament during the Second Reading debate, has he or officers of his department held further meetings with what organisations?
- (6) Did departmental officers meet with FNQ Sunfish representatives on Thursday 12 June?
- (7) What was the outcome of the meeting with FNQ Sunfish and any other meetings held with other branches of Sunfish or similar organisations?
- (8) Why has he not already gazetted the designated national parks in which fishing will be allowed?
- (9) What process, other than discussions with Sunfish, are being implemented to assess the ecological sustainability of fishing in each national park?
- (10) Does he intend to acquiesce to pressure from Sunfish or any other organisation to expand the number of national parks in which fishing is allowed beyond 19; if so, to what number and what national parks?
- (11) What is the list of national parks in which he currently intends to allow recreational fishing?
- (12) When will the relevant regulation giving effect to this matter be tabled in the House?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97): At the time State Parliament agreed to repeal legislation which would have banned fishing in all National Parks from the end of 1999, I did indicate a number of National Parks in which it was proposed fishing would be allowed.

After that became public, it became obvious that more consultation was necessary. I was concerned

that the understanding I had that agreement had been reached with regional Sunfish bodies was not the case. Advice I was given was based on consultation which had occurred in mid-1995.

I then asked departmental officers to arrange an extensive consultative process not only with fishing organisations Sunfish and the Queensland Amateur Fishing Clubs Association at district and State levels, but also with the following conservation groups: Queensland Conservation Council, National Parks Association of Queensland, Australian Marine Conservation Society, Capricorn Conservation Council, Mackay Conservation Group, North Queensland Conservation Council and Toowoomba and Region Environment Council. Some groups which were invited to attend meetings did not take up the offer.

While there has been an increase in the number of Parks in which it is proposed that fishing be allowed, in many of these consultation has resulted in limitations on areas where it will be conducted. For example, in a number of parks fishing is restricted to tidal waters only. In other words, in many parks it is not intended to allow fishing in all waters of the particular park.

It is hoped to finalise the proposed list of parks in the near future for the necessary Regulation to be presented to the Governor-in-Council. Given that there will be changes to what I indicated when the legislation was passed, I will be asking Departmental officers to offer to brief the Member for Everton on the details when they are finalised before the Regulation is tabled in the House.

759. Bruce Highway Interchange/Caboolture Northern Bypass

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/7/97)—

With reference to the present study relating to the Bruce Highway interchange for the stalled Caboolture Northern Bypass—

- (1) Why has it been considered necessary to redesign the interchange?
- (2) When will his department finalise its plans for the interchange?
- (3) Has the Federal Government agreed to a timetable to fund construction of the interchange?

Mr Johnson (8/8/97):

(1) In early 1996, consulting engineers, Maunsell Pty Ltd, completed a concept planning study which investigated upgrading of the Bruce Highway between Uhlmann and Glasshouse Mountains Roads to six lanes plus two special purpose lanes.

This study included undertaking conceptual planning for the future interchange with the Caboolture Northern Bypass. The plans that were prepared were preliminary conceptual layouts and are not approved at this time. Main Roads has not commenced any design work at this interchange.

Currently investigations are under way to test the feasibility of providing an alternative link for the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road directly into this

future interchange. The reason for these investigations is that traffic forecasts on the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road indicate that upgrading to four lanes will be required to cope with future traffic demand. If the road reserve was to be widened to accommodate a suitable intersection at Beachmere and Aerodrome Roads, there would be significant impacts on properties already developed. Main Roads initiated this concept planning study in order to determine whether alternatives are available to avoid such impacts, while also improving the long-term operation of the Bruce Highway interchange.

No decision has been made to either upgrade the existing road or plan for an alternative link to the Bruce Highway. An informed decision will be made after thorough investigation and assessment of the benefits and costs of the various options, including comprehensive public consultation.

The outcome of the assessment for a Caboolture-Bribie Island link will affect the interchange's location.

(2) Main Roads expects to be a position later this year to finalise the location of the interchange, following which detailed design can then commence.

(3) The Federal Government has not agreed to a timetable to fund construction of the interchange at this time.

760.Schools, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Education (9/7/97)—

With reference to all schools in the Bulimba Electorate which are pre 1960 construction (Hemmant School being the oldest school in Queensland) and which were to have extensive public works done on them to upgrade and modernise these important schools under Labor's "Better Schools Program"—

Will he please inform the Bulimba Electorate what (a) maintenance and up grade and (b) capital works programs there are for the schools in the Bulimba Electorate in 1997-98?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97):

(a) Compilation of the maintenance program is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Housing in consultation with the Department of Education. The 1997/98 Maintenance Program is presently being finalised, and as such, individual maintenance projects are not yet available.

(b) With respect to capital works, the following projects are listed for inclusion on the 1997/98 Program:

- Cannon Hill State School—BBS Primary Upgrade
- Bulimba State School—Specialist Staff Accommodation
- Bulimba State School—Upgrade Administration and Master Planning
- Norman Park State School—BBS Makeshade Project
- Seven Hills State School—BBS Primary Upgrade

761.Nundah Bottleneck

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/7/97)—

With reference to letters to the editor in recent editions of local Quest newspapers, that the member for Clayfield, Santo Santoro, is seen to be inactive, ineffective and not supporting his electorate, and because the Coalition Government has failed to fund the community's preferred solutions to the Nundah bottleneck problem—

Will he approve funding for the cut-and-cover (tunnel) option in the next Roads Implementation Plan Update, if only to save the political hide of his Cabinet colleague, Santo Santoro, rather than for the honourable reason of helping the business people, residents and motorists of Brisbane's inner northern suburbs?

Mr Johnson (8/8/97):

The State Government is committed to solving the "Nundah Bottleneck" problem as evidenced by the comprehensive Impact Assessment Study undertaken on three possible route options over the past 12 months.

The consultant has recommended Option 3, the "cut and cover" tunnel as the preferred solution. I expect the government will make a final decision by the end of August this year on the option to be built.

I can also assure you, as I have done previously, that I am taking action to obtain funds to enable these works to commence earlier than originally proposed in the current Roads Implementation Program.

762.Red-light Cameras; Speed Cameras

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/7/97)—

With reference to 'red-light' and 'speed' cameras—

- (1) Is he aware whether number plate covers which hinder detection by cameras are being imported into and sold in Queensland; if so, what actions will be taken to address this issue?
- (2) Is the use of such devices illegal?

Mr Johnson (11/8/97):

(1) Queensland Transport and the Queensland Police Service are aware of the availability of such devices. It is not an offence to import and sell any number plate covers. It is, however, illegal to attach anything (including covers) to a number plate unless it has been approved by the Director-General of Queensland Transport (under the Transport Infrastructure Roads Regulation Section 23, Sub Section 4).

There are several brands of number plate covers which are approved and recommended for use by Queensland Transport. Approved number plate covers have been tested to ensure that they do not hinder detection for any enforcement purposes including camera detected offences.

Queensland Transport is able to provide advice to customers about approved brands of number plate covers.

Queensland Transport approved number plate covers are usually clearly marked as such at Point-of-Sale.

(2) As I have already stated, it is not illegal to use an approved number plate cover. Several brands are approved for use in Queensland.

763. EARC Report into Government Media and Information Services

Mr MILLINER asked the Premier (10/7/97)—

With reference to the 1993 EARC Report into Government Media and Information Services and the subsequent report of the Parliamentary Committee in relation to the EARC report:

- (1) Which, if any, of EARC's recommendations have been adopted as Government policy, and when?
- (2) Which of the recommendations so adopted have been implemented and what other related actions have been implemented in this regard?
- (3) Which recommendations have not been implemented, and what are the reasons for not implementing each of them?
- (4) Which, if any, of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee's report have been adopted and/or implemented, and when did this occur?
- (5) To the extent that any of the Parliamentary Committee's recommendations have not been implemented, including recommendations not made by EARC, why have they not been implemented?

Mr Borbidge (11/8/97): (1)-(5) The Honourable Member would be better served by redirecting his question to the Honourable Member for Logan who the Honourable Member should be recall was the Premier at the time this report was released and for 3 years after.

764. Public Sector Net Worth

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/7/97)—

With reference to her answer to Estimates Committee A Question on Notice B5 seeking an estimate of public sector net worth in which she went to some length explaining why accrual accounting estimates were still some way off, yet she managed to present in the Budget papers an Accrual Operating Statement for 1996-97 with estimates for 1997-98 and as she was able to do this—

What are her estimates for Public Sector net worth as at 30 June 1997 and 30 June 1998?

Mrs Sheldon (11/8/97): Estimates of Public Sector net worth as at 30 June 1997 and 30 June 1998 are, as I said earlier, not available at this point in time. The Accrual Operating Statement included in the Budget papers is based on the 1996 Queensland Commission of Audit model, and does not cover the entire State sector (as is required to produce an estimate of Public Sector net worth). As is stated in the Budget papers, not all of the information necessary to produce an accrual operating statement is available as yet, and the Statement included in the Budget papers is prepared largely from cash accounting information, with appropriate adjustments made, based on information supplied by

departments, to convert this to an accrual basis. It should be recognised that these figures are estimates, and that the first fully audited whole-of-government accrual operating statement is not required under the new public sector accounting standard, known as AAS31, until after the current financial year (ie 1997-98). While it has been possible to produce an estimated accrual operating statement, significantly more information is required to produce estimates of Public Sector net worth.

765. Sale of Gold by Reserve Bank

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (10/7/97)—

With reference to the recent sell-off by the Reserve Bank of two-thirds of Australia's gold reserves—

- (1) How many and which small gold producers in North Queensland are currently being adversely affected by this decision and to what extent?
- (2) How many employees do these companies have, how many have already been put off and how many are likely to lose their livelihood before this industry crises passes?
- (3) How many of these companies are likely to fold as a result of this sell-off?
- (4) What level of assistance is his department offering these producers; if none, why not?
- (5) What representations has he made to his Federal colleagues over this sell-off decision?

Mr Gilmore (29/7/97):

(1) The gold industry in North Queensland comprises approximately 35 active producers, of which half are small seasonal alluvial gold operators. As I have explained to the Honourable Member for Kallangur (Mr Hayward), the extent to which falls in the gold price will affect these gold producers will depend on a number of factors including the average production costs of companies, exchange rate movements, and the ability of companies to hedge against losses through forward sales and other risk management measures. Given the difficulties of accessing commercial information on the financial performance of Queensland's gold producers, it is not possible to determine the precise impact on individual producers. However, the sustained weakening of the gold price has undoubtedly put pressure on the profitability of the industry.

(2) The 35 or so active gold operations in North Queensland employ approximately 1,200 people, of which a considerable number are seasonal contract or family operators. The two biggest mines, Kidston and Mt Leyshon, together employ over 400 people. Details on numbers and reasons for staff movements within these gold mining operations are unavailable.

(3) As explained in the answer to Question 1, assessing the precise impact of the gold price decline on the financial performance of individual gold producers is not possible from available information.

(4) The recent decline in the gold price is a result of market forces over which the Queensland Government has no influence. However, I intend to monitor the situation closely in consultation with key industry representatives.

(5) I have made no representations to the Federal Government over the gold sell-off decision.

766. Rail Travel by Ministers

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/7/97)—

With reference to each trip utilising Queensland Rail, including the special carriages, undertaken by Ministers since 19 February 1996—

- (1) What towns were visited on each trip and what were the dates involved?
- (2) What are the names of the travelling parties in each case?
- (3) What was the cost of (a) travel (including hire of carriages applicable), (b) food and (c) alcohol and soft drinks?
- (4) What other costs were involved including wages and air fares for rail staff for each trip?
- (5) Who met the costs in each case?

Mr Johnson (11/8/97): In the period since 19 February 1996 I have travelled on Queensland Rail on two occasions, both at the express invitation of the Chief Executive, using the special carriages.

Each tour was part of an inspection of the Main Line Upgrade works on the North Coast Line and is part of the Chief Executive's regular review of progress on this \$574 million project.

The first trip was undertaken over the period 15 and 16 April 1997 and travelled over the North Coast Line between Brisbane and Mackay. The second, departing Mackay on 21 May 1997, terminated in Cairns on 22 May 1997.

767. Police Records, Ipswich

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/7/97)—

With reference to claims that confidential police records were found on an Ipswich street and had been in the possession of children—

- (1) Is this true and what are the details of the matter?
- (2) What was the security level of the information on the files?
- (3) What failing in police security procedures led to this occurring?
- (4) Was the person finding the records threatened with arrest for failing to return the records to police and does he support such action by police?
- (5) What steps has he taken to ensure there is no repeat of this occurrence?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97):

(1) Members of a family were being interviewed at the Juvenile Aid Bureau office at the Goodna Station on 21 June 1997. A child from the family, located a crumpled piece of paper in an office rubbish bin, wherein a request was made for a copy of a photograph of an offender. The child removed the piece of paper from the rubbish bin and discarded the paper on the front footpath outside the Police

Station at the cessation of the interview. Councillor Paul Tully of the Ipswich City Council located the paper whilst walking early in the morning of 23 June 1997.

(2) The Police document was a message from Goodna Police Station to the Photographic Section, Brisbane, requesting a copy of a photograph of a police suspect so that his identity could be confirmed. The document was not of a sensitive nature and although confidential, did not pose any threat to police operations.

(3) Police material not required for official action is destroyed on a daily basis. On this occasion the document would have been destroyed later in the day.

(4) Councillor Paul Tully was approached by the Officer in Charge of the Goodna Police Station on Monday 23 June 1997 regarding the document. Councillor Tully was advised by the Officer in Charge, Goodna Station, that it was an offence under section 10.19 (b) of the Police Service Administration Act to have in his possession a Police document. Councillor Tully advised the Officer In Charge Goodna Police that legal advice was being sought and the matter was to be referred to the Criminal Justice Commission.

(5) Personnel performing duties at the Juvenile Aid Bureau office at Goodna have been informed to keep confidential records in a secure area or to ensure they are destroyed immediately that it is ascertained there is no further use for the documents.

768. Commercial Fishing Ban, Trinity Inlet and Barron River

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (10/7/97)—

With reference to the findings of a Queensland Fisheries Management Authority survey about fishing habits in the Cairns region which showed that fully one third of all Cairns residents participated in recreational fishing—

- (1) Will he ban commercial fishing entirely in Trinity Inlet and the Barron River area as called for by the Cairns Post; if not, why not?
- (2) Does he agree that the tourism and lifestyle values of these waters for recreational fishing purposes far outweigh the value of the relatively small commercial fishing industry sharing these waters?
- (3) When does he intend to implement the full findings of Tom Burns' recreational fishing inquiry, completed four years ago?

Mr Perrett (5/8/97): Before I answer the specific questions which Mr Purcell has put forward, I would like to provide some overall comments on the State Government Inquiry into Recreational Fishing which the Honourable Tom Burns carried out in 1992/93, when he was the Deputy Premier.

The results from the Recreational Fishing Inquiry were published in 1993 and included seventy five (75) sets of specific recommendations. I am advised by my Department that many of the recommendations have in fact been implemented. Others are not implemented but are now part of the

fisheries management planning process and are included in the various Fisheries Discussion Papers which have recently been released by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) for public comment.

Some of the recommendations put forward by the Inquiry were somewhat controversial because they sought to reduce the fishing activities of the commercial fishing sector. Few of these have been progressed for obvious reasons. One of the recommendations which I did progress was the declaration of Pumicestone Passage as a recreational only fishing area. However I ensured that adequate arrangements by way of ex gratia payments were provided to displaced commercial fishers.

Mr Purcell refers to the results of the recent Statewide survey of recreational fishing and in particular the high participation rates in the Cairns region.

The inquiry into recreational fishing recommended the monitoring of catches and participation rates for recreational fishing throughout Queensland and I have proceeded with this. The survey has found that participation rates in recreational fishing are high throughout the State, not just in the Cairns area.

Answers to the specific questions are:

1. The Inquiry into recreational fishing proposed the banning of commercial fishing in several areas throughout the State.

Pumicestone Passage has been completed as previously mentioned.

A recent study of a similar proposal of the Hays Inlet (Redcliffe foreshores) indicated that there was no need for a complete ban and the Moreton Bay Fisheries Task Force will consider specific recommendations.

A study is in progress to consider appropriate action in Hinchinbrook Channel.

None of the other areas, including the Trinity Inlet region, have been progressed. However I would expect the relevant Fisheries Zonal Advisory Committee to assess the need for such actions and to progress their recommendation through the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority.

2. I would like to emphasise that both the recreational and commercial fishing sectors are very important in Queensland. Without the commercial fishing sector where would our famous quality seafood be obtained?

In addition the commercial fishing sector provides employment not only for fishers but for processors, distributors and retailers of seafood products.

3. I have already indicated in my introductory remarks that many of the recommendations of the Recreational Fishing Inquiry, conducted by the Honourable Tom Burns, have been implemented and I have explained why some recommendations have not been progressed.

769. Rhinoceros Project

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/97)—

- (1) What discussions has he had with the Minister for Tourism, Mr Davidson, regarding Mr Davidson's proposal to import rhinoceroses into Australia?
- (2) What environmental impact assessment or study has been undertaken in respect of any such proposal?
- (3) Is he aware of any study undertaken by James Cook University in relation to the potential impact of free-range rhinoceros parks in Queensland, particularly on native flora and fauna?
- (4) What funding has been allocated by his department to assist in this venture or in any environmental or other assessment of it?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) The Minister for Tourism advised me of his intentions to travel to South Africa.

(2) I am not aware of any. However, in response to inquiries the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry has been advised by the Department of Environment that it "would be unlikely to have any objections to the project, providing the black rhino are quarantined prior to entry into Australia, and that the property and its exotic wildlife are managed in a manner which does not interfere with native wildlife."

Advice was also provided that "Section 137 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (movement of wildlife other than protected wildlife into Queensland) will apply, that is, the relevant person must hold a Wildlife Movement Permit to move the rhinos into Queensland ... Section 116 (Restrictions on grant of wildlife movement permit—other wildlife) states the criteria that must be satisfied for issue of the permit ... There may be additional legislation administered by other State and Commonwealth departments that also applies."

(3) No.

(4) None.

770. Cement Kiln, Gladstone

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/97)—

With reference to the new cement kiln being installed by Queensland Cement and Lime at Gladstone—

- (1) Has the company yet received licensing under the Environmental Protection Act for this kiln; if not, have they applied for a licence?
- (2) What does this licence permit QCL to burn in this kiln and what emission constraints are placed upon them?
- (3) What commonly available combustible material doesn't this licence permit QCL to burn in this kiln?
- (4) What consultation has occurred with the people of Gladstone regarding these licence conditions and what were the results of this consultation?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) Queensland Cement Limited hold a licence under the Environmental Protection Act. This was amended on 28 February 1997 to include the proposed new

cement kiln. They previously held a provisional licence under the EPA which incorporated their old Clean Air Act and Clean Waters Act conditions. Any person may inspect this licence through the EPA Licence Register held by the Department.

(2) The fuel burned by QCL is constrained by the licence to coal, coal fines, coke fines, natural gas, diesel and RF 12 (a distillate and lube oil blend). The sulphur content of such fuel shall not exceed three percent by weight.

The licence also allows trial burning of wastes including:

Oil and oily mineral substances

Hydrocarbon (liquids and solids), hydrocarbon/oil mixtures and hydrocarbon solid mixtures

Tar or coke products obtained by refining, distillation, pyrolysis, chemical and metal reduction industries

Soaps, fatty solids, oils of animal or vegetable origin

Plastic

Wood and paper products

Tyres (without rims)

Aluminium smelting products (comptor ash, kiln grade spar, burnt off butts).

However, trial waste burning will not commence until December 1998.

In regard to emission constraints the licence limits the discharge to air of:

solid particulates

fluoride

chlorine and chlorinated compounds

oxides of nitrogen

sulphuric acid

ammonia

hydrochloric acid

hydrogen sulphide

hydrocarbons and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

polychlorinated compounds

heavy metals.

(3) The items referred to in answer to Question 2 are those that are allowed to be burned. Commonly available combustible materials not permitted to be burnt are too numerous to list.

(4) The public consultation provisions of the Environmental Protection Act in relation to the drafting of licence conditions have not yet commenced. However, QCL have indicated that they will be consulting with the Gladstone's Yarwun residents in relation to burning of wastes prior to that occurring.

771. Environment Department Officer, Secondment to Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/97)—

With reference to his continuing dalliance with allowing commercial developments into Queensland's national parks—

(1) Has an officer been seconded to the Department of Environment from the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation to assess commercial opportunities within the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service; if not, what precisely are his duties?

(2) Are the Great Sandy Region and the Wet Tropics early targets for this officer's attention; if so, why these two?

(3) What classification is this officer, who does he report to, and what length of secondment is he on?

(4) Will his reports be tabled in the Parliament or made public; if not, why not?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97): By way of reply, following is a copy of a media release I issued on 27 July, 1997.

COMMUNITY VIEWS SOUGHT FOR GREAT SANDY TOURISM REVIEW

All sectors of the community have been invited to contribute towards a State Government review of tourism activities in the Great Sandy Region.

Environment Minister Brian Littleproud said the review was being undertaken by the Department of Environment in conjunction with the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry.

He said he welcomed the support of Tourism, Small Business and Industry Minister Bruce Davidson for the project: "A senior officer from his department, Mr Ralph Henderson, has been seconded to the Department of Environment as project director," Mr Littleproud said.

Public comment is being sought on a range of issues including:

impacts of current levels of tourism and recreation

opportunities for increased tourism and recreational activity

provision of quality visitor experiences while protecting natural, cultural and social values

management of tourism and recreation in the future

access, commercial operations, permits and charges

Mr Littleproud said an issues paper was being released and its availability would be advertised with an invitation for public comment.

"I stress that it is an issues paper only and does not necessarily reflect government policies or commitments," he said.

"The Government has a responsibility to manage these areas for the benefit of the community and it is important that the community is involved in the decision-making process."

Mr Davidson said it was particularly important that the tourism industry and business sector contributed to the review. "I am sure they will welcome this review. I am aware they are among the stakeholder

groups who have been consulted in identification of the key issues which need to be addressed," he added.

The Great Sandy Region comprises the Fraser Island World Heritage Area, Cooloola Section of Great Sandy National Park, Inskip Peninsula, Noosa River, Lake Cotharaba, Tin Can Inlet, Great Sandy Strait and Hervey Bay. (Whale watching activities in Hervey Bay are the subject of a separate review process and are not included).

Submissions are due by Tuesday, 26 August, 1997. Further information is available from the Department of Environment in Maryborough (Ph 071 237100) or Brisbane (Ph 07 3227 7713).

27 July 1997

772.TAB, Petrie

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/7/97)—

With reference to the closure of the TAB Agency at Petrie, will he advise the reasons for its closure and what consideration was given to the people of Petrie and where do they now go if they wish to place a bet or take his invitation to drop into the TAB and have a go at Keno?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97): Turnover at the Petrie Agency in the five year period 1992-93 to 1996-97 has declined by 46.98%. This contrasts with Statewide TAB growth in the same period of 18.84%. The following outlines the gradual decline of average weekly turnover at Petrie during this period:

1992-93	\$72, 098
1993-94	\$68, 830
1994-95	\$61, 018
1995-96	\$48, 272
1996-97	\$38, 225

The Petrie Agency site was leased from the ALH Group who advised the TAB that they required this space to carry out a refurbishment of the hotel. It was suggested to the ALH Group that the Agency be replaced by a PubTAB facility but they were unable to provide suitable space for such a facility as it did not fit in with their plans.

The nearest TAB outlets are a PubTAB facility at the Lawnton Tavern, a Mini TAB facility at the Kallangur Hotel and a standalone Agency at Kallangur. This Agency is situated at the corner of School Road and Anzac Avenue.

Full Keno facilities are available at the TAB Agency at Kallangur. Keno is also available at participating Clubs and Hotels.

As a matter for the record, I have never issued an invitation to "drop in to the TAB and have a go at Keno". It would be advisable for the Member to check her facts before making fallacious statements in the House.

773.Surat Basin

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (10/7/97)—

With reference to his answer to Estimates Committee A Question on Notice No. 5, regarding the provision of infrastructure to the Surat Basin in which he referred to the Government "—being burdened down by operational management tasks which are better handled elsewhere and are a relic of the past."—

- (1) Which infrastructural operations was he specifically referring to in making that comment?
- (2) Would he include publicly operated rail and electricity generation services in those tasks "better handled elsewhere and—a relic of the past"?

Mr Slack (18/7/97):

- (1) While not being specific, I was referring to government provided infrastructure that could have been provided and operated by the private sector to the advantage of both the taxpayer and the user.

Specific projects were done by government agencies without service, efficiency and cost benefits between government agencies and possible private contractors or providers being analysed.

- (2) This applied to a whole range of infrastructure including water, power and transport.

774.Gun Control Laws

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/7/97)—

With reference to claims that there is a backlog in the issuing of new licences to gun owners following the tightening of Queensland's gun laws—

- (1) Is there such a backlog and what is the extent of it?
- (2) What has it been caused by and what steps is he taking to clear it?
- (3) Does it apply to new licences or renewals of existing licences or both?
- (4) Is he anticipating a last minute rush of gun licence applications as the September expiry of the moratorium approaches, if so, is he confident that the backlog will not be exacerbated late in the year?

Mr Cooper (8/8/97):

- (1) There currently is a backlog of re-licensing applications. Amendments to the Weapons Act 1990 were proclaimed and commenced on 15 January 1997. These amendments required all current licences to be replaced by 30 September 1997. New licences had to be issued that show a photograph of the licensee, display an expiry date and have all weapons owned by the licensee registered to the licence. On 4 February 1997, a mail out was done by the Weapons Licensing Branch of the Queensland Police Service to 274,000 Schedule 3 (Shooters) licence holders requesting they provide the required new particulars (photographs, list of weapons and genuine reason for the licence). Notification of new addresses from licence holders are still being received. On 23 April 1997, a second mail out was done to approximately 26,000 multiple licence holders requesting the same information. Total mail out to licence holders—300,000. Mail returned which

did not reach its destination—2,500. Approximately 49,000 applications have been returned to Weapons Licensing Branch for re-licensing at this time. Approximately 10,000 of these have been identified as having a problem in complying with all of the requirements.

Applications received for re-licensing that have no problems should now be processed in four weeks with the new licence returned to the applicant.

Applications that experience problems will obviously take longer depending in most cases upon the response time of the applicant.

(2) The backlog has been caused by a number of interrelated factors.

The Weapons Computer Data Base had to be enhanced to allow it to handle the additional legislative requirements:

1. Issue of all licenses with a photo, expiry date and category of weapons.
2. The registration of all weapons.
3. The approval of all clubs and shooting ranges.
4. The recognition of genuine reason requirement.
5. The permit to acquire process.

The vetting process required by the new legislation is extensive and of course requires accurate information to be provided by the applicant. Applications have to be checked for:

1. Criminal/Domestic Violence history.
2. Genuine reason for licence:
 - Membership of an Approved Club;
 - Letter from land owner—size, location and suitability of property.
3. Verification of identity.
4. Identification and verification of weapons to be registered.
5. Verification of genuine need for weapons.

The backlog is caused by the need to vet applications to meet the legislative requirements of the Weapons Act 1990 and to chase licence holders who have provided inaccurate or incomplete information.

To address this backlog, the Weapons Licensing Branch has increased its staff from 12 to 42 to complete the re-licensing and registration of weapons tasks. Additional staff members have been appointed on a temporary basis until 30 September 1997. Thirty additional contract data entry personnel have been employed since March as part of a second shift at Weapons Licensing Branch to process the re-licensing applications. Staff had to be trained and familiarised with the Weapons Licensing Branch policy, procedures and computer systems.

The licence production system has the capacity to download 3 000 applications for licence production daily.

Additional staff have been dedicated to the re-licensing process to ensure efficient production and to specifically attempt to resolve the problem

applications by firstly phoning to obtain required information.

(3) The delays relate to both new licences and renewals. Applications for re-licensing recently peaked at over 1000 per day. A large increase in this area is expected in August/September. Applications for new licences are being received at approximately 40 to 50 per day.

(4) It is expected a last minute rush for re-licensing will create a large work load in the immediate future. If licence applications are not received until September under current legislation, numerous people will become unlicensed as at 30 September 1997. To overcome this and to ensure no current licence holder is disadvantaged, it will be necessary to amend the Weapons Act 1990 to ensure that a person's licence does not become automatically revoked provided their re-licensing application is received prior to 30 September 1997.

775. Staging of Aida

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/7/97)—

With reference to the staging of the opera Aida in Brisbane by the Edgley Corporation—

- (1) Is the Edgley Corporation staging this opera solo or is it receiving support from the Queensland Performing Arts Trust and the Queensland Events Corporation; if so, what form is this support taking?
- (2) If part of this support is financial, what level of funding are we talking about and where is this funding being drawn from?
- (3) What return is QPAT and QEC expecting from this support?

Mrs Sheldon (11/8/97):

(1) The Edgley Corporation is staging the opera Aida with financial and infrastructure assistance from the Queensland Performing Arts Trust and assistance from the Queensland Events Corporation. Details of the Queensland Events assistance should be obtained from the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry, who is responsible for that organisation.

(2) The Trust's investment is limited to the contribution of orchestral services and commercial returns are anticipated from this investment. Commercial contracts have also been entered into in respect of ticketing arrangements for the event. QPAT's ticketing system QTIX will provide this service and receive standard commercial returns. Funding is provided from QPAT's entrepreneurial funds and not government provided operating funds.

(3) Commercial returns are anticipated from the investment. In addition to such returns, the return to the community is the opportunity to attend this performance which would not have been carried out without the assistance of QPAT and the Queensland Events Corporation.

776. Moreton Bay Marine Park

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/97)—

With reference to the vital importance of Moreton Bay as a marine habitat, not only in an environmental sense, but also for cultural, recreational and commercial purposes—

- (1) What research has been conducted in Moreton Bay and its adjoining rivers as to marine animals including fish, mammals and their food sources?
- (2) What, in summary, are the results of each study?
- (3) What studies have been conducted in Moreton Bay and its adjoining rivers as to pollutant levels and their effect on human health and marine life and marine plants such as mangroves, seagrass, etc.?
- (4) What, in summary, are the results of each study?
- (5) What studies have been conducted in Moreton Bay and its adjoining rivers with respect to the impact of industrial, commercial and mining activities (including coral dredging) and their effect on marine eco-systems?
- (6) What, in summary, are the results of each study?
- (7) Is he satisfied that his department has appropriate base-line knowledge of the environmental state of Moreton Bay and the stocks of its marine animals including fish, crustaceans, mammals, etc.; if not, will he urgently undertake to co-ordinate such study in order that meaningful decisions about the future of the Bay can be taken with the benefit of full information and knowledge?
- (8) Does he agree that the interests of the Bay would be best served by having the Moreton Bay Marine Park administered by an overarching marine park authority?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) and (2) Research conducted in Moreton Bay and its adjoining rivers has provided the Department of Environment with information on the biology and ecology of various marine animals, in particular threatened and endangered species including sea turtles (eg. green turtles), shorebirds and mammals (eg. dugong). Baseline information has also been gained through broad studies documenting the abundance and diversity of various species and to provide an inventory of fauna which inhabit Moreton Bay.

Collectively, the research conducted to date has led to a recognition of the conservation values of Moreton Bay, in particular its coral reef communities, and wader birds, dugong and sea-turtles and their habitats. Studies have provided the Department with information on population estimates, migration patterns, habitat requirements, breeding activity, growth and mortality factors of various species. Threats to the survival of Moreton Bay's marine animals have also been identified, namely declining water quality and the loss of suitable habitat and food sources. The results of these studies are used in managing the Marine Park, including the development of management plans designed to protect the Bay's flora, fauna and habitats.

Attachment 1 provides an annotated list of relevant reports.

With regard to fish, responsibility for the management of fisheries resources, including the protection of fish habitat, is a matter for my colleague the Honourable Trevor Perrett MLA, Minister for Primary Industries through the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and Forestry and the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority. In this regard, a Discussion Paper was released for public comment earlier this year by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority as a precursor to the development of a Fisheries Management Plan for Moreton Bay. In addition, the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and Forestry carries out research on fisheries issues at its Deception Bay Research Station.

(3) and (4) Two reports have recently been produced by the Department of Environment that address the issue of pollution and overall ecosystem health in the Moreton Bay area. (State of the Brisbane River, Moreton Bay and Waterways 1996; and Pumicestone Passage, its Catchment and Bribie Island. Draft Integrated Management Strategy). The reports examine the condition of the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay systems, including information on the changes, trends and threats in Moreton Bay, adjoining rivers and their catchments. This information is being used as a basis for future planning and management.

The Department of Environment routinely monitors Moreton Bay and adjoining rivers using water quality parameters that describe physical, chemical and microbiological characteristics of the water. In addition, a bioindicator, seagrass depth range, is also being used to assess changes in water quality. Results to date, indicate a relationship between increased turbidity and loss of seagrass.

Attachment 2 provides an annotated list of relevant reports.

(5) and (6) The impacts of industrial, commercial and mining activities are monitored through the Department's water quality monitoring programs described above and listed in Attachment 2. In particular, the South East Queensland Water Quality Monitoring Program was developed to assess the impact of urban development in the region. The results of the first studies under this program are currently being assessed.

Additional studies are undertaken as required to examine impacts in particular cases or events. For example, the Department of Environment has responded to recent allegations that benthic invertebrate fauna have declined at Nudgee Beach, by instigating a detailed investigation. As part of this investigation, a comprehensive sampling program was recently commenced.

Another such case included an examination of organochlorines in sediments throughout Brisbane waterways; this work revealed low residual levels of contaminants. The Department has also recently undertaken a study looking at the impacts of sand extraction in Moreton Bay.

In addition, numerous baseline studies and environmental impact statements have been

prepared for large scale developments in Moreton Bay and the Department has access to these. Examples of such studies include Brisbane Port Environmental Study (1995) undertaken by the Port of Brisbane Corporation; and A Proposal to Dredge Coral from Green Island, Moreton Bay (1994) by Queensland Cement Limited.

(7) The Department of Environment, in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and several local governments in the area, is currently undertaking a comprehensive Wastewater Management Study of Moreton Bay and adjoining rivers. Seventeen research studies have been commissioned to increase baseline environmental knowledge in these areas. These studies include sediment nutrient/toxicant dynamics, estuarine turbidity processes, benthic flora nutrient dynamics, catchment run-off loads and bioaccumulation (toxics).

In addition, as indicated in the Attachments, the Department of Environment has gathered a large array of baseline information on the status of Moreton Bay and its stocks of marine animals. The Department has an ongoing program of continually adding to this information and this will provide increased confidence in decisions about the management of the Marine Park.

(8) In Queensland, marine parks are established under the Marine Parks Act 1982. The Department of Environment, which has the responsibility for this legislation, has a long history of successfully managing marine parks through the employment of personnel with expert technical and managerial skills. In addition the Department regularly involves the community in this process: a significant pool of knowledge and expertise exists within the wider community and the tapping of this knowledge, plus obtaining the community's views in relation to planning initiatives, as well as specific development applications, is an essential part of the management process.

I am satisfied that the interests of Moreton Bay are best served by administration of the Marine Park being retained by the Department of Environment. Accordingly, it is my view that there is no need to create a marine park authority to take over this role. Such an authority would simply be a duplication of bureaucracy of the sort favoured by Labor governments.

777.Sugar Tariff

Mr MULHERIN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/7/97)—

With reference to her recent condemnation of the Federal Coalition Government for backing down on car tariff reduction—

What is her position on the Federal Coalition Government's dropping of the sugar tariff?

Mrs Sheldon (11/8/97): On both these issues, the Queensland Coalition Government has sought the best outcomes for Queensland. In doing so, its attitude on tariffs has been consistent.

The removal of the sugar tariff was supported by the Queensland Government as part of a package of

reform designed to enhance the future prospects of the Queensland sugar industry and benefit Queensland consumers. These reforms come out of the recommendations from the report of the Sugar Industry Review Working Party made up of representatives of the growing and milling sectors of the sugar industry, users and both the Queensland and Commonwealth Governments. The recommendations of the Working Party represented a package of reform which was supported by each of the key industry players.

In a news release of 11 June 1997, Mr Ian Ballantyne, General Manager of the growers' representative body CANEGROWERS said that removal of the tariff is only one of 74 recommendations resulting from the 14-month Review by the Working Party. Mr Ballantyne said, and I quote, that "If the recommendation to remove the sugar tariff was rejected, we would be concerned that other more critical aspects of the Review could be undermined and may potentially collapse."

In respect of car tariffs, I unashamedly support what is best for Queensland and the Commonwealth Government's slow down on tariff reductions in the car industry will only add to costs for Queensland's export-oriented primary industries. The Queensland Coalition Government has played its part in maintaining Queensland as a low tax State—it accepted the end of sugar tariffs—and it is up to the Commonwealth Government to play its part. Car tariffs only tax our efficient export industries while concentrating short-term benefits in South Australia and Victoria. This not only raises costs of other industries but, in the end, hits consumers.

778.Ms P. Hanson; One Nation Party

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Premier (10/7/97)—

With reference to recent media comments by the Queensland President of the National Party in which he said that disciplinary action would be taken against any member supporting a rival political party—

- (1) As Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the ex-National Party Premier of Queensland has openly expressed support for and given advice to Pauline Hanson as head of the One Nation Party, will he now move to instigate disciplinary action against him; if not, what sort of message does he believe this sends to south east Asian countries regarding the desire of the National Party dominated Queensland Government to really encourage business investment in this State?
- (2) When will he end his duplicitous stance on Ms Hanson and her One Nation Party and openly admit that the bulk of the Queensland National Party membership strongly support her and her highly damaging stance on matters Asian and Aboriginal?

Mr Borbidge (11/8/97): (1)-(2) Southeast Asian countries are well aware of the strong stand that the Queensland Government has taken against the policies of the one nation party and their impact on important trade relations.

779.Rural Fire Brigades

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (10/7/97)—

- (1) Are there plans in place or under consideration for the total absorption of the Rural Fire Brigade into the QFRS?
- (2) Are there plans to remove the Rural Bush Fire Brigade as a separate entity; if so, why?

Mr Veivers (8/8/97):

(1) On 1 July 1990 the Fire Service Act 1990 came into force and the Rural Fires Act 1946 was repealed. This had the effect of amalgamating all existing fire boards into a single entity.

Accordingly, from that date, rural fire brigades became operational units of the QFS under the command of the Commissioner.

The status of Rural Fire Brigades was not changed with the establishment of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority by way of the Fire Service Amendment Act 1996 which commenced on 24 February 1997.

(2) Neither the Chief Commissioner nor I are aware of any plans to abolish the Rural Fire Division.

780.Rural Fire Brigades

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Natural Resources (10/7/97)—

With reference to rural fire brigades—

- (1) Is he aware of long delays in his department processes for approval of applications by rural fire brigades for road closures for the purposes of building rural fire stations?
- (2) Is he aware that these long delays are, theoretically and practically, adding to the financial burden of rural fire brigades, by virtue of increases in land values while his department acts in a dilatory way?
- (3) Will he confirm that it is his policy to set the purchase price for rural fire brigades at the time that his department finishes with the file rather than at the time the file is submitted?
- (4) Will he consider revising his policy so as to allow the purchase price to be the price at the time that the application is submitted to his department rather than the much later time when his department finishes with it?
- (5) What is his policy with respect to the crown transferring crown land to other crown purposes such as rural fire brigades?
- (6) What is the policy basis for charging rural fire brigades at all for the privilege of serving the community by placing a fire shed on crown land that would not otherwise be used?

Mr Hobbs (11/8/97): State land made available for rural fire brigade purposes, including land created through road closures, is offered to the Department of Emergency Services under either leasehold or freehold tenure.

The offer is made to Emergency Services because rural fire brigades are usually not incorporated

bodies and therefore are unable to hold a lease or a freehold title in their own name.

Where land is transferred as either freehold or leasehold to Emergency Services, that Department determines the conditions under which a rural fire brigade may occupy the land, including any rent that is to be paid by the local rural fire brigade.

Where there has been delays experienced in arranging the transfer of land to be held under freehold title by Emergency Services, these delays have been resolved and all applications for land for rural fire brigade purposes are now being processed by my Department on an urgent basis.

Generally, any land rent paid by rural fire brigades is set by the Department of Emergency Services. Usually this Department purchases the land and not the local rural fire brigade. Emergency Services has not expressed any concerns to my Department about a cost component of any such delay.

As previously indicated it is the Department of Emergency Services and not the rural fire brigades that purchases the land. Usual practice is to determine the value of the land at the time of inspection. This clearly occurs after the application is received for transfer. Again I would add that Emergency Services has raised no concerns on this aspect with my Department.

The foregoing responses detail for the Member the correct procedures by which rural fire brigades ultimately occupy operation areas. In light of these responses and the fact that the agency which is required to lodge a transfer application on behalf of the rural fire brigade ie. the Emergency Services Department has not lodged a complaint, I believe a review of the valuation process in this regard is unwarranted.

Since initiated in 1991 by the Labor Government, land under the Government Land Management System is transferred between government agencies on a market value basis. This applies to land required by the Department of Emergency Services for all purposes including use by rural fire brigades.

The Government has recently decided to expand the Land Act rental category for Charitable and Non-Commercial Community Service Organisations to include leasehold land held by or on behalf of volunteer emergency service organisations such as rural fire brigades. The relevant regulation has been amended and such leases now attract a rental of only 0.5% of the land's unimproved capital value. This lower rental rate has increased Emergency Services' ability to support rural fire brigades.

My Department supports the operations of rural fire brigades and wherever possible makes suitable land available to the Department of Emergency Services for rural fire brigade purposes.

The actual terms and conditions under which rural fire brigades enter into occupancy of land transferred to the Department of Emergency Services, including rental payments by rural fire brigades, is entirely between Emergency Services and rural fire brigades. It is not a matter which involves my Department, other than imposing on Emergency Services the minimal rental as referred to in (5), which I would point out, is incurred by a

number of charitable and community service organisations.

781. Private Schools, State Government Funding

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (10/7/97)—

With reference to a new Queensland private school with only three students having received both State and Federal funding—

- (1) Which school is receiving this funding and what amounts are coming from each level of Government?
- (2) Why are private schools with such low enrolments receiving Government funding?
- (3) Do two other new private schools which will receive the second highest level of Federal funding have 17 and 18 students?
- (4) Which school received funding to extend its junior secondary school but is expected to have only one student enrolled?
- (5) What are the guidelines governing State Government funding of such schools?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97):

- (1) & (2) There is no school with only three students which is receiving state funding.
- (3) There are no schools, to my knowledge, with 17, or 18 students which will receive the second highest level of federal funding in 1997. However, there are two schools with similar enrolments which will receive the third highest level of Federal funding in 1997. Both of these schools were approved by the Minister for Education from 1 January 1996.
- (4) Chinchilla Christian School will receive Federal funding for the first time in 1997 for its secondary enrolments. This school, which has fourteen primary students and one secondary student, has been approved as a primary and secondary school by the Minister for Education for a number of years.
- (5) There is a two stage approval process for non-state school funding in Queensland.

First, a school must be approved as a non-state school by the Minister for Education under Section 3(2) of Education (General Provisions) Act 1989. To be approved as a non-state school, the Minister must be satisfied that adequate facilities for and efficient and regular instruction in preschool, primary, secondary or special education are provided for students attending the school. To enable an assessment to be made, school proponents must complete an application form which provides details of school facilities, teachers, the curriculum and other matters. The application is assessed by the relevant regional executive director of education and a recommendation made to the Minister.

Second, to be eligible for funding, a school must be categorised as a school in receipt of subsidy under Section 72 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 1989. This requires the school to be inspected by a senior officer in the region and a recommendation made by the regional executive director to the Minister.

The processes for approval and registration of non-state schools are currently undergoing further development in consultation with non-state school authorities. Additionally, following the abolition of the Commonwealth New Schools Policy, guidelines are being developed to ensure there is a planned approach to the development of non-state schools in Queensland. These guidelines are being developed in consultation with the non-state school authorities.

782. Arts Portfolio Restructure, Job Losses

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (10/7/97)—

With reference to the Government's plan for 23 job losses in the Arts portfolio, details of which were to be settled by 30 June according to the Ministerial Program Statement—

- (1) From where specifically are these jobs to be lost?
- (2) Are these jobs to be lost from the State Library, Art Gallery, Museum or elsewhere in the Arts portfolio?
- (3) How does she reconcile these 23 job losses with her previous assurances that there would be no job losses as a result of her restructuring of the Arts portfolio?

Mrs Sheldon (11/8/97):

- (1) & (2) The reduction in positions will be from across the Arts portfolio. The exact areas are not defined as the recruitment and selection processes are not yet completed.
- (3) There will be no sacking within the Arts portfolio. The reduction in numbers will occur through the correct recruitment and selection processes. Voluntary Early Retirement packages and redeployment options will be available to those staff who are not successful in gaining a position within the Arts portfolio. Instead of criticising the refocusing, it should be acknowledged that the refocusing will establish career paths for staff within the corporate services areas and increase the expertise levels of staff to assist the Arts portfolio as a whole. Training and development opportunities are currently being provided and this will continue as the refocusing progresses.

783. Public Housing, Stones Corner

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (10/7/97)—

With reference to his proposed plan to trial the tenancy management and maintenance functions of his department in the Stones Corner area in November—

- (1) For how long will the trial be conducted?
- (2) What is the current cost of the tenancy and maintenance management for public housing in this area?
- (3) What is the breakdown of this cost, including staff, administration and materials?
- (4) What funds will be allocated to the trial?
- (5) What tender and selection process will be used to determine the private provider for this trial?

- (6) Will he give an assurance that an independent evaluation of the trial will be undertaken resulting in a report to Parliament?
- (7) Will he give an assurance that such an evaluation will include feedback from public housing tenants affected by the trial?

Dr Watson (8/8/97):

- (1) The trial will be conducted for 12 months.
- (2) The costs of tenancy and property management are changing as new functions, such as regular property condition audits, are being added to the range of tasks previously performed.
- (3) Similarly, the breakdown will change with the implementation of additional functions and responsibilities which will occur across the State.
- (4) The funds allocated to the trial will be dependent on submissions received following a public tender process.
- (5) A public tender process will be used. The tender and the selection process will be managed and supervised by an external probity auditor.
- (6) An independent evaluation of the trial will be conducted by an external firm which will regularly review performance over the life of the pilot.
- (7) Yes.

784. Premier's Department, Congratulatory Messages

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Premier (10/7/97)—

With reference to the letter from his department dated 4 July and signed by a Pat McGill, Manager, Ministerial Correspondence Unit, relating to "requests for congratulatory messages based on information generated by Electsys"—

How many instances are documented of people incorrectly receiving congratulatory messages as a result of this practice?

Mr Borbidge (11/8/97): In response to the question asked, I can advise that the Ministerial Correspondence Unit has recorded one instance only of a person receiving an incorrect congratulatory message. Information generated from Electsys and onforwarded to the Ministerial Correspondence Unit indicated year of birth 1897 when the year of birth was 1907.

Reference in the Departmental letter dated 4 July 1997 to information contained in Electsys as having been shown 'on occasion' to be incorrect was intended to refer to inaccuracies previously detected in the processing stage of requests rather than previous instances of incorrect congratulatory messages. The said Departmental letter to all Members of the Legislative Assembly represents a further attempt by my Department to reinforce the importance of independent checking of information generated by Electsys with reliable sources.

785. Police Beat Shopfront, Gracemere; Police Resources, Mount Morgan

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/7/97)—

With reference to Page 27 of the Report to the Legislative Assembly. Estimates Committee B, 2.4 Police Numbers, Paragraph 2, and I quote—

"The answer to the Question on Notice No 2 indicated that police numbers in Central Region only rose by five in 1996-97 and will rise by 37 in 1997-98."

As the Central Region is expected to gain an additional 37 police officers in 1997-98, will he advise the likelihood of a Police Beat Program being established in Gracemere and whether or not additional police will be allocated to Mount Morgan during the same period?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97): The exact number of additional positions to be allocated to each Region (estimated to be in the vicinity of 37 for Central Region) has yet to be determined by the Commissioner of Police. This will be determined in August/September of the new financial year after the receipt of population data to be provided by the Government Statistician. (The population data provided specifically relates to policing boundaries throughout the State.)

The Assistant Commissioners of each Region are given the discretion to vary the proposed allocation either between Districts, Divisions, or between General duties Traffic and Investigative functions.

Until final allocation of positions to each Region has been determined any decision concerning the establishment of a Police Beat Program in Gracemere and any additional allocation to Mount Morgan is not able to be made.

When the final allocation of positions is known the Assistant Commissioner, Central Region will give consideration to the allocation of positions throughout the Central Region on the basis of operational policing and direct service delivery needs.

786. Richlands TAFE College

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (10/7/97)—

With reference to the Richlands TAFE campus—

- (1) What moneys have been expended to date on upgrading its facilities?
- (2) What moneys have been allocated for 1997-98 to further upgrade the TAFE's facilities?
- (3) How many of the existing buildings will be demolished to accommodate new buildings?
- (4) What is the current enrolment at the TAFE college?
- (5) What is the expected enrolment for 1998?
- (6) What is the expected enrolment for the year 2001?
- (7) When will major capital works commence on the campus?

Mr Santoro (11/8/97):

- (1) \$1.051 million.
- (2) \$455,000 has been allocated in the 1997/98 budget to provide further refurbishment of the site and to commence the design processes for the construction of a new Computing and Amenities building on the site.

(3) Four of the existing buildings are presently planned for demolition to accommodate the new building, subject to the final design requirements.

(4) As of 1 July 1997 student enrolments at the Richlands Campus totalled 2,884.

(5) Expected enrolment figures are presently unavailable for 1998 as calculation of this figure is dependent on final enrolment figures for 1997, available facilities at the Campus and the outcomes of market research currently being undertaken.

(6) No enrolment figures are available as targets have not been set for 2001.

(7) Major Capital Works commenced at the Campus on 9 December 1996 with the refurbishment of existing facilities to convert the Richlands State High School into a facility capable of the delivery of vocational education and training. Stage 1 was completed on 31 January 1997 and the facility commenced operation on 3 February 1997. Further staged development of this campus will be subject to analysis of needs, ability to achieve the student outcomes through technology based delivery and the availability of funding.

787. Mr D. Kirkpatrick; Resignation from Police Service

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (10/7/97)—

With reference to media reports that self-confessed corrupt Whitsunday Police Officer Damon Kirkpatrick resigned from the Queensland Police Service on 16 April—

- (1) Has corrupt Police Officer Damon Kirkpatrick resigned from the Queensland Police Service from 16 April as reported?
- (2) Was he facing departmental charges as a result of his corrupt drug related activities; if so, were those departmental charges finalised before his resignation?
- (3) What was the outcome of any charges if they had been laid?
- (4) Did the Criminal Justice Commission approve his resignation?
- (5) Why was he allowed to resign if departmental charges were laid, or could be laid, before they were finalised?
- (6) Has he been charged for his self-confessed corrupt criminal activity?
- (7) Will he be charged for his self-confessed corrupt criminal activity?
- (8) Did his resignation allow him to take his full superannuation benefits?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97):

(1) Officer Kirkpatrick was suspended by the Queensland Police Service on 16 January 1997. However, he tendered his resignation on the same date. Initially, the QPS did not accept his resignation and he was advised of that fact on 17 January 1997. However, legal advice to QPS indicated that the Service had no legal base to refuse to accept the

resignation. That resignation became effective on 16 April 1997.

(2) The conduct admitted to by Kirkpatrick amounted to criminal conduct and Official Misconduct, however, action was not instituted prior to his resignation. The commencement of disciplinary charges usually occurs after the more serious criminal action is determined in the Superior Courts.

(3) No charges were laid.

(4) Neither the Criminal Justice Commission nor the Queensland Police Service approved his resignation. However, Section 8.1(2) of the Police Service Administration Act provides "an officer other than one referred to in Subsection (1) may resign from the Service at any time in the manner prescribed by the Regulations". Section 5.1 of the Police Service (Administration) Regulations 1990 provides "an officer must give to the Commissioner written notice of intention to resign at least 3 months prior to the date of intended resignation unless the Commissioner approves some shorter period".

Legal advice has been sought in relation to this matter and the Police Service has been informed that the officer could not be held after the 3 months from the date of tendering his resignation.

(5) Kirkpatrick's resignation became effective automatically on 16 April, 1997 for the reasons outlined in Answer (4).

(6) No, the Queensland Police Service is awaiting advice from the Criminal Justice Commission on conclusion of their investigations.

(7) This will depend on the advice received from the Criminal Justice Commission.

(8) Kirkpatrick has access to his personal superannuation contributions with the remainder being held until age 55. Should Kirkpatrick be convicted of a prescribed offence as defined, the Act allows for the recovery of the employer portion of his superannuation benefits.

788. Rail Line, Denison Street, Rockhampton

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (10/7/97)—

With reference to the increase in speed on the Denison Street, Rockhampton rail line from 15 km/h to 25 km/h—

- (1) Why has this occurred?
- (2) What consultation occurred with the Rockhampton City Council, rail unions and other stakeholders?
- (3) What legislative arrangements, if any, were required to facilitate this increase?

Mr Johnson (11/8/97):

(1) This occurred to improve the track and operations on this section of the corridor.

(2) On several occasions there was consultation between Queensland Rail, Rockhampton City Council, Unions and other stakeholders.

(3) There were no legislative arrangements required at the time the work was undertaken.

789. Aboriginal and Islander Health Services

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (10/7/97)—

With reference to the need to increase health services to Aboriginal and Islanders in particular in Drug and Alcohol Programs—

- (1) Why was this program underspent by approximately \$1.7m?
- (2) Is this underspending the result of downgrading of the Aboriginal and Islander Health Branch within his department?
- (3) Which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services have closed in the last 12 months?

Mr Horan (7/8/97):

(1) Total State budget spending on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs in the 1996/97 financial year by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit was \$8,726,432—up from \$5,156,342 in the 1995/96 year. Unallocated from State funding was \$496,501 which was not spent because some health services planning had not been fully completed.

Additionally, as part of the Bilateral Agreement negotiated with the Commonwealth, \$3 million of Commonwealth funding was provided in the 1996/97 year. \$1.4 million was spent on infrastructure and services during the 1996/97 year and it is anticipated the remainder will be spent during the current financial year after comprehensive planning and negotiation processes are completed. The Royal Flying Doctor Service, for example, has agreed to provide additional services costing \$500,000 in the Cape York Region with these services to begin as soon as medical staff are recruited.

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Services Unit advises that \$140,000 was provided specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander substance use and abuse during 1996/97, with this amount being fully expended.

(2) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Unit has in fact been significantly upgraded with 10 additional positions created to undertake projects as part of the Implementation Plan for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Policy.

(3) There are no instances where Queensland Health has closed Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Health Services in the past 12 months. Health services will in fact expand due to significant additional State and Commonwealth funding. For example, Queensland Health is currently negotiating to provide specialist medical services for Ear, Nose and Throat services for the first time to many remote indigenous communities.

790. Gurulmundi Toxic Waste Dump

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/97)—

With reference to recent heavy rain in the Miles area and its effects on the Gurulmundi dump—

- (1) How much rain fell in the Gurulmundi area and was flooding widespread?
- (2) Did the settling pond overflow?

- (3) Did any discharge reach nearby watercourses?
- (4) What testing was done of local creeks to determine discharge occurrences?
- (5) What depth did water reach in the main pit?
- (6) Was any water from the settling pond discharged back to the main pit?
- (7) Does he intend to make any changes to the management plan as a result of this occurrence?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) A total of 785 mm of rain was recorded at Gurulmundi for the period between December 1996 and February 1997, 135 mm more than the yearly average rainfall. The extreme rainfalls were limited to the Gurulmundi and Gilgulgul area.

(2) The Gurulmundi landfill incorporates an evaporation pond, not a settling pond. The evaporation pond overflowed into the main pit as a result of the extreme rainfall.

(3) No. The landfill design incorporates a system of bund walls which contain all rain falling within the operational area of the landfill. The overflow from the evaporation pond was contained within the landfill operational area by these bunds.

(4) The landfill was closely monitored during the period of extreme rainfall. Inspections have shown that the landfill operated according to design and that all the rain falling within the landfill operational area was contained in that area and did not discharge to the local creek. Testing of the stormwater stored in the pond showed it to be clear of contamination from waste entombed at the site. In addition, an independent consultant was engaged to review the performance of the landfill and the consultant concluded that there had been no escape of water from the landfill operational area.

(5) The water in the main pit was between one and one and a half metres deep.

(6) Yes. See answer to (2) above.

(7) Yes. The Gurulmundi Landfill Management Committee is currently investigating options to increase the stormwater holding capacity of the evaporation pond so as to overcome the need to store excess rainfall in the main pit.

791. Dental Clinics, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (10/7/97)—

With reference to waiting lists for dental treatment at Gold Coast Dental Clinics—

Will he provide a breakdown of waiting times and number of patients on waiting lists at each dental clinic on the Gold Coast?

Mr Horan (7/8/97): (1) The Gold Coast Oral Health Service maintains a centralised waiting list for all clinics. It is therefore not possible to give a clinic-by-clinic breakdown.

Dental service treatments in Queensland have increased by 8.7% under the Coalition, which means that 20,000 more Queenslanders have been able to access dental treatment in the period March to December 1996, compared with the same period

under the Goss Labor Government in 1995. This massive increase in treatment clearly shows the Coalition Government has turned dental services around and is getting on with the job of treating more Queenslanders.

Additionally, the Coalition has reduced dental vacancies from 13% under the previous State Labor Government, to now less than 1%. Specific improvements to dental services brought about by the Coalition Government include a 25% increase to \$80 million in the recent 1997/98 State Budget.

Dental patients requiring emergency or immediate treatment are given an immediate appointment or seen on the day they present for treatment.

Overall, service has dramatically increased, with additional patient throughput, together with the commissioning of new facilities, for example at Nerang.

In the July 1996 to June 1997, some 23,446 people received completed treatment (a mixture of general and emergency cases). This is an increase of 9,798 completed patients per year compared to 1994/95.

The Queensland Government continues to give oral health care a very high priority, and Queensland is the only State to fully supplement the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program, with a \$19.8 Million New Initiative Program announced in the 1997-98 State Budget.

792. Vetiver Grass

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/97)—

- (1) Is he aware of trials of so-called vetiver grass being conducted by Excel Quarries at the Glasshouse Mountains?
- (2) What is the nature of this grass and from what country does it derive?
- (3) For what purposes is this grass being trialled?
- (4) Would it not be more appropriate for native Australian grasses to be used for the various purposes for which this grass is being trialled?
- (5) Is the grass being used for rehabilitating banks of natural waterways?
- (6) What impact would this have on access by native animals to the waterways?
- (7) Has he been consulted by the Natural Resources Department in relation to this trial?
- (8) What input has his department had into the trial?
- (9) Does he consider this grass suitable for extensive use throughout Queensland for soil stabilisation or as any other form of land management tool?

Mr Littleproud (5/8/97):

- (1) Yes. The trial for Monto Vetiver grass (*Vetiveria zizanioides*) is a small ongoing research and development project of the Department of Natural Resources. The trial was established in 1993.
- (2) Vetiver grass is native to India, and has been in Queensland since the 1930s. Vetiver grass is a tufted grass that flowers, but it is sterile and

produces no seeds. Therefore Vetiver has to be propagated vegetatively by root subdivision. Vetiver has no runners, nor rhizomes, and only spreads by tillering.

(3) I am advised that Monto Vetiver is being trialled by the Department of Natural Resources for its soil conservation properties, namely slope stabilisation, rehabilitation of disturbed landscapes and for trapping sediment. When planted in single lines along the contour, hedges of vetiver grass are found to be effective in soil and moisture conservation.

(4) I am advised by Natural Resources that other ongoing research and development trials are occurring in Mackay with both native species and Monto Vetiver. The trial, established in 1995 has compared Monto Vetiver, a native Vetiver (*Vetiveria filipes*) and *Lomandra longifolia*. After the 1997 wet season, the slope rehabilitated with the native Vetiver and *Lomandra* collapsed. Monto Vetiver has a more dense and deeper root system, is tolerant of drought, frost and water logged conditions, in addition to situations of low pH, high salt, high Aluminium, Manganese, Sodium and Magnesium. The native species is unable to tolerate these conditions, and is not as effective at slope stabilisation.

(5) I am informed that Monto Vetiver is not being used for rehabilitating banks of natural waterways at the Excel Quarries site, however it is being trialled for this purpose at Rocky Dam Creek near Mackay.

(6) Under situations of stream bank erosion, it may be difficult for native animals to get out of the waterways. Monto Vetiver can help to stabilise the banks, and could be thought to assist access, as the stream bank would then be stabilised.

(7) The Queensland Herbage Plant Liaison Committee overviews the release of any new plants in Queensland. The Department of Environment is a member of this committee. Approval for the trial of Monto Vetiver has been given by this Department through that Committee.

(8) As indicated above, the Department of Environment approved the trial.

(9) I am advised by Natural Resources that research results in Queensland and around the world suggest that Monto Vetiver is one of the most effective methods of land stabilisation and rehabilitation. The US National Research Council has reported that Vetiver has not become a weed in more than 40 countries after extensive use for 50 years.

Given the extreme climatic conditions in Queensland, whereby long periods of drought are interspersed with episodic extreme runoff events, Monto Vetiver is seen as being able to assist with the prevention of soil erosion and the consequent sedimentation of waterways, estuaries, wetlands, dams, ports and Marine Parks.

Monto Vetiver is a pioneer species and can be used to stabilise highly erodible situations. After the slope has been stabilised, native shrubs and trees can be planted. Once the native species are established, they can shade out the Vetiver, as it is not able to tolerate shady conditions.

In addition, Vetiver is easy to remove with a plough, as it has no rhizomes, and is unable to tolerate 'Round Up'.

793. Nature Search Project; Wildnet Database

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/97)—

- (1) Why has he dismantled the very successful Nature Search project established by the previous Government?
- (2) What permanent staffing levels have been allocated in the 1997-98 Budget for co-ordination of community input into Nature Search or information for the Wildnet Data Base?
- (3) What operational funds have been allocated for 1997-98?
- (4) Who is the officer responsible for coordinating community input into the Nature Search project?
- (5) How many community participants in how many Nature Search districts and in what locations are participating in providing information about native flora and fauna?
- (6) When was the last occasion that the department communicated by letter or newsletter to all of these Nature Search participants?
- (7) Have the Nature Search participants been advised of his direction to dismantle Nature Search and replace it with Wildnet without coordinating community input?
- (8) What other sources of information are to be provided for inclusion in Wildnet and what types of information are to be included in that database?
- (9) What is the total amount to be allocated to the Wildnet project in 1997-98 and what is the breakdown of how that funding is anticipated to be spent?
- (10) Why will he not admit that the formation of the so-called threatened species and ecosystem unit is merely a charade achieved by amalgamating several existing scientific and research sections of the conservation division without any real allocation of additional staffing or financial resources?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97): The Member's ten-part question is a contradiction. You start by making an allegation—a false one, I might add—that I have dismantled the Nature Search project; then the Member wants details about a supposedly dismantled project. Part 10 of the question is also based on a falsehood.

Given that, the Department continues to maintain the Nature Search computer system and infrastructure for updating the database with new records and responding to requests for information from community groups, local government and individuals. I pay a tribute to the many volunteers who continue to be involved in the project and helping to maintain and increase these community wildlife records through coordinator Mr Tom Mumbray.

WildNet, a Coalition Government initiative, is being developed to provide a central access point for verifiable, accurate information on wildlife for government and the community. It will utilise

available wildlife data from a wide range of sources including departmental records, Nature Search, the Queensland Herbarium, the Queensland Museum, universities and research bodies. In 1997-98, \$320,000 has been allocated towards further expansion and operation of the WildNet system.

Establishment of another Coalition initiative, the Threatened Species and Ecosystems Unit, has resulted in greater efficiencies and implementation of recovery plans for endangered species in Queensland.

794. High School, Narangba/Burpengary

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education (10/7/97)—

With reference to the failure of the 1997-98 Budget to provide funding for the construction of a high school to service the rapidly growing Narangba/Burpengary area—

Will he ensure that a high school will open for the 1999 school year?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97): The Burpengary-Narangba area is recognised by the Department as a significant growth focus that should be served by its own local high school.

A high school to serve the Narangba-Burpengary area has been submitted for consideration for inclusion in the 1998/1999 Capital Works Program.

The fragmented nature of development in this area is such that, to date, difficulties have been experienced in selecting and acquiring the optimum secondary school site. The coordination of the timing of roads, water and sewerage with the desired opening date of the school, as well as appropriate geographic centrality, are issues in this regard.

The Department is currently discussing the issue with the shire council and developers.

795. Underground Water Supplies

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (10/7/97)—

With reference to the depleted underground water resources occurring throughout Queensland—

- (1) What underground aquifers are suffering from salt intrusion?
- (2) What underground aquifers are suffering from depletion causing either dry bores or reduced pumping rates?
- (3) In what areas of Queensland is his department having to undertake rehabilitation measures or special management programs to protect our underground water supplies?

Mr Hobbs (4/8/97):

(1) Drought has caused some saltwater intrusion into most coastal aquifers. Significant problems have been encountered in the Bundaberg and Mackay areas.

(2) Most aquifers have a lower water level in dry periods. Prolonged dry periods can cause individual bore yields to be depleted. Currently groundwater systems in quite a few areas in Queensland have volumes in storage at below average levels. These

include the Lockyer Valley, parts of the Darling Downs, Bundaberg, the Callide Valley, the Mackay area and some other smaller systems.

(3) Most major groundwater systems in Queensland are subject to management by my Department of Natural Resources through a system of licensing and water allocations. Currently use is being measured and monitored in most of these systems and announced allocations have had to be reduced in Bundaberg and the Callide Valley because of low groundwater levels. Other measures, such as restrictions on the construction of new bores or limitations on the hours of pumping, have been applied in other areas.

Artificial recharge is practised in many areas to increase groundwater availability. Major schemes operate in the Burdekin Delta, the Callide Valley, Monto area and the Lockyer Valley.

My Department is continuing to develop groundwater flow models enabling better management of groundwater systems that are presently under pressure of this kind.

796. Gurulmundi Toxic Waste Dump

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (10/7/97)—

With reference to the Brisbane City Council's intention to close the Willawong Waste Treatment Plant in 1998 and to his comments in Parliament on 19 March 1992 pledging to have the Gurulmundi landfill in his electorate, "closed down as soon as possible"—

- (1) Does he support the recommendation or resolution of the recent meeting of the Brisbane City Council, Murilla Shire and State Government officers calling for the Gurulmundi landfill to be closed down?
- (2) When does he intend to close Gurulmundi?
- (3) Has he identified any alternative technologies to treat and dispose of toxic waste currently being landfilled at Gurulmundi; if so, (a) what are these technologies, (b) who owns them and (c) where and when will they be put into operation in Queensland?
- (4) Is it intended to allow waste from private operators or interstate to be dumped at Gurulmundi once the Illawong facility closes?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97): Since I have become Minister for Environment, I have not changed the view I espoused in the Parliament in 1992, that is, "I will be endeavouring to find ways to have it closed down as soon as possible...I will be investigating all the ways I can to close it down". I emphasised the need to investigate alternative technologies with the aim of obviating the need for such a landfill. That emphasis was justified given that the volume going to Gurulmundi has dropped from 700 kilolitres to 200 kilolitres because of technology advances and improved practices.

- (1) No such recommendation was made.
- (2) See above.

797. Wavell State High School, Funding of Student Centre

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (10/7/97)—

While welcoming the new student centre being built at Wavell State High School, and acknowledging the significant contribution being made by the Wavell Parents and Citizens Association to the planning and funding of the facility—

- (1) From which departmental programs is funding being provided for this building?
- (2) Is the money coming from Education Queensland funds, or is the money being provided under Federal funding arrangements, as was claimed by the member for Lilley, Mrs Elizabeth Grace?
- (3) If this facility is being funded by the Federal Government, will he give details of Federal funding programs so that I can inform other schools in my electorate who may wish to avail themselves of these funding options?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97): (1), (2) & (3) Funding for this project is from the Queensland State Government. However, it is also acknowledged that the Parents and Citizens Association are making a significant contribution to enhance the overall facility. This contribution will add a gymnastics area and mezzanine floor for viewing.

798. Primary Industries Minister, Overseas Visits

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (11/7/97)—

- (1) What overseas trips has he undertaken since becoming Minister?
- (2) What were the reasons for these trips?
- (3) What were the costs associated with this travel?

Mr Perrett (5/8/97): The Minister has undertaken 5 overseas trips since 26 February 1996. The trips were as follows:

Trip 1: United States of America 14-25 June, 1996

Trip 2: Indonesia—Trade Mission 29 July-5 August, 1996

Trip 3: New Zealand 16-22 September, 1996

Trip 4: Queensland Fisheries Industry Trade Mission—Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China 12-24 February, 1997

Trip 5: Indonesia/Philippines 20-27 July 1997

The reasons for each overseas trip as follows:

TRIP 1: The objective of this trip was to study the agricultural products, processing and marketing systems of the United States in light of the new global economics, GATT, and NAFTA outcomes. The visit to the USA included viewing the agricultural research and development models in Texas A&M University. The rest of the party including departmental and business industry representatives visited South America at the conclusion of the United States visit.

TRIP 2: This trip was undertaken in conjunction with the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and was resultant from an invitation from Minister Hartarto, Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Production and Distribution. Important matters for discussion were education, sugar technology, tourism, infrastructure and primary industries (including live cattle). The Mission also focused on demonstrating the Queensland Government's support for trade relationships with Indonesia, reaffirming the newly-appointed Queensland Government's commitment to building productive alliances at government and business levels with key economic partners, and gain an enhanced appreciation of government's role in achieving the States' economic and trade objectives.

TRIP 3: In conjunction with the outcomes of a recent Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture and new Department initiatives to commence demonstration/joint venture farm forestry plantings an invitation was extended by the Minister for Forestry, New Zealand to inspect successful private farm forestry plantations in New Zealand and explore the legislative and policy framework. An opportunity also existed to observe native forest logging conducted under the local legislation.

TRIP 4: The objectives of this Trade mission were to:

- promote the Queensland seafood industry in Asian markets;
- acquire an understanding of Asian markets and market trends for seafood and aquaculture products;
- establish business contacts and networks in Asia to enhance the market opportunities for the export of seafood and aquaculture products from Queensland; and
- seek overseas investment in aquaculture opportunities in Queensland.

TRIP 5: The objective of this trip was to promote Queensland live cattle exports and trade in beef and beef products. The mission also examined South-East Asian market trends, and aimed to establish business contacts and networks to enhance market opportunities for Queensland.

The costs for the travel is as follows:

Trip 1:	Minister—\$10,224.61
	Staff—\$11,929.76
	TOTAL—\$22,154.37
Trip 2:	Minister—\$2,859.18
	Staff—\$3,516.84
	TOTAL—\$6,376.02
Trip 3:	Minister—\$3,578.08
	Staff—\$3,226.98
	TOTAL—\$6,805.06
Trip 4:	Minister—\$ 385.01*
	Staff—\$591.71*
	TOTAL—\$976.72* (NOTE: FULL COSTS NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR THIS TRIP)
Trip 5:	NO DETAILS AVAILABLE AT THIS STAGE.

Addendum

Mr Horan (15/8/97): The answer previously supplied provided the reasons, as requested, and costings where these were available, for trips undertaken by the Minister since February 1996. The answer indicated that costing details for trip 4 were not complete. These have now been collated and are:

Minister—\$6169.41

Staff—\$6731.84

Cost details for trip 5 are not yet available.

799. Mount Morgan Hospital, Removal of Asbestos

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (11/7/97)—

With reference to the Report of the Legislative Assembly, Estimates Committee C, Public Works and Housing, Page 14, Asbestos Management Program—Has Q-Build, as part of its high risk asbestos audits of Government-owned buildings, audited for asbestos at the Mount Morgan Hospital; if so, what was the outcome of the asbestos audit and what is the timeframe for the removal of asbestos from Mount Morgan Hospital?

Dr Watson (11/8/97): Yes. The Mount Morgan Hospital was audited on 10 July 1995. Of the thirteen buildings on the site, six were found to be "asbestos free", with the remaining seven buildings having asbestos containing materials present. However, these materials are in a stable condition and if undisturbed, pose negligible risk to the health of building occupants/users.

During the audit, three situations were identified by risk assessment as potential risks to health and requiring urgent remediation. An experienced, licensed, quality assured contractor was engaged by Q-Build to carry out the removal/clean-up of these areas under the supervision of an independent Environmental Consultant acting as Q-Build's Representative. The role of Q-Build's Representative in this process is to oversee and log all work involving the disturbance of asbestos and to provide an air monitoring and inspection service for the removal of asbestos and the preparation of waste for disposal. The removal work was satisfactorily completed on 26 October 1995 and waste disposed of at the Fitzroy Shire Council's Gracemere refuse tip (Tip Coupon No. A166). I am surprised the Member has seen fit to ask this question as the work referred to occurred during the term of the previous Government, of which he was a Member.

800. Emergency Services Minister, Use of Helicopter

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (11/7/97)—

- (1) On what dates, since 19 February 1996, has he utilised the services of a helicopter for transport and, for each trip concerned (a) what was the purpose of the trip, (b) what was the type of helicopter utilised and who was it owned by, (c)

what was the destination of the trip and (d) what was the cost, including (i) hire or charter, (ii) staff wages, (iii) fuel, (iv) refreshments served and (v) any other costs involved?

- (2) Where was the helicopter based at the time it was determined it was required for use by him and what was the cost of repositioning to enable use by him?
- (3) Who approved the use of the helicopter?
- (4) Why was a helicopter utilised as opposed to other forms of transport, both air and land?
- (5) If the helicopter was an Emergency Services helicopter, what investigations were made to ensure that it would not be required for emergency duties?

Mr Veivers (11/8/97):

(1), (2), (3) I have utilised the services of the Departmental helicopters on 6 occasions. These occasions included 5 trips to inspect damage caused by Natural Disasters and one occasion to promote Queensland to the Japanese public. The details of these flights as requested is attached.

(4) A helicopter is frequently the most practical way of inspecting damage caused by Natural Disasters.

(5) On no occasion have I used a helicopter if it was required for emergency duties. The overriding principle for the use of the Government helicopters is that priority is given to emergency tasks. For example during my inspection of damage around Cairns on 7 March 1996, two emergency tasks were received for the helicopter. Immediately these tasks were received, myself, the Director-General, and the then Executive Director of Counter Disaster Services were off loaded while the helicopter was redirected to the emergency tasks. It is Departmental policy that emergency tasking will always take priority over any other task being undertaken.

801. Hamilton Island Resort

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (11/7/97)—

With reference to the performance of the Hamilton Island resort in recent times—

- (1) What net profit did the resort post for 1996-97?
- (2) What was its forecast profit for that year?
- (3) To what does the resort attribute the difference?
- (4) Is he confident that the recent management shake-up and altered marketing strategies will turn around this resort's fortunes?

Mr Davidson (11/8/97):

(1) Hamilton Island Resort is a publicly-listed enterprise and the information sought is lodged by the company with the Australian Stock Exchange.

(2) The resort issued a media release on 19 June regarding its anticipated profit for 1996/97, however, final figures have not been released.

(3) The resort produces a quarterly shareholders report which is lodged with the Australian Stock Exchange.

(4) Its annual report will be released in October 1997.

802. Port of Brisbane, Restructure

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/7/97)—

With reference to the recently announced restructure of the corporatised Port of Brisbane—

- (1) What prompted this restructure, who is undertaking it, at what cost and over what time frame?
- (2) How many positions are expected to be lost and will compulsory redundancies be used to achieve the restructure's recommendations?
- (3) At what levels are these positions likely to be lost?
- (4) What efficiency and trade improvements to port operations is he expecting from this restructure?
- (5) What is delaying the appointment of a permanent chief executive and when is it expected this position will be filled?
- (6) What role has the port authority's involvement in the purchase of Brisbane Airport played in prompting this restructure?

Mr Johnson (11/8/97):

(1) A new Board was appointed in 1996, and in order to maintain the Port's competitive edge, the Board engaged the services of external consultants to help the Executive develop a Strategic Plan to drive the Corporation into the 21st century. (The Corporation's previous Strategic Plan was released in 1992). The restructure emphasises the shift in focus towards a more active, and more proactive, business partner, instead of the landlord approach to Port Management which has served the Port and its customers very well in the past. The new structure was derived from the Strategic review outcomes. That structure was outlined to all Corporation staff on 26 June by the Executive of the Corporation. Apart from external assistance, which the Corporation is providing for staff, the restructure is being managed by the Executive of the Corporation.

As the restructure is on a voluntary basis, the corporation cannot, with any certainty, estimate what the cost of Voluntary Early Retirements (VER) will be until all expressions of interest from staff are received and considered. Staff have been given 6 weeks from June 27 to consider the VER offer. The Corporation will then consider these expressions of interest and advise staff accordingly. There are some staff who have already expressed their interest. The majority of staff who wish to leave will do so by the end of September, but it may be necessary to retain some of these for a period up to 12 months.

(2) Prior to the restructure there were approximately 223 employees in the Corporation. The new structure provides for 181 employees. The process is voluntary and there will be no compulsory redundancies.

(3) Staff from all levels have expressed their interest in a Voluntary Early Retirement package.

(4) The Corporation ultimately wants to provide the Ports' customers not only with well-managed port

land and facilities, but also with integrated logistic solutions, brought about through closer, more responsive working relationships and better understanding of business and its needs. In this way, trade through the Port will be maximised.

(5) The Corporation anticipated at the outset that it would take up to six months to find and appoint a suitable candidate and indications are that they are on schedule to achieve that target.

(6) There is no link between the purchase of the airport and the new Corporation structure.

803. State Government Departments and Agencies, Budget Expenditure

Mr HAMILL asked the Premier (11/7/97)—

With reference to his answer to my question which he took on notice at the recent Estimates Committee A Hearing in which he provided details of capital works spending, funded from the Consolidated fund for each department and agency as at 31 March, 30 April and 31 May 1997—

- (1) What was the capital budget for each of these departments and agencies as announced in the Government's Budget for 1996-97 (i.e., Budget Paper No. 2 1996-97)?
- (2) What was the confirmed level of expenditure on capital works by each of these departments and agencies as at 31 May 1997?
- (3) What was the level of expenditure on capital works by each of these departments and agencies as at 30 June 1997?
- (4) What are the reasons in respect of each department and agency for why the information presented by the Premier in his answer to Estimates Committee A, in respect of the 1997-98 capital budget for each department and agency, does not accord with the information presented in Table 4.4 at p.103 of Budget Paper No. 2 1997-98?

Mr Borbidge (11/8/97):

(1) The original Capital Budgets for each Department for 1996-97 are provided in Budget Paper 2, page 105. The details of Estimated Actuals provided in response to your previous question included approved revisions to original budgets.

(2) Details of expenditure on capital works by Department as at 31 May have now been finalised and the figures previously provided are confirmed.

(3) Details of expenditures by Department as at 30 June 1997 are not yet available and will be tabled as part of the Annual Report for each Department.

(4) Details of capital outlays for 1997-98 provided in my previous response comprise a full aggregation by Department, of capital works expenditures from the Consolidated Fund as outlined in Budget Paper Number 3, Capital Outlays. As is normal practice, Budget Paper 2 includes items and transfers which are not encompassed in the definition of capital in

Budget Paper 3 such as capital transfers and Trust Funds.

804. Dental Board; Appointment of Mr T. Bradley

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (11/7/97)—

With reference to the Dental Board of Queensland appointed by him for a term of 3 years on or from 24 April—

- (1) Will he confirm that Thomas Joseph Bradley LLB, appointed as the sole legal member of the Dental Board, was the National Party candidate for the Federal Division of Longman in the last Federal Election?
- (2) Is Mr Bradley also employed by the Brisbane law firm, Minter Ellison?
- (3) Are Minter Ellison the solicitors for the Australian Dental Association (Queensland Branch) who have three representatives on the Dental Board and are the professional organisation representing dentists in Queensland and are, therefore, major stakeholders in the administration of the Dental Act?
- (4) In such circumstances, does he not agree that appointing a legal member who is employed by the solicitors for the major body represented on the Dental Board is a clear conflict of interest?
- (5) In such circumstances, will he request Mr Bradley to resign his appointment and replace him with a person who does not have such conflict of interests?

Mr Horan (6/8/97):

(1) Yes. Mr Bradley's strong representations on behalf of the health needs of the electors of Longman equip him well to speak for health consumers and providers alike. In addition, Mr Bradley specialises in (and is published in) employment and industrial relations law, and the law relating to national competition policy, both areas of great importance to the profession of dentistry.

In contrast, the poor showing of Ms Bonnice, ALP Candidate for Longman, who secured less than a third of the vote and whose campaign director was the Member for Caboolture, shows how far out of touch with the average voter the ALP and Mr Sullivan are.

(2-4) Mr Bradley is a Senior Associate of Minter Ellison. Information as to the relationship between the ADA(Q) and Minter Ellison, if any, is privileged and not available to me. Minter Ellison are solicitors to the Dental Board, and this is a concurrence, not conflict, of interest. The Honourable Member's question is based on a strange understanding of conflict of interest. Even if Minter Ellison were solicitors to the Association, and a dispute arose between the Association and the Board, Minter Ellison could advise neither. No conflict of interest is possible.

(5) No. I am delighted with Mr Bradley's performance and that of the new Dental Board.

805. Yaramulla Work Camp, Escape of Prisoners

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/7/97)—

With reference to the recent escape of four prisoners from his Yaramulla low security work camp in North Queensland—

- (1) What corrective services supervision was in place at the time of the escape and what confinement was in place to prevent such an escape?
- (2) What number of prisoners were in the camp at the time of the escape and how many was the camp designed for?
- (3) Does he intend to continue operating this work camp or will he heed the call of the ranger in charge of the park to close it?
- (4) What were the security levels of the escaped prisoners and what crimes had they been convicted of?
- (5) Is he satisfied that this work camp was being properly administered at the time of the escape; if not, what shortcomings has he identified and what steps has he taken to correct these?

Mr Cooper (31/7/97):

(1) At the time of the escape two Correctional Officers were present at the Yaramulla Work Camp. The supervision provided at night consists of a regular head count which is conducted at 2100 hrs each night and a staff presence by way of these Officers. As with other similar remote camps, staff who are assigned to such programs are residents of the camp for the duration of time that the camp is in full operation. They supervise the day to day activities and provide general supervision during the night. However, it is common practice that these staff are not required to stay awake during the night. These security arrangements are in force for all Work programs in rural Queensland and are considered adequate in relation to the security risk of the prisoners placed on work programs.

(2) At the time of the escape there were 17 prisoners accommodated at the Yaramulla Work Camp. The camp has 15 rooms for prisoner accommodation with two rooms being fitted with two beds each. Therefore the camp was occupied at designed capacity.

(3) There is no intention to close the operation of the Yaramulla Work Camp. This program has been highly successful in the past and continues to receive broad Community acceptance and support. The Department of Environment has generally supported the program and following the incident, staff from the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and the Department of Environment have met in relation to further improvements to the operation of the camp to ensure that similar incidents are prevented in the future. The Yaramulla Work Camp provides a positive free of charge community service in a remote area and whilst incidents like the escape of four prisoners from the camp are deeply regrettable they are not indicative of the general acceptance of the program by the local community.

(4) All four escapees were classified low security at the time of the occurrence. One prisoner was serving a sentence of 9 months for Breach of the Bail Act and break and enter offences, the second prisoner was serving a sentence of 3 years and 11 months for offences of burglary, break and enter and possession of drugs, the third prisoner was serving a sentence of 5 years for break and enter, housing breaking, stealing, wilful damage and false pretences, the fourth prisoner was serving a sentence of 2 years, 6 months, 27 days for robbery with actual violence, break and enter, burglary, stealing and escape.

(5) It is the opinion of Queensland Corrections that the camp was properly administered at the time of the occurrence. This is evident by the fact that few incidents have previously occurred and the operation of the camp had occurred with minimal disruption for a long period of time. However, following the escape a review of the assessment and placement criteria for prisoner selection to the camp has been undertaken to ensure that stricter criteria apply for prisoner selection in the future. This also includes a regular assessment on the actual prisoner mix for the Work Camp to avoid any negative dynamics within the group of selected prisoners. Instructions have also been issued that more mature prisoners will be selected for placement at the camp to achieve a greater stability amongst the prisoner population.

The Queensland Corrective Services Commission is currently investigating options for an upgrade to the security of the camp and this includes the possible installation of a motion detection system which will be operated at night time and will detect any unauthorised movement from the camp. The installation of such a system should provide for appropriate additional security which will alert staff instantaneously to any attempt by prisoners to unlawfully leave the camp.

806. Water Infrastructure Task Force Report

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/97)—

With reference to the Water Infrastructure Task Force Report recently submitted to Cabinet—

- (1) Did Cabinet give 'in principle' approval to the recommendations in the report?
- (2) What other specific action recommended in the report was approved by Cabinet?
- (3) What role did his department have in formulating the recommendations of the report?
- (4) What consultations have been held between the Department of Environment and the Department of Natural Resources in relation to the report and what consultations are to be held in the future?
- (5) Has he made a special allocation of resources for the proper assessment of environmental impacts of projects recommended in the report?
- (6) Has a special submission to Cabinet been made or special Treasury allocation of funds been

made to allow for the proper environmental impact assessment of these projects?

- (7) Will the Department of Environment have a lead agency role in all environmental matters pertaining to these projects?

Mr Littleproud (5/8/97):

(1) and (2) These questions should be referred to the Minister for Natural Resources who is responsible for the Report of the Water Infrastructure Task Force, and its consideration by Government.

(3) The Department of Environment provided input to the Taskforce in its development of the Water Infrastructure Report.

(4) The Department of Environment was consulted by the Department of Natural Resources in relation to the Government's response to the Report. The Department also received copies of the Water Infrastructure Taskforce report and anticipates further consultation in relation to future decisions by Government, particularly relating to project environmental assessment, regional and catchment planning, and water allocation and management planning (WAMPs).

(5) and (6) The Department has not set aside specific funds to address planning or impact assessment of water infrastructure proposals as this is primarily a responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources. However, a 1997/98 budget initiative of \$300 000 will assist the Department's response capability to all such initiatives ie. from both government agencies as well as the private sector. In addition, arrangements are in hand with the Department of Natural Resources to ensure the availability of regionally based resources to assist with project planning and assessment.

(7) The Department of Natural Resources will have the lead agency role in accord with the procedures under the State Development and Public Works Organization Act 1971, with the Department of Environment having a substantial referral and advisory role.

The Department of Environment may also have a regulatory role in developments which involve any environmentally relevant activities (under the Environmental Protection Act 1994) or impact on rare and threatened species subject to Conservation Plans under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

807. Air Pollution

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/7/97)—

With reference to his recent claim that 65 people a year die in Queensland as a result of air pollution—

- (1) From where, or on what basis, did he derive this figure?
- (2) Does he stand by this figure?
- (3) Does he have the support of the Environment Minister in promoting this casualty rate?
- (4) To what precise pollutants from what source does he attribute blame for this casualty rate?

Mr Johnson (11/8/97):

1. Firstly let me point out that I have made no 'claim' but simply drawn figures from a report entitled 'An Economic Evaluation of the Health Impacts of Air Pollution in the Brisbane City Council Area'. This report was as I understand commissioned by the Brisbane City Council and publicly released by Lord Mayor Jim Soorley in June 1995.

2. It is not for me to stand by this figure as the report was one commissioned by Brisbane City Council and made publicly available by the Lord Mayor.

The report is relevant in that it supports the government's policies for improved air quality management in South East Queensland. These include initiatives such as the Regional Framework for Growth Management in SEQ, the Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) for SEQ, the South East Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy being developed by the Minister for Environment and the government's Air Care Initiative.

3. Firstly, I would note that I am not 'promoting' a casualty rate or indeed the report in general. The fact remains that the report commissioned by the Labour administration of Lord Mayor Soorley highlights the problem of air pollution and supports the initiative of this government to try to address this problem.

It is significant that my Department, my colleague's department, the Department of Environment, and Brisbane City Council are working together to tackle this issue.

As I have already mentioned the Integrated Regional Transport Plan is being implemented. Among other things the plan has set a target to increase the current proportion of trips made by public transport by 50 per cent by 2011, has committed to the development of new dedicated busways and high occupancy vehicle lanes on all major roads, and involves development of an Air Care vehicle emissions action plan. Other transport initiatives which will contribute to improved air quality include the new Brisbane to Gold Coast Railway and the expansion and upgrade of the City Train service.

4. I would refer the Member to the Brisbane City Council report for detailed information. My department is of course interested in vehicle emissions and will maintain a focus on this area.

808. Oaths Act

Mr LUCAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (11/7/97)—

With reference to the recent full court decision of *McShane v Higgins* (CA 9 of 1997) in which the Court of Appeal applied the decision of the Court of Criminal Appeal in *r v O'Sullivan ex parte The Attorney-General* [1988] 1 Qld r 672 that the rule of law since 1744 has been "the requirement for taking an oath may be satisfied without physically touching a bible, that is equally so when the oath is given for the purpose of swearing an affidavit", given the confusion that exists as to the requirements for swearing an Affidavit and given further the consequences at law if an affidavit sworn in good faith is later found to be invalid—

Will he give a commitment to amending the Oaths Act to enshrine the view of the Court of Appeal in *McShane v Higgins*?

Mr Beanland (12/8/97): The case to which Mr Lucas refers, *McShane v. Higgins*, delivered on 21 March 1997, is authority for the proposition that the requirements for taking an oath may be satisfied without physically touching a bible, and that is equally so when the oath is given for the purpose of swearing an affidavit. All that is required is that the form of oath employed should be considered by the oath-taker as binding his or her conscience to speak the truth. The Court of Appeal noted that this has been the common law since 1744.

In *R v O'Sullivan*, Ex Parte the Attorney-General [1988] 1 Qd R 672 at page 674, the Court held that when an oath is administered, and the person to whom it is administered accepts the mode of administration which is tendered and takes the oath in that form, they cannot later say that they had it in their mind at the time that it was not binding upon their conscience.

Therefore, if any form is used, and the person declares it to be binding on him or her, that form is sufficient.

The conclusion reached in *R v O'Sullivan*, Ex Parte the Attorney-General [1988] 1 Qd R 672 at page 676 was that the relevant sections, that is, sections 32 and 33 of the Oaths Act 1867, are expressed not in mandatory but permissive form. The officer administering the oath "may" repeat the appropriate form of adjuration, whereupon the person taking the oath, while holding a copy of the Bible or New Testament, shall indicate his assent to the oath so administered by uttering the words "So help me, God"; or he may repeat the words of the oath as prescribed or allowed by law.

I respectfully agree with the Court of Appeal that it is quite clear from the use of the introductory "may" in the second paragraph of s.33, coupled with the provisions of s.32, that the form now provided in s.33 is not intended to be an exhaustive prescription of the form of oath. Section 32 provides that "nothing herein contained shall invalidate any oath sworn or taken in a sufficient or lawful form". At common law any form was admitted which was shown to have been regarded as binding on the conscience of the person taking the oath.

As mentioned earlier, the point was settled long ago in *Omichund v. Barker* (1744) Willes 538; 125 E.R. 1310, where Willes L.C.B., at 125 E.R. 1314—1315, said:

"... the forms indeed of an oath have been since varied, and have been always different in all countries according to the different laws religion and constitution of those countries. But still the substance is the same, which is that God in all of them is called upon as a witness to the truth of what we say ..."

Section 33 of the Oaths Act was not intended to alter that common law position.

The Honourable member suggests that the Oaths Act should be amended to "enshrine the view of the Court of Appeal in *McShane v Higgins*". The Court

did not express any new view but merely explained the law as it has stood since 1744.

The danger is that if, as the Honourable member suggests, the Oaths Act were amended to "enshrine the view of the Court of Appeal in *McShane v Higgins*" the forms and ceremonies to aid the solemnity of the occasion would, because they are optional, not be used by many Justices and deponents thus allowing many deponents to be seduced into a false sense about the importance attaching to the document they are signing and that it is required by law that the contents must be true or that the deponent may be prosecuted if it is false.

I do not propose to amend the Oaths Act at this time.

809. Job Losses, Bowen/Collinsville

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (11/7/97)—

With reference to his comments in Parliament on 11 July that "Queensland is leading in job creation"—

- (1) How many jobs have been lost in Queensland through forced redundancies and VER's?
- (2) How many jobs have been lost in Bowen and Collinsville over the time of his Government?
- (3) How many jobs has his Government created?
- (4) What retraining programs has he created for the people of Bowen and Collinsville?
- (5) What endeavours has he made to halt deterioration of job opportunities in Bowen and Collinsville in the short term?
- (6) What support services has his Government installed to assist us to handle the social problems of massive job losses in Bowen and Collinsville?
- (7) When will he visit Bowen to see the situation, which is currently referred to as Queensland's Newcastle?
- (8) What reports have his eyes and ears in North Queensland, the Member for Burdekin, furnished to him about conditions in the Bowen and Collinsville region?
- (9) When will he do something for the people of Bowen?

Mr Borbidge (11/8/97):

(1) It is not known how many jobs have been lost in Queensland through forced redundancies and VERs as this type of information is not collected.

(2) The most recent figures indicate that for the year ending June 1996, Bowen experienced a decline in employment numbers of the order of 500 jobs. Approximately 350-400 jobs were lost with the closure of the meatworks in Bowen. However, it should be noted that employment in the region is heavily reliant on agribusiness and, as such, is highly seasonal.

(3) Over the term of this Government, Queensland has accounted for 48% (47,500 persons) of national employment growth. With particular reference to Bowen and Collinsville, the proposed construction of the power station at Collinsville may provide an estimated 50 construction jobs.

(4) Under competitive funding tendering arrangements TAFE Queensland offered the following courses in the Bowen/Collinsville area:

- (a) Two courses in Workplace Training were delivered by the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE in 1997 in Townsville and Charters Towers. A further two courses are to be delivered before the end of the year, probably in August 1997. These courses were offered in response to an industry need identified by the Rural Industry Training Advisory Body. The training was targeted at rural businesses in several locations to provide employers and supervisors with the skills to train employees in the workplace.
- (b) A course in retail operations is to be delivered by Concept Training in Bowen/St Lawrence/Moranbah in early August 1997. This course is the main entry level training vehicle for the Australian retail industry.
- (c) A course in community pharmacy retail operations is to be delivered by the Pharmacy Guild of Australia throughout the Mackay region before the end of this year.

Under client purchase agreements, Bowen Coke Pty Ltd received funding in 1996/97 to improve the skills base of the company and to ensure future employment growth in the industry. Modules were delivered from the Advanced Certificate in Engineering, Refrigeration Fundamentals, Refrigeration Procedures and Refrigerants.

In addition, staff of the Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE have attended several meetings with the Bowen Meatworks Consultative Committee, the local Council and other community groups to discuss the short and long term training needs for the people of Bowen. Institute staff have also liaised with members of the Collinsville community to identify local training needs. A demand for computer training and other Adult and Community Education Programs has been identified and the Institute is currently working on initiatives to deliver these programs, including the implementation of flexible delivery.

(5) Bowen Shire Council is currently involved in negotiations with the State Government to obtain funding for an economic development strategy aimed at providing directions and opportunities for the economy of the Bowen region. I expect to receive a formal proposal for funding of the strategy very soon.

(6) The Department of Families, Youth and Community Care (DFYCC) provides funding for a number of support services targeted at the social problems associated with job losses in Bowen and Collinsville. They include:

- (a) a Family and Individual Support Program. This service provides a range of support services for families and individuals affected by unemployment in Bowen. The Department conducts a range of support groups, crisis counselling and financial counselling. The service also offers vacation child care services for primary school aged children in the community.
- (b) a Rural Youth Worker. This worker provides outreach services to young people living in

Bowen, Collinsville, Scotsville and Mt Coolon. The worker will provide information, support and referral services and will also focus on community development to facilitate provision of services to address rural isolated young people in the Bowen/Collinsville communities.

- (c) a Rural Family Support Counsellor for Bowen and Collinsville districts through Centacare. This service focuses on working with men who may require assistance on a number of issues.
- (d) a Family and Individual Support Program in Collinsville. This program provides services with a particular focus on individuals and families in need. It also plays an active advocate role in working with the Development Bureau located in Collinsville.

(7) State Cabinet is scheduled to meet in Bowen on 25 August 1997.

(8) The Member for Burdekin, in his role as my representative in North Queensland, has ensured that I am aware of the extent of the employment problem in the Bowen region and also kept me informed of various projects and opportunities which would greatly assist in reversing the problem.

He has made several trips to Bowen to hold discussions with individuals and community groups and the Bowen Development Bureau.

He is an advocate of a number of proposals to promote economic development and employment growth in the region, including the Comalco facility, the Elliott Channel proposal and the export of horticultural products.

(9) Planning for the Bowen region economic development strategy is expected to commence shortly. It will be complete by early November 1997.

The Government is also encouraging industries to consider Bowen as a place to establish operations which would take advantage of the particular attributes of the region including its available trained workforce.

810.Greenhouse Policy

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/97)—

With reference to the increased level of activity in the State of the Environment Section of his Division of Environment in preparing a greenhouse response for the December meeting in Kyoto, Japan to address this global problem—

- (1) Is he aware of a recent report by 131 of this nation's economists, including 16 professors of economics, which expressed deep concern over the Federal Government's climate change policies?
- (2) Does he agree with that same report that Australian Governments had overestimated the costs and underestimated the benefits of emission reductions and that the introduction of legally binding reductions appeared to have been unduly influenced by sectional interests?
- (3) Does he support this report and his appointee to head the Wet Tropics Management Authority, Tor Hundloe, in calling for the

introduction of carbon taxes to combat global warming; if not, why not?

- (4) Is Professor Hundloe's expertise being utilised by his department in preparing this policy?
- (5) What measures is his department examining in preparing this greenhouse policy?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) It is worth noting the Federal Labor position on this issue, that is, its endorsement of the Coalition Government's international position. I am aware of the report referred to in (1).

(2) The economists who prepared this report are entitled to their view. The Queensland Government does not base its policy response on either the ABARE Report or the report referred to.

(3) It is not a question of whether I support the report. Professor Tor Hundloe (who is appointed to the Wet Tropics Management Authority on the nomination of the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council) is entitled to his view on carbon taxes as a means of addressing global warming. This Government is committed to ensuring that Queensland remains a low tax State, and does not support the introduction of such a tax, particularly when its efficacy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions has yet to be proven. I refer the Member to the policy of his Federal comrades on this issue.

(4) Professor Hundloe has been appointed to chair the Wet Tropics Management Authority, not to provide advice to the Queensland Government on greenhouse policy.

(5) The Department of Environment does not prepare greenhouse policy. It provides advice and input to the policy processes of Government through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet which is responsible for such policy. In providing such advice, Departmental officers consider a wide variety of options.

811. Johnne's Disease; Rhinoceros Project

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (11/7/97)—

With reference to the Landline program on the ABC on Sunday 29 June, and the major threat posed to cattle and sheep in Victoria and New South Wales from Johnne's Disease—

- (1) Are Rhinoceroses known carriers of the disease?
- (2) Is it true that an animal can carry the disease for up to two years before it is capable of being detected?
- (3) Does he believe that the minor economic benefits of a game park outweigh the potential billion dollar threat to Queensland's livestock industries?

Mr Perrett (5/8/97):

1. Johnne's disease has a wide host range particularly in ruminants. Rhinoceros are not recognised as carriers but may rarely become end hosts. A single Rhinoceros at an Australian zoo has been diagnosed as affected by this disease but would appear now to be recovered after treatment. A search of the

international literature has not revealed any previous occurrence of the disease in this species.

2. In those species of animals known to be susceptible, the incubation period for Johnne's disease is recognised as being prolonged and variable. In addition the time period after which a positive diagnosis may be made may vary considerably and could be in excess of two years. Because of the slow progression of the disease, animals under 2 years of age are not normally tested for the disease.

3. The likelihood of a Rhinoceros imported under stringent quarantine testing procedures presenting a potential billion dollar threat to Queensland's livestock industries through the transmission of Johnne's disease is extremely remote. While economic benefits may be unquantified, the International Rhino Foundation provides support for programs which emphasise intensive management and scientific research both in the wild and in captivity as equally important components of rhino conservation.

812. Members' Pecuniary Interests

Mr SMITH asked the Premier (11/7/97)—

With reference to his request of the Parliament to allow further consultation on the unanimous report by the ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee on the question of fully declaring Members pecuniary interests—

- (1) Was he forced into this position by a revolt in his own party room against a separate register for Ministers, putting monetary amounts against interests and the need for trusts to be transparent?
- (2) Which members opposed these moves and why?
- (3) Does he fear further revelations of the Howard Hobbs/leasehold kind if full revelation occurred of Members' interests?
- (4) When does he now intend to report to Parliament on this matter as required under the Parliamentary Committees Act?
- (5) Does he agree that behaviour of this kind even further damages the credibility of politicians and the standing of Parliament in the public eye?

Mr Borbidge (11/8/97):

- (1) No, the honourable member should refer to my statement in the House
- (2) See above
- (3) No.
- (4) See 1.
- (5) The premise of the honourable member's question is incorrect.

813. Rainbow Harbour Development

Mr NUTTALL asked the Premier (11/7/97)—

With reference to opposition expressed by the Liberal Member for Barron River, Lyn Warwick, to Geoff Burchill's proposed development in Cairns called Rainbow Harbour —

- (1) Does he and his Coalition Government support Ms Warwick in her opposition to this project proceeding in its planned form?
- (2) When does he intend to make his position public on this issue and what is the delay?
- (3) Does he believe the development's environmental impacts are outweighed by its boost to the further development of Cairns and Queensland?
- (4) Has the developer had contact with him on this matter; if so, what was the outcome of these discussions and when and where did they occur; if not, has such a meeting been requested by the developer?

Mr Borbidge (11/8/97): (1) to (4) The Honourable Member is obviously unaware that the original approval for the development has lapsed and I am not aware of any attempt to revive it. The Government will state its position on any new proposal when and if an application for development is made.

Any new development proposal for the site would have to be assessed on the basis of need and new legislative requirements for environmental management, for example the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The Government will give consideration to any representations made by Ms Warwick MLA if and when any new proposal is submitted.

814. ANZ Bank, Dayboro

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/7/97)—

With reference to the proposed closure of the Dayboro branch of the ANZ Bank (the only bank in Dayboro) and the devastating effect this will have on the local community, especially the elderly, local business people and the town economy—

- (1) What steps will she take to support the Dayboro community's call for the ANZ to reverse its decision?
- (2) As the Government is the major shareholder of Suncorp Metway, will she raise with the board of directors the possibility of Suncorp Metway opening a branch in Dayboro?

Mrs Sheldon (11/8/97):

(1) Whilst the closure of a branch of the ANZ Bank in a community is regrettable, it is a commercial decision taken by the bank concerned.

(2) The Government is no different from any other shareholder in that it is not in a position to interfere in the day to day operations and commercial decision making processes of the bank. The matter of where to locate branches is a commercial matter for the bank. Individuals and community groups are free to put a business case to any financial institution in support of the establishment of a service in a particular area.

815. Legal Aid Queensland

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (11/7/97)—

With reference to the recent establishment of Legal Aid Queensland and the agreement with the Commonwealth Government over legal aid for Commonwealth matters—

- (1) Will he give an assurance that there will be no job losses in legal aid in 1997-98?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that there will be no closures of regional Legal Aid Offices in 1997-98?
- (3) Will there be a reduction in legal aid services in 1997-98; if so, in what areas?

Mr Beanland (8/8/97): For 1997-98 the Government has been successful in securing agreement with the Commonwealth to continue Commonwealth work which is, of course, the main area of risk for the staff of the Legal Aid Office. Accordingly:

(1) Work will continue throughout 1997-98 which will ensure job security for that period.

(2) Any closure of regional offices is a matter for the new Legal Aid Board and the senior management as this is a management issue to be decided by this independent statutory body.

(3) State funding of legal aid has not been reduced in 1997-98. In fact, it has been increased. Commonwealth funding has been reduced. Legal Aid Queensland will continue to provide services in Commonwealth matters to the extent of funding provided by the Commonwealth. The distribution of available funding to various applicants for legal aid is a policy matter for the new Legal Aid Board to determine.

816. Port of Brisbane Rail Link

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/7/97)—

With reference to his answer to the question asked by the Member for Chatsworth on 9 July regarding the proposed Port of Brisbane rail link and given his acknowledgment that Queensland Rail is considering this corridor—

What work has been undertaken by Queensland Rail in consideration of a freight rail line to the Port of Brisbane along the corridor from Parkinson, through southern suburbs to the Port of Brisbane?

Mr Johnson (11/8/97): There is currently no planning for such a freight line or any corridor proposal.

The issue of regional rail freight capacity was highlighted in the Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) for South East Queensland which I announced on 23 April this year. During development of the IRTP, many people said that they wanted to see more freight carried on rail to reduce the growing number of trucks on roads.

While rail freight demands are increasing, passenger rail services must also be increased to improve services and increase public transport usage. The relative priority given to freight and passenger services is becoming an increasingly important issue that we must respond to.

A staged integrated transport study is proposed in the IRTP to respond to these issues and investigate regional rail freight needs. It will involve:

1. examining existing and future demand for rail freight movements, including the nature of movements and their origins and destinations;
2. analysing the constraints on the existing rail freight network; and
3. considering a wide range of options to make better use of the existing system.

A major aim of the study will be to find ways to make better use of existing rail infrastructure, for example, by eliminating chokepoints and key bottlenecks in the network.

Comprehensive consultation will occur at all stages of the process.

The rail freight study as outlined needs to be completed before consideration of any option for expanding rail freight capacity occurs. The Coalition Government's strong preference is to upgrade existing facilities rather than develop new corridors.

817. State Emergency Service, Budget Restraints

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (11/7/97)—

With reference to a memorandum to SES local controllers dated 22 July 1996 which read in part "Budget restraints 1996-97. Due to insufficient funds being allocated to communications for the current financial year, at both state and regional level, it will only be possible to provide basic maintenance to radio equipment, with probable delays to equipment required to be repaired or replaced, as once the monthly allocation of funds have been used up, no further purchase of parts can be undertaken until the following month. This will also mean that group communications training will be given a low priority, as what funds are available will have to be diverted towards emergency situations that may arise."—

- (1) Will he give an undertaking that in 1997-98 the SES will not experience budget restraints of the kind it experienced in 1996-97?
- (2) Will he give an assurance that if a natural disaster strikes south-east Queensland in 1997-98 no SES unit will be off the air?

Mr Veivers (11/8/97):

(1) The intention of the memorandum of 22 July 1996 to which the Honourable Member refers was to reinforce the need within the South East Region for Local Government Volunteer SES Units to correctly maintain the radio communications equipment on issue to them and emphasise that unlimited funds were not available to replace or repair equipment which might become unserviceable through misuse or neglect.

It should be noted that my department retains ownership and control of SES communications equipment issued to SES Units. All other equipment issued by the Department of Emergency Services to SES Units is transferred to the Local Government which "owns" the SES Unit.

The reason for this policy is that communications equipment is a more strategic, Statewide resource.

Communications Officers were allocated additional and sufficient funds to maintain local area radio networks during 1997/98. The South East communications budget was increased by 30 % for the current financial year.

(2) The SES communications network in South East Queensland has undergone a significant upgrade in the last two years.

The allocation to SES by the Australian Communications Authority of additional channels has allowed SES Units in South East Queensland to access 12 static repeater channels and the ability to deploy an additional two (2) portable repeater channels.

In 1996/97 alone, a total of \$133,711 was expended on replacement radio equipment in South East Queensland, providing some 32 mobile radios and 163 hand-held units. All new radio equipment is fitted with channels that allow inter-service communication (For example SES/QFRA/QAS/Police).

In addition, two (2) new repeater stations were installed in 1996/97, one to service Caboolture and the north side of Brisbane and the other the Gold Coast hinterland. Another repeater servicing the northern and western Brisbane suburbs was upgraded.

Survey work has also been carried out for the installation of new repeaters at Mt Mahomet (Beaudesert), Mt French (Boonah) and Moreton Island.

The SES radio network is designed to operate under the most severe weather conditions and has an enviable record for survivability and durability, however, it would be irresponsible and impossible to give an unqualified assurance that part of the system could not be affected in disaster situations.

Should a local radio network be disrupted, the SES Unit of my Department has developed the ability to rapidly deploy alternate communications systems, including portable repeaters and disaster reserve holdings, so that any "off air" time would be minimal.

A South East Region communications workshop was conducted in Brisbane in November 1996 and local communications training activities were conducted at Redcliffe, Brisbane, Caboolture, Kilcoy and Tamborine during 1996/97.

South East Queensland has never been better serviced by its SES communications network.

818. Recreational and Ecological Park, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/97)—

With reference to an Australian Conservation Foundation proposal currently being considered by the Gold Coast City Council which, if adopted, will see a major recreational and ecological park established on the Merrimac-Carrara flood plain stretching from Nerang south to Robina—

- (1) Does he support the establishment of this park; if not, why not?

- (2) What role is his department currently playing in the consideration of the plan?
- (3) What public pronouncements has he made as Environment Minister in support of this park; if none, does he intend to publicly support the proposal in the near future?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) I have not formed a view on this proposal at present. The proposal has technical merit and could provide positive outcomes for the area's environmental values. However, further information and data are required, in particular the results of the flooding study being undertaken by the Gold Coast City Council to determine the full implications and viability of the proposed plan.

(2) The Department of Environment is represented on the Carrara-Merrimac Flood Plain Committee and when requested acts in an advisory role to the Committee for technical matters. The Department also acts as a referral agency to the Gold Coast City Council on general environmental planning and management matters and is likely to review plans or proposals with implications for the flood plain and provide any necessary advice regarding project proposals prior to a Council decision.

(3) None. I have not formed a view on the viability of this proposal at present and therefore have not decided on my future intentions.

819. National Pollutant Inventory

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/97)—

With reference to the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) (11/7/97)—

- (1) How is Queensland represented and what is our State's role on the National Environment Protection Council in having the NPI developed as a National Environmental Protection Measure?
- (2) At what stage is the development of the NPI as such a measure?
- (3) What will be the Queensland Government's role in enforcing the provision of information of the NPI?
- (4) What categories of information will be recorded as part of the NPI?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97):

(1) I am the Queensland Member on the National Environment Protection Council and have equal voting rights with all other Commonwealth, State and Territory representatives. The responsibilities of individual Members and individual Governments are set out in the National Environment Protection Council (Queensland) Act 1994. Queensland is an active participant in the activities of the Council and its development of National Environment Protection Measures including the NPI.

(2) The National Environment Protection Council decided at its meeting on 12 June 1997 to release a draft NPI Measure and impact statement for a 2 month period of public consultation, which is due to end on 26 August 1997.

(3) The draft NPI Measure proposes that the States and Territories be responsible for implementing the measure within their jurisdictions. This will involve requiring facility operators to report estimates of emissions and transfers, making estimates of emissions from small and area based sources, and entering data into the NPI database. However, details of the NPI Measure and its implementation are subject to ongoing consultation and negotiation, and the final arrangements could be very different.

(4) The draft NPI Measure proposes that estimates of emissions to the air, water or land of a list of 95 substances, phased in over a 2 year period, be recorded. Estimates of transfers of these substances in waste deposited into landfills, sewers or tailings dams, or in waste removed for disposal, treatment, recycling, reprocessing, recovery or purification will also be recorded. Estimates of emissions and transfers reported by a facility will be recorded alongside information identifying the facility and operator. However, facilities will only have to report on a substance if their usage of that substance exceeds a threshold. Estimates of emissions from small and area based sources, to be made by the States and Territories, will be recorded on the NPI. The NPI will also include contextual information to assist users to interpret the data. However, details of the NPI Measure and its implementation are subject to ongoing consultation and negotiation.

820. Education Department/Queensland Teachers Union Dispute

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (11/7/97)—

With reference to the process of mediation currently under way between his department and the Queensland Teacher's Union attempting to resolve the current dispute over enterprise bargaining—

- (1) Which company has been contracted to undertake the mediation and who is the mediator?
- (2) What is the total cost of the mediation process and who will pay?
- (3) Were tenders called for the work; if not, why not and what process was used to select the company/mediator?
- (4) What role does the Department of Training and Industrial Relations play in the appointment/selection of the mediator?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97):

(1) Mediate Today was contracted to undertake the mediation and Professor Lansbury, Professor of Industrial Relations at Sydney University was subsequently appointed mediator.

(2) The total cost of the mediation process was \$41,211.30, with both parties agreeing to pay 50% of all fees, expenses and disbursements.

(3) Mediate Today was chosen for the contract by the subcommittee of the Industrial Relations Standing Committee of Cabinet at its meeting of 24 June 1997. The subcommittee determined that, in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy, tenders not be called for the provision of the service because of the urgency of the matter and the special

expertise available from the provider. In accordance with that determination Education Queensland entered into a contract for services with Mediate Today.

(4) Professor Russell Lansbury was chosen as the mediator by Education Queensland and the QTU from a list of possible mediators provided by Mediate Today. The department of Training and Industrial Relations had ceased involvement in the mediation process at that stage and played no role in the selection and appointment of Professor Lansbury as mediator.

821.Mr J. Hannay; Organised Crime

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (11/7/97)—

With reference to a recent court case in the Brisbane District Court in which a Leon Anthony Carriage pleaded guilty to conspiring with three other men to murder a John Hannay in September 1996—

- (1) Is this the same John Hannay who was part-owner of the Whiskey Au-Go-Go nightclub which was fire-bombed in 1972; if so, what was the motive for the 1996 attack on Mr Hannay and is Mr Hannay again involved in Brisbane's nightclub scene?
- (2) What form of attack was the attempt on Mr Hannay's life to take?
- (3) When are the other three men to appear in court and on what charges?
- (4) Is he satisfied that this planned attack doesn't signal a return to the bad old days of organised crime in Brisbane that so characterised the National Party Government of the 70s and 80s?

Mr Cooper (4/8/97):

(1) I believe it is the same John Hannay who was the part-owner of the Whiskey Au-Go-Go club in Fortitude Valley in 1972.

The alleged motive for the 1996 attack was the recovery of \$58,000.

- (2) As this matter is before the Courts it is inappropriate to outline details of the alleged conspiracy.
- (3) Four persons have been charged with 'Conspiracy to Murder'. All are presently still before the Brisbane Magistrates Court on committal proceedings set for further hearing on 31 July 1997.
- (4) There is no evidence uncovered during this investigation to suggest any other criminal activity in relation to this matter.

822.Indigenous Land Corporation

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (11/7/97)—

With reference to her recent call for Federal compensation for local authorities which lose rates because of Aboriginal land acquisition—

- (1) On what basis does she believe the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) would acquire land and hold it indefinitely?

- (2) How many instances does she know of in Queensland where land has been purchased by the ILC and held for longer than 12 months, what amounts of lost rates are involved in each of these cases and how many months in excess of 12 months were these land parcels held?
- (3) Is she aware that other Commonwealth bodies such as Telstra, the Federal Airports Corporation, the Army and the CSIRO were exempt from rates, not just for 12 months but totally?
- (4) When does she intend to call for these bodies to pay rates along the same lines she expects the ILC to pay?

Mrs McCauley (31/7/97): The State Government has received Crown Law advice that the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) is exempt from paying State taxes and local authority rates and charges, pursuant to s193P of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989.

In a letter dated 17 June the Acting General Manager of the ILC, Mr Murray Chapman, said "The ILC's policy is to divest title to any land it acquires as soon as is reasonably practicable. In practice, we aim to divest title within twelve months".

There has been no assumption made that the ILC will purchase land and hold it indefinitely. However, the State Government has simply sought an assurance from the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Senator John Heron, that the land will be divested within that time frame. Potential rate losses would then have to be assessed on an individual local government basis.

823.Conondale National Park

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/97)—

With reference to the management of Conondale National Park—

- (1) What is the departmental policy regarding beekeeping in national parks?
- (2) What are the environmental impacts of keeping hives in or adjacent to national parks?
- (3) Are there apiary sites within the Conondale National Park; if not, are these sites within resource reserves inside the outer boundaries of Conondale National Park?
- (4) What action is being taken in respect of these apiary sites?
- (5) What other national parks are affected by internal or local beekeeping?
- (6) Are there any stock grazing permits permitting cattle to be grazed in any part of Conondale National Park; if not, why are cattle currently being allowed to graze in parts of the national park?
- (7) Does the western side of the park require fencing to address this problem?
- (8) What action is being taken, and what discussions are being held with adjacent landowners to establish, or repair, fencing on the western and eastern side of Conondale National Park, as necessary?

Mr Littleproud (5/8/97):

(1) The Nature Conservation Act 1992 provides for a range of protected area categories with varying levels of protection. The Act stipulates that national parks must provide, to the greatest extent possible, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and that use of the area is nature based and ecologically sustainable. As a consequence, it is Departmental policy that beekeeping is not permitted on national parks except for completion of the terms of leases under the Land Act or permits under the Forestry Act that existed when a new park was acquired, or if no such lease or permit exists, continuation of existing activities on new parks under acquisition agreements for a maximum of three years.

(2) Opinion is divided on the extent of the impact of honey bees on natural ecosystems. Areas of concern can include:

- increased hybridisation of native plant species (and therefore a loss of genetic diversity);
- competition for nectar supplies with birds, native insects and nectar feeding bats;
- the possibility of disease transmission; and
- possible effects on pollination of some native plants, especially those adapted to pollination by birds.

(3) There are no apiary sites within Conondale National Park. There are apiary sites within Resources Reserves within the outer boundaries of Conondale National Park.

(4) Actions are in train to issue permits under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to those people who previously held approvals under Forestry legislation prior to these areas coming under the control of the Department of Environment. A number of these permits have already been issued. Each permit contains conditions of operation to minimise potential adverse impacts on the environment.

(5) The only current permits that allow beekeeping on protected areas are those for the resources reserves in the Conondale area. The siting of beehives on lands adjacent to protected areas is not monitored, so the extent of 'local' beekeeping is unknown.

(6) There are no stock grazing permits allowing cattle to be grazed in any part of Conondale National Park. From time to time cattle do graze in Conondale National Park in the absence of complete boundary fencing.

(7) The western side of Conondale National Park does require fencing to exclude cattle. This need has been identified and will be addressed as funding and other Departmental priorities permit. This situation has existed for some years, including the term of the Labor Government, during which time the area of the Park was substantially increased over a period of five years without any provision whatsoever for managerial requirements.

824.MOHRI System of Staffing Analysis

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/7/97)—

With reference to Estimates Committee B Hearings during which difficulties became apparent with the use of MOHRI for staffing analysis and while "a day's snapshot" may be useful for Treasury to fix actual costs incurred, the MOHRI system appears to exclude vacancies yet to be filled which results in an inaccurate understanding of staffing levels—

Will she review the use of the system?

Mrs Sheldon (11/8/97): The MOHRI system is designed to collect numbers of actual employees and full time equivalents together with some information on the characteristics of those employees.

The current Management Information Systems in use by agencies (ie Lattice, HRMS) have the capacity to identify established vacancies but this information is not currently collected under MOHRI.

The Chief Executive of an agency has the capacity to decide the number and classification level of public sector employees employed in his or her agency (Public Service Act

s.51(2)(b)&(c)). Consequently a Chief Executive has the capacity to increase the staffing levels within the agency without any further requirement for endorsement by a central agency or Executive Council (subject of course to the Premier's prerogative under the Act to place a limit on staffing levels for an agency).

Regarding the concept of an "established vacancy", this would effectively be a vacancy for which a predetermined budget allocation has been made in terms of salary budget allocation for a department.

The Chief Executive is not bound to fill any vacancy so occurring and may choose to use the allocation for such number and level of positions as he or she chooses. For example within a given budget allocation a Chief Executive may choose to employ either one senior person, several people on a part time basis or two junior people at similar total costs. Consequently vacancies is not a pertinent concept.

The staffing levels identified by MOHRI are actual numbers of employees and full time equivalents at a given point in time. Full time equivalents are useful for salary budgeting purposes and are relevant with respect to total staffing allocation within an agency. Full time equivalents by salary classification are linked to budget allocation.

A genuine vacancy can only be identified by an individual agency Human Resource Information System (HRIS) and it only occurs when a budget allocation has been made for a particular number of full time equivalents and a lower number of full time equivalents are actually employed.

825.Cleveland Rail Line

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/7/97)—

(1) What further remedial work will he have done on the Cleveland line if the present work being undertaken by Queensland Rail does not stop the wheel screech of trains in the Bulimba electorate?

- (2) Will he seriously consider remedial work such as (a) straightening the noise causing curves from Norman Park Station to Morningside Station, (b) a cut and fill solution because of the steep grade on the same section of rail line or (c) relocating the problem freight line?

Mr Johnson (11/8/97):

(1) The work being undertaken to reduce the wheel squeal through the Bulimba electorate has significantly reduced the noise pollution. In fact, there are QR trains travelling to the Port on the dual line through Morningside without squeal.

Following an extensive investigation of the wheel squeal issue on the dual gauge line to the Port of Brisbane, which involved both interstate and overseas expertise and research, QR believes at this stage that they have a solution.

This solution involves many factors including lubricating the head of the rail, modification to wagons, and the speed of the trains through that corridor.

The implementation will be over an extended period of time, due to the number of wagons involved.

QR will continue to investigate measures to improve both the wheel squeal problem and the solutions.

(2) In response to question 2 (a) and (b)—to straighten the curves between Norman Park and Morningside stations also requires reducing the grade. A strategy was developed in the early 1980s to reduce the grade and straighten the track between Stanley Street, Coorparoo and Morningside (near Gary Street).

This proposal involved realigning around 3km of track, lowering Richmond Road (the previous level crossing would become an overpass at the previous road level), major impacts on Waminda Street and Bennetts Road and adjoining properties, reconstruction of Crown and Agnew Street bridges, new stations at Norman Park and Morningside and major resumption of residential properties on the south east side of the railway and encroachment on Bottomley Park.

A major restraint imposed on any scheme is to retain rail services during the construction period. The above realignment involved restricting a new straightened alignment to the south-east side of the existing railway, with the resultant high impact on existing land uses and high resumption costs.

To build this alignment now would entail demolition of major structures recently completed for the standard gauge link. The only practical design to allow rail services to continue during a long construction period is one where the new alignment is clear of the existing alignment.

Multiple cross-overs of new and old alignments are not feasible to construct in the urban environment, given restrictions on shut down periods and working hours. Similarly, the major disruption to nearby residents, Citytrain passengers and freight services necessary for such an undertaking, as well as the exorbitant cost can not be justified.

(c) Government recognises there may be a capacity problem with the Brisbane suburban network in the future.

In Queensland Transport's Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) there is an action to study freight/rail demand system constraints and upgrading options. Action 9.2 of the IRTP recommends that Queensland Transport initiate and lead a staged study of rail freight demands for metropolitan Brisbane. This study is planned to begin some time within the next few years.

The overall approach of the study would be to—

- identify future demand for rail freight movements, including an assessment of the origins and destinations

- identify key bottlenecks and constraints in the existing rail freight system

- examine a wide range of options to overcome the constraints and maximise the potential of the existing system and

- if necessary, examine long term options for expansion of existing rail freight capacity.

Comprehensive public consultation would be a fundamental component of the study and residents would be given ample opportunity to be involved in the planning process. The IRTP establishes rigorous guidelines for community consultation that would be incorporated in the study. In addition, there would be thorough assessments of the social, economic and environmental impacts of any major infrastructure proposals.

No land has been purchased for an alternative rail freight corridor and no corridor has been preserved. There is no Government commitment or plans for a new rail corridor. The Government's approach is to conduct the study in a staged way as outlined above.

826. Port of Brisbane Rail Link

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (11/7/97)—

With reference to the IRTP proposals for a freight railway through the southern suburbs of Brisbane and including Karawatha Forest, thence via the eastern suburbs to the Port of Brisbane—

(1) Will he advise whether this matter is only a long-term strategy of transport planners or has the Queensland Rail Board and railway executives considered this plan as part of the proposal for a Parkinson rail yard?

(2) Will he take steps to initiate an environmental impact study to establish whether this proposal should be further considered or should be eliminated now because of its effect on heritage land in Karawatha Forest and the detrimental effect on residents of many suburbs?

(3) Will he also look at all alternatives including existing rail corridors and the proposed Rosewood to Beaudesert corridor which would take the line away from residential areas?

Mr Johnson (11/8/97):

(1) The Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) for South East Queensland does not propose a freight railway through southern suburbs. There is currently no planning for any freight line or corridor

proposal. Nor is there any government approved plan to develop a rail terminal at Parkinson.

The issue of regional rail freight capacity was highlighted in the IRTP. During development of the IRTP, many people said that they wanted to see more freight carried on rail to reduce the growing number of trucks on roads.

While rail freight demands are increasing, passenger rail services must also be enhanced to improve services and increase public transport usage. The relative priority given to freight and passenger services is becoming an increasingly important issue that we must respond to.

A staged integrated transport study is proposed in the IRTP to address these issues and investigate regional rail freight needs. It will involve:

1. examining existing and future demand for rail freight movements, including the nature of movements and their origins and destinations;
2. analysing the constraints on the existing rail freight network; and
3. considering a wide range of options to make better use of the existing system.

A major aim of the study will be to find ways to make better use of existing rail infrastructure, for example, by eliminating chokepoints and key bottlenecks in the network.

Comprehensive consultation will occur at all stages of the process.

A freight study as outlined needs to be completed before any consideration is given to options for expanding rail freight capacity.

The issue of rail intermodal needs and opportunities for strategically located freight terminals was also addressed in the IRTP. A separate intermodal rail freight needs study is proposed to investigate this issue. It will follow a process similar in nature to the staged investigation outlined above and focus heavily on making better use of existing intermodal facilities.

(2) The Queensland Government is fully aware of the environmental sensitivity of Karawatha Forest and the effects that transport infrastructure can have on residents. Impacts on the environment will be considered throughout a staged investigation. Any major infrastructure proposals ultimately proposed following a rail freight needs study, would be thoroughly assessed for social, economic and environmental impacts.

(3) A key focus of a rail freight needs study will be making better use of the existing rail system.

A rail freight needs study has to be completed before any consideration is given to options for expanding rail freight capacity.

827. Electricity Industry

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (11/7/97)—

With reference to her raiding funds from Queensland's publicly owned electricity industry to the tune of \$850m to include as part of her 1997-98 State Budget—

- (1) How does she intend funding this one-off money grab?
- (2) Will she be raising taxes and charges to cover the on-going fiscal gap, or will she be cutting services in areas like education, health, family services and policing?
- (3) If she claims that she will not be raising taxes or cutting services, what other public assets does she propose to sell off in the near future, and how can she justify imposing a long-term financial burden on our children?

Mrs Sheldon (11/8/97):

- (1) The funds are already available as equity and will be paid to the Government as a repayment of capital.
- (2) There is no intention to increase taxes or charges. The repayment of capital of \$850 million by the electricity industry is not expected to create a "fiscal gap", but will be used to fund an expansion in the States capital infrastructure base.
- (3) I refer to my response in (2) there is no fiscal gap.

828. State Emergency Service, Use of Aircraft

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (11/7/97)—

With reference to the fact that there are no guidelines for the use of the Bell 412 helicopter—

For how many other Emergency Services aircraft are there no guidelines, and will he table the guidelines for the use of those aircraft for which there are guidelines?

Mr Veivers (11/8/97): The Department of Emergency Services currently operates three Bell 412 helicopters based at Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns and a Squirrel helicopter in Brisbane. The Department also has a contract with Reef Helicopters Pty Ltd to provide an emergency helicopter service in the Torres Strait. This service operates with a LongRanger helicopter. The Department also supports four community helicopter providers based at the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton and Mackay.

The Department of Emergency Services follows the protocol established under the previous administration. More comprehensive guidelines are being developed which will assist emergency helicopter service providers with the multi-role tasks they undertake, including aircraft availability, coordination and tracking. The information contained in the Guidelines will cover the following range of tasks: airmedical response; land and water search and rescue operations; counter disaster support; fire spotting and suppression; and urgent Police operations. For Government helicopters, the Guidelines will also include the procedures for tasking helicopters for other than operational tasks. The Guidelines are in the final stage of development and should be released by October 1997. Until these Guidelines are issued, the Guidelines to be followed are those outlined in the December 1995 "Guidelines For the Use of Queensland Government Aircraft for Official Transport" signed on 3 January 1996 by the then Minister for Emergency Services.

In December 1996, the Department of Emergency Services released the Guidelines for Use of the Department of Emergency Services' Squirrel Helicopter.

I am pleased to table a copy of the Guidelines for Use of the Department of Emergency Services' Squirrel Helicopter.

The Department of Emergency Services has also distributed an Operational Guideline for its contract with Reef Helicopters Pty Ltd in the Torres Strait. Reef Helicopters Pty Ltd has delivered emergency helicopter services to the Queensland Government agencies since 1 July 1996.

I am pleased to table a copy of the Operational Guideline for the emergency helicopter service operating in the Torres Strait.

With regard to the Queensland Ambulance Service the QAS has four (4) fix wing aircraft. Two operate out of Rockhampton and two out of Bundaberg. All the aircraft are configured for the transportation of patients and their deployment is in accordance with the QAS Policy on Aeromedical Operations. The QAS has never been requested to use the aircraft for any other purpose outside these guidelines. I am pleased to table a copy of the QAS Aeromedical Operations policy.

829. Families, Youth and Community Care Minister, Office

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (11/7/97)—

With reference to the relocation and refurbishment of the Ministerial office of the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care—

- (1) What was the total cost of the new office?
- (2) What was the total floor space of the previous Ministerial office and what is the total floor space of the new office?
- (3) What is the breakdown of the cost of relocating and refurbishing this office, including costs of carpets, furniture and other fittings?

Dr Watson (11/8/97):

- (1) The total cost of the new office was \$360,660.00
- (2) The total floor space of the previous Ministerial office in the Family Services Building was 359 m². The total floor space of the new Ministerial office in 111 George Street is 464 m² (commensurate with typical Ministerial office accommodation within the Queensland Government).
- (3) The costs for the Ministerial offices were as follows:

Office fitout—\$272,598.00 (including building work; floor coverings; floor finishes; joinery; workstations; glazing; fire services; hydraulics; electrical; mechanical; and fees)

Furniture—\$65,262.00

Ministerial security upgrade—\$22,800.00

830. Pensioner Units, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (11/7/97)—

With reference to the proposed construction of 16 new pensioner units on ex-Queensland Health land adjoining the Maryborough Base Hospital to accommodate Wahroonga retirement village residents—

- (1) What is the date of the expected completion of the 16 new units?
- (2) As I have a long list of elderly citizens who require similar services as those currently provided at Wahroonga units and cottages, will he reverse his previous decision and continue to accommodate future residents under the same terms and conditions that currently apply?

Dr Watson (11/8/97):

(1) Plans for the units are currently being drawn up to include wheel chair access, self-contained kitchen and laundry, carpets to all living areas, patios, courtyards and a host of modern amenities that will allow elderly residents to move from the substandard accommodation tolerated under the Labor administration into modern brick units. Construction completion within the precinct of Maryborough Base Hospital and close to all medical support is targeted for April 1998. With the prospect of a further 16 units following completion of phase one, I am shocked that the Member would suggest the existing accommodation be retained.

(2) The current services provided to the existing senior citizens at Wahroonga and the cost of such services is the responsibility of the Department of Health and existing services will continue for existing tenants. New tenants will not require the same assistance as the new units are fully self-contained.

831. Integration of Nature Conservation and Food Production

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Environment (11/7/97)—

With reference to his recent address to the final day of the Queensland Land Care Conference in Roma in which he expressed a "vision" for integrating nature conservation and food production—

- (1) What are the environmental benefits from the sustainable culling of wildlife for economic return?
- (2) What alternatives does he have in mind for our traditional industries in this grand plan?
- (3) Does he have departmental support for his idea to catch pest parrots for overseas sale; if so, what advice is he receiving on this matter?
- (4) Is this an acceptable alternative to shooting or poisoning pest parrots?
- (5) If the sale of wild caught Australian native birds has the potential to suppress that demand, wouldn't it also suppress the price on offer for these birds?
- (6) In addition would the additional enforcement costs required to ensure other illegally wild caught birds didn't enter the trade further financially cripple the venture?
- (7) Would this proposal possibly reduce the pressure of illegal catching and sale of other endangered species of birds?

Mr Littleproud (1/8/97): In an address focusing on the capacity of being conservationally responsible, yet maintaining productivity on farms, among other things I commented on suggestions by previous speakers that Australia needed to realise that our own flora and fauna could provide the basis for new primary industries.

Harvesting of our macropods and fishing are two industries that already operate on a sustainable and regulated basis. I suggested that there may be moves in the future to extend such activities to commercial use of other native species on a regulated and sustainable basis. My comments did not reflect government policy.

I note the comments of the Member for Bundaberg in the House earlier this year which I am sure caused some concern for his colleague, the Member for Everton, who is the Labor spokesman for environment.

The Member for Bundaberg said: "It has to be realised that we have to allow the people who own the land upon which our native animals and plants live to get some financial return from them...we cannot even get a viable emu industry off the ground because of our outdated, narrow-minded and, I have to say, in many cases ignorant nature conservation programs...It is about time we looked at nature conservation in terms of properly utilising our fauna and flora and ensuring that people can get a return from the native fauna and flora on their properties.

One of the problems is that many of our native animals are pests...we have to make certain how we will implement protection and also sustainable production".

832.Richlands TAFE College

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education (11/7/97)—

With reference to the Education Department's sale of the Richlands State High School Campus to TAFE—

In the event of the TAFE College not being established on the site, will he in good faith make representations that campus will be returned to the Education Department as a high school?

Mr Quinn (12/8/97): The former Richlands State High School has been merged with the former Inala State High school to form Glenala State High School, on the site of the latter. There has been a general upgrading of facilities and Glenala State High School is adequate to service the secondary education needs of the area. Education Queensland has determined that a high school at Richlands is not required.

Consequently, the site of the former Richlands State High School has been sold to TAFE Queensland for TAFE purposes. Operational decisions in relation to that site are thus now the responsibility of TAFE Queensland.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

833. WorkCover Act

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/97)—

- (1) How many PAYE employees are now covered by the new WorkCover Act; the answer to be in actual numbers of employees?
- (2) How many employees were covered at this time last year by the Workers' Compensation Act; the answer to be in actual numbers of employees?

Mr Santoro (18/9/97): Workers' compensation premiums are calculated on the amount of gross wages declared, not the number of workers employed. It is the accuracy of gross wages figures which is important to WorkCover. The actual number of PAYE employees cannot be provided. Employers are requested by WorkCover to provide an average number of all workers for inclusion in the annual Declaration of Wages. The average number of workers is requested for general information purposes and reasonableness checks only. Due to the non-compulsory nature of the provision of this data, its accuracy can not be guaranteed.

834. Sale of Cigarettes to Minors

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to the growing open use of tobacco products by young people, many who are still attending primary school—

- (1) What is the law in regard to the sale of cigarettes to underage children?
- (2) Is this law being enforced; if not, why not?
- (3) Whose responsibility is it to ensure that cigarettes are not being sold to underage children?
- (4) How many shop owners are prosecuted for selling cigarettes to minors?
- (5) If there are not prosecutions for selling cigarettes to minors, why not?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

- (1) The Juvenile Smoking Suppression Act 1905.
- (2) Environmental Health Officers have the ability to enforce the law. I intend to introduce new legislation later this year, the Tobacco Products (Prevention of Supply to Children) Bill, to modernise the Government's approach to this important issue.
- (3) Under the current legislation, retailers, parents and the general community are responsible for ensuring that tobacco products are not sold or supplied to Queensland children.
- (4) I am not aware of any successful prosecutions for selling or supplying tobacco to children in recent years.
- (5) See answer (2).

835. Wahroonga

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/8/97)—

Will the current 54 cottages and units at Wahroonga be demolished; if so, when?

Dr Watson (18/9/97): Of the 54 existing units and cottages at Wahroonga, 24 units are housed in 11 individual duplex cottages and 30 are housed in three barrack-style buildings.

The barrack-style buildings are to be demolished in early October 1997 to make way for the construction of 16 new seniors' units on that site. A decision will be made on the balance of the accommodation at a future time.

It is disappointing that the Member appears to adopt a negative view of the Government's commitment to housing the 15 seniors currently occupying unsatisfactory accommodation at Wahroonga in view of the fact that during six years in Government he appeared disinterested in the plight of the residents.

836. Federal Excise Fees

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/8/97)—

With reference to her promise that there would be no price rises resulting from the Commonwealth's action in imposing additional excise on fuel, tobacco and liquor to replace State licensing and franchise fees—

- (1) What mechanism has been put in place to ensure that the price of (a) fuel, (b) tobacco products and (c) liquor products, does not rise in Queensland?
- (2) As the imposition of the additional Commonwealth excise occurred on 6 August and was payable immediately, will the State Government immediately advance the compensation of the taxation differential to affected wholesalers, so that they do not have to pass on additional costs to retailers and consumers?
- (3) What is the cost of the advancing of compensation payments to wholesalers, as outlined in (2) above?
- (4) Is this cost to be recouped from the Commonwealth, or is it to be recouped from the difference between the revenue raised from the former State licensing fees and the new, but higher, Federal excise charges?

Mrs Sheldon (18/9/97): (1) to (4) I refer Mr Hamill to my Ministerial Statement of 20 August 1997 relating to the High Court decision on Business Franchise Fees.

837. Shanghai Trade and Investment Office; Ms E. Sun

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (19/8/97)—

- (1) Why was a decision made to establish the Shanghai Trade Office as a \$2 company?

- (2) What is the potential risk value of the \$2 company decision as, according to sacked employee Eve Sun, millions of dollars have been placed at risk to date?
- (3) Did the department receive a proposal for a \$3m investment in a dairy farm; if so, on what date?
- (4) Was this proposal dismissed by the department as being 'too small'; if not, why was the project rejected?
- (5) Who was the officer who rejected the proposal and was this matter brought to his attention?
- (6) Why was Ms Sun only paid once in six months?
- (7) Why were insufficient funds made available for office expenditure and was Ms Sun reimbursed for her office expenditure?
- (8) Who in Treasury directed that staff be paid by cheque which caused difficulty in China?
- (9) Why were staff not paid in cash?
- (10) Why was Ms Sun sacked in clear defiance of her contract without formal notification of complaints against her and without allowing her a response within seven days?

Mr Slack (18/9/97):

(1) The Shanghai Trade and Investment Office was established in accordance with the regulations stipulated by Government of the People's Republic of China and outlined in documents provided by the Australian Consulate General in Shanghai.

(2) There are no risks, because we are following the instructions of the host Government, the Government of the People's Republic of China. It is the role of the Office to facilitate Queensland trade and investment—it does not undertake any trading or investment activities which would put any money at risk.

(3) No, the department has no record of an inquiry from Ms Sun in relation to a \$3 million dairy farm purchase. Ms Sun mentioned the prospect in a weekend telephone call to the Acting Director-General shortly before her dismissal but she did not follow the project up.

However, the department did receive a number of requests from Ms Sun to respond to farm purchase inquiries which she had received from the Austrade Investment Office in Shanghai.

(4) & (5) In all cases where Ms Sun raised issues in the agribusiness sector, the department did its best to be helpful and either provided relevant information to her or referred the inquiries to the Department of Primary Industries.

It should be noted however, that in appointing Ms Sun to the position of Queensland Government Commissioner in Shanghai, the department expected her to seek out opportunities for productive new investments into Queensland which would provide a significant net economic benefit to the State in terms of new jobs or new exports, particularly in those industry sectors where Queensland has a competitive advantage.

It was not expected that she would merely act as a post office for the less important inquiries picked-up by the Austrade network, as there is already a mechanism for the State to receive these inquiries through Austrade's head office in Sydney. It should also be pointed out that none of these inquiries for direct farm purchases were ever considered significant enough by Austrade to process through its formal system.

(6) Ms Sun commenced duties with the Department on 17 October, 1997 as Queensland Government Commissioner, Shanghai for a period of three years. The terms and conditions of the contract of employment were negotiated between Ms Sun and the then Director-General of the Department, Mr Tony Krimmer.

Mr Krimmer was concerned that Ms Sun was not being paid a salary on a regular basis. However, the department had not been able to establish where income tax was to be paid or the total amount on which the taxation liability was to be calculated as Ms Sun had not finalised, with Mr Krimmer, her income tax obligations. Ms Sun did not finalise negotiations with Mr Krimmer in relation to the issue of how tax was to be deducted from Ms Sun's salary. Ms Sun herself indicated that she did not wish to be paid any salary pending resolution of her taxation status.

Mr Krimmer, as Director-General, directed that Ms Sun be compensated at the approximate net value of her basic salary, in arrears from the date of commencement of duty with the department. To prevent an overpayment, the department considered it advisable to withhold money equivalent to the maximum tax rate payable in China until the issues relating to Ms Sun's contract of employment were finalised between Ms Sun and the Director-General.

At the time the department anticipated that the issues concerning Ms Sun's contract of employment would be resolved in the very near future. The department intended to adjust future payments to Ms Sun if necessary and to remit the required amount of tax to the appropriate government.

The only payment made to Ms Sun between 17 October, 1996 and 25 June, 1997 under the contract was the sum of \$20,000 paid on 28 February, 1997. This was an interim payment to Ms Sun as there had been delays in finalising the issues relating to the treatment of Ms Sun's personal taxation obligations and whether Ms Sun's rental assistance would take the form of cash or a rent reimbursement. The payment was made at my direction when I discovered that there had been no payment to Ms Sun.

All monies owing to Ms Sun under the terms of her employment were paid to her as soon as the Department had been advised that she was considered a non-resident for tax purposes. All monies due to Ms Sun were paid to her on 25 June, 1997.

(7) The Shanghai Office was provided with a budget of \$A1.059 million for the 1996/97 financial year.

A significant portion of the initial set-up costs of the Shanghai Office were paid for directly from the Department in Brisbane. The ANZ Bank in Shanghai

also assisted the Department in this regard, by paying accounts on behalf of the Department and seeking reimbursement at a later time.

The Shanghai Office's ANZ bank account was opened in November 1996, with Ms Eve Sun as sole signatory to the account. Arrangements were put in place at that time for funds to be transferred from Brisbane to the Shanghai Office's bank account as and when requested by Ms Sun.

A second bank account, dealing solely in the local Chinese currency, was opened in late December 1996 to further assist the Shanghai Office in meeting its financial obligations.

In January 1997, Ms Sun was provided with a departmental Corporate Credit Card, to facilitate departmental business.

Under the Department's "Delegations and Associated Policies for Overseas Offices", all Commissioners have authority to approve their own expenditure. The purpose of this delegation is to ensure that Commissioners do not have to wait for approval from Brisbane before receiving reimbursement for valid personal expenditure claims. With respect to the reimbursement of Ms Sun for expenditure incurred on behalf of the Office, Ms Sun had authority to authorise the processing of her claims without waiting for approval from Brisbane.

However, despite having access to departmental funds through the Office's bank accounts, and the possession of a departmental credit card, Ms Sun continued to use her own funds to meet departmental expenses. With respect to Ms Sun's departmental credit card, Office staff had noted that she was initially reluctant to use the card.

At the beginning of her engagement, Ms Sun received instructions in the financial administration of the Office from staff in Brisbane. In particular, the importance of fully documenting and supporting official claims for payment was emphasised. However, it is evident from subsequent audits and reviews of the Office's financial processes, that to a large extent, Ms Sun disregarded departmental instructions on this matter. When in Brisbane in January 1997, Ms Sun submitted a claim for reimbursement of official expenditure. This claim was so poorly documented and supported that the majority of the claim could not be paid at that time.

Price Waterhouse (PW), an international firm of Chartered Accountants, was engaged in early December 1996 to provide professional support to Ms Sun in the implementation of appropriate accounting systems and banking arrangements in the Shanghai office. However during this critical settling-in period, Ms Sun delayed the commencement of the engagement, and once started, exhibited a general lack of interest in and cooperation with PW staff in their assigned tasks.

(8) I am not aware of anyone in Treasury giving Ms Sun such advice.

(9) It is an accepted practice for the payment of government employees to be made by either direct credit to a nominated bank account, or to a lessor extent, by cheque. This practice avoids the security

problems inherent in handling large amounts of cash, affords a greater level of control over the related processes, and is a far more efficient and effective use of departmental resources.

However, the staff of the Shanghai Office were initially paid in cash, as appropriate systems had not been established to do otherwise.

It should be noted that the payroll records maintained by Ms Sun were inadequate, and indicated irregularities in the payment of staff.

From April onwards, salaries have been paid directly to employees' bank accounts.

In June 1997, the Department outsourced the processing of payroll to a chartered accounting firm, to ensure full compliance with the Chinese Government's legislative requirements. Under these arrangements, the payment of staff wages in cash is not a viable option.

(10) Ms Sun's employment was terminated on the 16th April, 1997 by notice given to her by the Acting Director-General on behalf of the Crown in the right of the State of Queensland.

Ms Sun was paid three (3) months salary in lieu of notice plus three (3) months salary by way of a severance payment.

Under the contract terms that were negotiated with Ms Sun either party was entitled to terminate the contract without giving any reasons. Further, there was no requirement under Ms Sun's employment conditions that formal notification of complaints be given or any response be given within 7 days or any other time.

The decision to dismiss Ms Sun was taken when it became apparent that Ms Sun was failing to perform at the level expected of a person of the seniority of a Trade and Investment Commissioner.

Major administrative difficulties were experienced in the Office. Since her dismissal, the extent of these problems have continued to emerge and have confirmed that the Acting Director-General acted appropriately in dismissing Ms Sun.

As early as November 1997, Ms Sun was offered administrative support from Brisbane to assist with the establishment of the Office. She refused to accept this assistance. The offer of assistance was renewed on subsequent occasions. In February 1997, the Department sent an officer from Brisbane to assist with the administrative functions of the Office. This officer subsequently spent six months in Shanghai assisting in the Office.

The Department received feedback from various sources that Ms Sun had been unable to represent the interests of Queensland as expected of the Trade and Investment Commissioner. She had demonstrated a lack of knowledge of Queensland issues and failed to utilise opportunities to promote the interests of Queensland.

838. Seizure of Illegal Weapons

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/8/97)—

With reference to the disturbing results of Operation Moonstone and Gazit which resulted in almost 100 illegal weapons being seized—

- (1) Were all of the weapons seized from the one property or several properties, and which were the properties involved?
- (2) Does he find it alarming that amongst these weapons were a 12 gauge yabbie pump shotgun and a 22 calibre fountain pen gun?
- (3) What other exotic firearms were seized during this raid?
- (4) Were the yabbie pump and fountain pen weapons locally made or imported and were they one-offs or production lines?
- (5) How many people have been charged in connection with the manufacture and/or possession of these firearms, were they local residents or visitors, and what were their names?
- (6) What was the connection between the possession of these firearms and the current gun buy-back scheme?
- (7) Did the persons found in possession of these weapons intend to surrender them to the gun buy-back scheme in return for compensation?
- (8) Have any of the persons charged in connection with these firearms surrendered weapons to the buy-back scheme previously; if so, what are their names and what amount of compensation was paid to each person involved?
- (9) Were any semi-automatic gun parts seized during these two raids; if so, how many and were these destined for the gun buy-back scheme?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

- (1) Weapons were seized from properties at Minden, Warwick, Logan Village, Tarragindi, Brighton, and Brackenridge.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A silenced sniper type 375 calibre rifle; a silenced semi-automatic 22 calibre rifle with detachable butt and barrel enabling the weapon to also be used as a pistol; and a 22 calibre rifle with in-built concealed silencer.
- (4) There is no conclusive evidence to support where these firearms were produced; however, it is believed they were manufactured in the Brisbane area. It is believed they were not production line weapons but made to order.
- (5) Two persons were charged with weapons offences. Both persons were local residents. Until these matters have been dealt with by a court, it is inappropriate to disclose the names of the persons charged.
- (6) There was no known connection between the possession of these exotic firearms and the gun buy-back scheme.
- (7) The persons charged with the possession of the exotic firearms did not declare an intent to surrender them to the gun buy-back scheme in return for compensation.

(8) Both persons charged have surrendered firearms to the gun buy-back scheme. The first person received \$4,632.00; the second person received \$42,045.00.

(9) In excess of eighty (80) automatic, semi-automatic, pistol and revolver parts. It is not known if it was intended that these parts be surrendered to the gun buy-back scheme.

839. Forestry Projects

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/8/97)—

- (1) What forestry projects and consultancies are being undertaken by the department outside Australia?
- (2) What Australian species of timber are being grown in other countries?
- (3) What input does the Forestry Department have in monitoring these forests?
- (4) What commercial projections have been undertaken by the department into these projects?
- (5) What reports are available on the department's involvement in research and development of offshore timber-forestry projects?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

(1) QDPI Forestry has had a significant involvement in overseas projects over the last 15 years. In particular this has involved projects conducted under the sponsorship of Australia's aid agencies, for example AusAID. Some work has been conducted also from a range of government and private forestry organisations. Three major areas of benefit accrue through involvement in this work:

Direct profit from fee-for-service activities. As a commercial organisation, DPI Forestry needs to maximise fee-for-service revenues in order to maintain its high level of technical strength.

Strategic value—e.g. acquisition from overseas of technical and commercial information which is of value to domestic forest industries. The case of Australian hardwood plantation species is a good example—many offshore planting programs are technically very advanced, and information gained from these operations will be invaluable in Queensland's own emerging hardwood plantation.

Staff development—staff improve their capabilities by exposure to new environments and challenges.

The following are projects that are current:

APRIL Forestry Services Breeding and Clonal Forestry Project. Conducted as a commercial project for a large Indonesian pulp company, this provides DPI Forestry with a good profit as well as valuable experience in the management of short rotation species.

South Pacific Regional Initiative on Genetic Resources (SPRIG). Conducted (in partnership with CSIRO) in four Pacific Island countries under a competitively awarded contract with

AusAID, this returns a profit to DPI Forestry, experience with hardwood species, and strategic value in terms of improved contacts with forestry authorities in the Pacific.

ACIAR Drylands Project. With sponsorship from ACIAR (Australian Council for International Agricultural Research), and in partnership with forestry authorities in Kenya and Zimbabwe, this project is gathering technical information on the establishment of tree plantations in more arid zones of Queensland and Africa.

ACIAR Plantation establishment project. Also sponsored by ACIAR, this project is examining some aspects of nutrition and early establishment of Acacia and eucalypt plantations in Queensland and the Philippines.

ACIAR Rainforest modelling. An ACIAR sponsored project conducted in collaboration with forestry authorities in PNG, this project is assisting in maintaining Queensland's skills in native forest management.

ACIAR Pests of Acacia and Eucalypt Plantations Project. This project, also sponsored by ACIAR, is providing and opportunity to conduct over-the-horizon monitoring of pests in South-east Asia, and to devise strategies for managing these pests should they be introduced into Australia.

(2) Australian species grown for timber production in other countries comprise mainly species of Acacia and Eucalyptus. The former (in particular Acacia mangium) are being established in south-east Asia for pulp production, particularly in Indonesia. The latter include eucalypts such as Eucalyptus grandis, E. globulus and E. nitens. Many millions of hectares have been established, in particular in Latin America, South Africa and Spain. Some of these plantation programs are quite sophisticated.

(3) DPI Forestry has no formal role in monitoring most of these forests, but a 'watching brief' is maintained through regular contact with forestry authorities in those countries.

(4) In terms of commercial projections for plantations offshore, specific involvement in offshore projects has generally involved technical input rather than economic analysis (although there are one or two projects which have involved economic projections as a component of feasibility analysis). In terms of economic outcomes to DPI Forestry, careful analysis of costs and benefits is undertaken prior to involvement in any project, and only those with a high expectation of domestic benefit undertaken.

(5) Reports are available on all offshore projects in which DPI Forestry has been involved. Arrangements will be made for a full list of projects to be made available to Mr D'Arcy, with access to detailed reports subsequently provided for those projects identified as being of interest.

840. Year 2000 Computer Bug

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Premier (19/8/97)—

(1) What action, if any, is the Government taking with regards to the so called "millennium bug"?

(2) Will the Government give a commitment that appropriate resources have been made available to ensure State Government computers will not suffer problems associated with the bug?

(3) Is the Government confident that any such problems will not impact on the provision of services at the beginning of next century?

(4) What resources is the Government planning to make available to the business community to assist them in eliminating the bug from their software, or in the transition to new business software?

(5) Will the Government assure the people of Queensland that emergency services will not be affected?

Mr Borbidge (18/9/97):

(1) The Government has been actively addressing the millennium bug issue for over a year. A Year 2000 Project Office was established in July 1996 in the Information Planning Branch, Department of the Premier and Cabinet to coordinate whole of Government activities in this area. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to ensure that the Government is addressing the issue. These initiatives include:

(a) The production and distribution of a comprehensive set of guidelines and checklists for Departments to follow when undertaking Year 2000 tasks;

(b) Coordination of risk assessment activities across Departments, and providing advice to Government Owned Corporation and Statutory Authorities;

(c) Establishment of agency reference groups, one of which is responsible for investigating the problem of embedded systems. That is, those systems which contain microchips that are date dependant such as PABXs, building security and ventilation systems, medical equipment, radio controlled devices, equipment in emergency vehicles, etc.

(d) The Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet ensures that his CEO Forum is regularly briefed on the current status of the Year 2000 issue.

At this stage, the Year 2000 Project Office is assisting Departments with guidance on rectification strategies. Options include software replacement, re-programming of existing systems, integration of systems and software across Departments, replacement or upgrading of existing PC desktop systems, and replacement of date affected embedded equipment.

(2) To date, resourcing in respect of this matter has been appropriate. During the next twelve months, additional resources will be supplied to the Year 2000 Project Office as well as to Departments. This will ensure that key deadline dates for Year 2000 compliance are met. Cabinet has remained informed on the Year 2000 and has approved a number of initiatives aimed at minimising the Year 2000 risk. Year 2000 is also on the agenda of the Ministerial

Council for Information Technology and Communications, which I chair. The CEOs of each Department have been formally briefed and are well aware of this issue. Cost estimates are being progressively refined. Departments would normally be expected to fund rectification work through existing budgets. However, if this proves impractical, Treasury will consider other funding options.

(3) No Government or private sector organisation is immune from this problem. The Information Planning Branch, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, is fully aware of the range of Government services potentially affected by the Year 2000 problem. With this in mind, any rectification work undertaken by the Government is focused upon ensuring that any potential disruption to Government services is minimised and that rectification takes place well prior to the turn of the century. Inter-agency cooperation in this regard is of paramount importance, and is currently effected through regular Year 2000 Agency Reference Group meetings.

(4) The Year 2000 Project Office is currently working on a State Year 2000 Strategy in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development and Trade. The primary focus of the State Year 2000 Strategy will be on raising private sector awareness of the issue, particularly amongst small to medium enterprises. A number of meetings with industry representatives have already taken place in order to identify the current level of industry awareness and formulate plans of action. Other Departments involved in the strategy include Tourism, Small Business and Industry, Local Government and Planning, and Consumer Affairs.

(5) The continued provision of emergency services at the beginning of the next century is a priority task in all Government Year 2000 programs. The Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Police and other agencies and suppliers are working together on this issue to ensure that duplication of work effort is minimised and that emergency services will not be affected as a result of the Year 2000 change over.

841. Diesel Refuelling Depot, Whyte Island

Mr LUCAS asked the Premier (19/8/97)—

With reference to the Queensland Rail refuelling facility situated at Whyte Island within Moreton Bay Marine Park—

- (1) Does he acknowledge the accuracy of the article on the front page of the Wynnum Herald of 11 September 1996 when it reported, "When Mr Borbidge was asked why he had not removed the Depot after promising to do so before the last State Election, he announced that 'an urgent inquiry' to be conducted. 'If it comes out that it shouldn't have been put there, then it will have to go,' he said"?
- (2) With respect to the answer to Question on Notice No. 1145/96 from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Johnson) in response to a question 4(a), "What inquiry process was established as a result of the Premier's Policy Statement to the people of Lytton", to which the Transport Minister

answered "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"—can he confirm the accuracy of this statement and the nature of the inquiry process including whether it was a formally conducted inquiry?

- (3) With respect to the letter dated 9 May from the Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Mr Ellis) to local residents Mel and Maureen Holz, in which Mr Ellis states: "You expressed concern about the lack of public consultation during the assessment of the application. In view of the minor nature of the works within the park and the environmental management arrangement proposed by Queensland Rail it was not considered necessary to subject the proposal to a formal environmental impact assessment process or to seek public comment." and "In conclusion, I assure you that it is considered the operations of the provisioning shed pose a relatively insignificant threat to the marine park which would not justify the cost of relocation", do these statements of Mr Ellis' represent Government policy?
- (4) If they do not represent Government policy, then at what stage did he alter Government policy, particularly in light of the undertakings given to the people of Queensland: (a) by the then Shadow Transport Minister Vaughan Johnson at a protest rally held at Whyte Island on the 10 June 1995, (b) in the clear context of the Premier's question (in his then capacity as Leader of the Opposition) without notice in the Parliament to the then Premier Mr Goss on the 15 June 1995, (c) in relation to the statements made at the Liberal candidate's campaign launch for the Lytton By-Election referred to in the Wynnum Herald article at (1) above, and (d) in the light of the reply of the Transport Minister (Mr Johnson) to then Member for Lytton Mr Burns' Question on Notice No. 27/96, in which he stated "the present Government can give no timetable on when works will be undertaken at Whyte Island"?

- (5) Given that he stated to the people of Queensland in the Courier-Mail of 7 May 1995 and reported as "Opposition leader Rob Borbidge said yesterday that he would quit politics if the Coalition broke any election promises", why will he not immediately resign in the light of this clear breach of an election commitment made (particularly in the light of the letter from the Premier's Department Director-General dated 9 May) and after having shown he has no intention of complying with his Whyte Island undertakings?

Mr Borbidge (18/9/97): For the information of the Honourable Member who has only recently been elevated to this House, the Queensland Rail refuelling facility situated at Whyte Island was a project proposed by the previous Labor Party Government and completed under that administration.

842. Free Trade Zone Project

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (19/8/97)—

With reference to his announcement in 1996 that the Queensland Government is investigating establishing a 'free trade zone' adjoining the Brisbane Airport—

- (1) What progress has been made in achieving this objective to date?
- (2) What are the details of the project to date?
- (3) Is the Federal Government supportive of this project and what assistance has been provided by the Federal Government to date?
- (4) In light of the announcement by the Federal Government that a free trade zone is contemplated for the Newcastle area, what impact will this have on the Queensland Government's attempts to establish a free trade zone at the Brisbane Airport?
- (5) Apart from DHL, what other companies are involved in the free trade zone project and what is the nature of their involvement?

Mr Slack (2/9/97):

1. On 18 July 1997, a submission on this issue sponsored jointly by my Department of Economic Development and Trade, DHL International (Aust) Pty Ltd and Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited was forwarded to the Commonwealth Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism, John Moore.

2. The submission examines the characteristics of international free trade zones which have been successful in attracting export industries. These characteristics include proximity to trade ports with established international transport links, reliable infrastructure including available land, political and economic stability, a suitably skilled work force and supporting industry networks.

Successful free trade zones also feature simplified customs arrangements, including exemption of duty on capital equipment. The submission therefore recommends that Australian Customs provisions be simplified to enable Manufacture-in-Bond, whereby a greater range of export oriented manufacturing activities can be undertaken in a licensed or bonded warehouse. It also recommends that regulatory and administrative impediments imposed under the Customs Act be reduced.

Queensland has a number of regions with the characteristics common to successful free trade zones which would be able to take advantage of these changes. The Brisbane Gateway region, for example, is the only gateway in Australia that can potentially offer fully integrated air, sea, rail and road freight interchange facilities and also meet land availability, skilled workforce and other requirements. The submission recommends that the Brisbane Gateway area be considered for any proposed pilot scheme.

However, the Queensland ports of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Gladstone and Bundaberg also have comparative advantages which could attract

new economic activity if the submission's recommendations are adopted.

3. I understand that the Commonwealth Government does not favour proposals to establish "traditional" free trade zones. However, The Commonwealth Government has shown considerable interest in Queensland's proposal to allow greater potential for Manufacturing-in-Bond which will deliver most of the administrative benefits of a "traditional" Free Trade Zone. It is expected that this matter will be considered by the Commonwealth Government in the near future.

4. Newcastle has different characteristics and different comparative advantages to the Brisbane Gateway region. BHP and the parties to the Queensland submission see benefits in working together to ensure the success of the Manufacturing-in-Bond concept across Australia.

5. My Department of Economic Development and Trade is working with DHL, the Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited and the Port of Brisbane Corporation to ensure the success of the project. DHL and Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited have been parties to the steering committee for the submission and have contributed financially and in kind to the preparation of the submission. The Port of Brisbane Corporation has recently joined discussions.

843. Electricity Supply, Mount Isa

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/8/97)—

With reference to the agreement between Mount Isa Mines and NORQEB regarding the provision of a number of megawatts of power made available to the Mount Isa community and in view of the changed ownership of the Mica Creek Power Station—

- (1) Is this agreement still in place; if not, what agreement has been put in place?
- (2) What effect will this have on the Mount Isa community?

Mr Gilmore (16/9/97):

1. There are two contracts which underpin supply arrangements in the Mt Isa area:

the bulk supply agreement with MIM which sets out the pricing mechanism for NORQEB's purchase of power from MIM; and

a contract between MIM and NORQEB for the provision of a guaranteed capacity from Mica Creek Power Station.

As a part of the industry restructure, these contracts were transferred to the Northern Electricity Retail Corporation (NERC). Under these agreements, NERC purchases its electricity supplies through MIM, and not directly from the power station.

Currently, both agreements are still in place. In view of the recent changes in ownership of Mica Creek Power Station and reforms in the electricity industry, MIM and NERC are renegotiating these contracts with a view of developing a single Power Purchase Agreement between NERC and the Power Station.

2. Given that negotiations are still under way, the details of the agreement are unknown. In any event, under the Government's electricity strategy domestic consumers will not pay any more for their electricity in real terms as prices will be capped.

844. School Security Systems, Townsville/Thuringowa; B & M Technical Services

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Education (19/8/97)—

With reference to community concerns at the spate of vandalism to schools in the Townsville/Thuringowa area especially following a series of incidents at Aitkenvale State School—

- (1) Will he intervene in the contract with B & M Technical Services for the upgrade of security systems at Kirwan State School, Kirwan State High School, Heatley State High School, William Ross State High School, Bohlevale State School, Currajong State School and Townsville State High School to ensure that all schools are electrically secured, all major defects rectified, all manuals are received by all schools and all registrars trained as a matter of urgency?
- (2) If B & M Technical Services are unable or unwilling to comply, will he terminate the contract and have the work completed by others?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): (1) & (2) Responsibility for management of the contract with B&M Technical Services lies with my colleague The Honourable David Watson, Minister for Public Works and Housing. It is therefore not within my authority to make any decisions in relation to the contract with B&M Technical Services.

845. Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/97)—

- (1) How many staff were employed at the Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE at the beginning of the 1997 school year and what is the expected number to be employed at the end of the 1997 school year under the following categories (a) permanent, (b) contract and (c) casual?
- (2) Will he allocate the numbers to the various campuses—Cairns, Johnstone, Mareeba and Thursday Island?

Mr Santoro (18/9/97):

(1) On 4 February 1997, there were 195 permanent staff and 183 temporary/contract employees employed across the various campuses of the Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE. Casual employment is utilised on a day to day basis as required and the number of casual employees varies significantly from week to week. On average there are approximately 150 employees engaged on a casual basis at any one time undertaking between one and 35 hours per week. The majority of these

employees are engaged for periods of less than 12 hours per week.

The Institute is realigning its workforce to reflect the changing training demands of the community and a number of Voluntary Early Retirements have been offered and accepted.

On 26 August 1997, the Institute employed 168 permanent staff and 176 temporary/contract staff.

(2) On 4 February 1997, the distribution of staff was:

Cairns—permanent (140) temporary (134)
 Johnstone permanent (35) temporary (34)
 Mareeba (Tablelands College) permanent (14) temporary (7)
 Thursday Island (Torres Strait College) permanent (6) temporary (8)

On 26 August 1997, the distribution of staff was:

Cairns permanent (132) temporary (124)
 Johnstone permanent (21) temporary (34)
 Mareeba (Tablelands College) permanent (8) temporary (9)
 Thursday Island (Torres Strait College) permanent (7) temporary (9).

846. Water Infrastructure Projects, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (19/8/97)—

With reference to the Water Task Force Implementation Plan and the recommendation that private enterprise, including water users, provide approximately 50 percent of the capital for future water storage projects—

What capital funding from private sources does the Government expect for the implementation of (a) the Underground Rescue project for Bundaberg and (b) the Paradise Dam project on the Burnett River?

Mr Hobbs (16/9/97): In its final report to me, the Water Infrastructure Task Force recommended "That in the longer term, Government should target to recover at least 50% of the capital cost of new water infrastructure from water users".

The Government's position on this recommendation is given in the Water Infrastructure Planning and Development Implementation Plan—1997/98 to 2001/02 which was endorsed by Government on 23 June 1997. It is: "As a guiding principle, Government will seek to maximise water user contributions according to their capacity to pay. Negotiations will be undertaken to assess expected levels of cost recovery prior to determining priorities for development. Where appropriate, competitive bidding processes will be used to recover the market price for all new water allocations."

With respect to the Bundaberg Irrigation Area Groundwater Rescue Project listed as a Category 1 project in the Implementation Plan, my Department of Natural Resources is proceeding with an assessment of specific components to determine their technical feasibility and costs. Once these assessments are completed there will be a process of negotiation with water users with respect to funding and cost

recovery for the proposed works prior to my seeking Government's approval to proceed with construction. Negotiations concerning cost recovery will be undertaken within the context of the principle stated above.

The Paradise Dam proposal is to be evaluated as part of the Burnett River Catchment Study. However, as a potential major project, specific studies will be initiated at an early stage to ensure a comprehensive assessment is completed within the overall Study time frame. Again, subject to the outcomes of the Study, there would be a process of negotiation with potential water users on cost recovery prior to making any recommendation to Government concerning approval to proceed with development.

Finally, I can advise that the proponents of both these projects have already indicated a preparedness to contribute to their cost.

847. "White Knights" Vigilante Group, Ipswich

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/8/97)—

With reference to reports of a racially motivated vigilante group in Ipswich calling itself the "White Knights"—

- (1) Is he aware of the existence of this group and complaints to Ipswich Police about their actions?
- (2) How many complaints have been received over what time frame?
- (3) How many of these complaints featured firearms?
- (4) What arrests and charges have been laid by police with regard to this group's activities; if none, why not?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

- (1) The possibility of a group called "White Knights" operating in the Ipswich area was investigated after an article appeared in the Courier Mail newspaper on 25 July 1997. All of the incidents quoted in the article were examined, with no mention being made of a group called the "White Knights" by any of the persons involved.
- (2) No complaints have been received by Ipswich Police regarding the actions of a group using this or any similar name.
- (3) The newspaper article nominates two firearm related incidents, however investigations found no evidence to support these claims.
- (4) There is no evidence to support the claims this group is operating in the Ipswich District, and no arrests have been made.

848. Palm Beach Community Health Centre

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed Palm Beach Community Health Centre—

- (1) Why has work still to commence on the site?
- (2) Why did he give an assurance some 12 months ago that the health centre and dental clinic would be open and operational by August 1997?
- (3) Why should southern Gold Coasters believe the project will go ahead under this Government?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) I refer the Honourable Member to Question on Notice No. 480 in response to previous questions raised on the subject.

Tenders for this project closed 23 July 1997 based on a single stage design and construction with Principal supplied Schematic Design contract. Evaluation of tenders has been completed and a tenderer nominated. Some delay has occurred in the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA) completing a financial audit of the nominated company's ability to complete the project. Discussion with both the company and QBSA have only recently been finalised and the awarding of the tender will be completed within days. Site work will commence immediately and no delay is expected in meeting completed timeframes previously advised.

- (2) I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question on Notice No. 480.
- (3) My Government reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of the Palm Beach Community Health Centre which will be constructed on a site acquired for this purpose located at 1-15 Fifth Avenue, Palm Beach. Completion of the new facility is planned for May 1998.

849. Gateway Port Rail Link

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/8/97)—

With reference to the Gateway Port area—

- (1) Is consideration being given to linking this area by rail to the north coast line by an additional route using, in part, the existing Gateway Arterial Road corridor?
- (2) What discussions have taken place between Queensland Rail and the Department of Main Roads in relation to this matter?
- (3) What outcomes have arisen from these discussions?
- (4) What other areas or corridors are being considered for this connection?
- (5) When will a decision be made on this matter?
- (6) What processes will be undertaken before any decision is made?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) The Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) for South East Queensland recognises that an efficient and reliable freight network is a vital component in supporting the economic development of the region. This is particularly relevant to the large commodity flows within the region associated with the Port of Brisbane and other key industry areas.

The IRTP has recommended that a staged integrated transport study be carried out on future freight rail demands and constraints within the rail system. Included in the study would be an examination of a wide range of options to overcome constraints and make better use of existing rail infrastructure.

(2) No discussions have taken place to my knowledge between Queensland Rail and the Department of Main Roads. There is currently no planning for an additional rail route using the Gateway Arterial Road corridor.

(3) There have been no discussions to my knowledge.

(4) The rail freight capacity study will examine future demands and constraints within the existing rail system, not new corridors.

(5) The rail freight capacity study is expected to start in the second half of 1998 and will take around two years.

(6) Extensive consultation will be carried out as part of the study to ensure that stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input and be kept well informed of progress.

850. Inland Railway System; Davidson Scheme

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/8/97)—

As he would be aware that Mr Everaldo Compton is attempting to obtain finance for the Davidson Scheme for an inland railway system to link all the major industrial areas of eastern Australia and regional and country centres to Darwin, which could revitalise Australian industry and trade, will he give a guarantee that he and the Government will give all practical and moral support to the group organising an attempt to make a reality of the Davidson Scheme for a high speed railway to link Melbourne, Sydney/Wollongong, Newcastle, Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Mt Isa and Darwin, as a new great Australian trade route?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) I have spoken on a number of occasions with Mr Compton and various board members of the Australian Transport & Energy Corridor Pty Ltd (ATEC) about the Darwin/Melbourne Railway (the Inland Rail) proposal.

(2) Both the Premier and myself have publicly supported the concept of an Inland Rail being developed as a totally private sector capital investment, and recognise that the ATEC proposal represents the most tangible evidence to date of private sector interest in constructing such an important transport link.

(3) Whether the ATEC's proposal, or any other Inland Rail proposal for that matter, proceeds will obviously depend on their respective commercial viability. ATEC is currently completing a Revenue Feasibility Study.

(4) The Queensland Government wants to make sure that, in the event that a firm commercial proposal is put to Governments, any unnecessary administrative or legislative impediments are identified and

remedied as speedily as possible. This can only be achieved by cooperation between the relevant Governments and agencies.

(5) The Premier has invited the Commonwealth and relevant State and Territory Governments to join Queensland in establishing a high level Steering Group to properly consider the many inter-jurisdictional policy and legislative issues involved with the ATEC proposal. It is proposed that the Steering Group will meet prior to the forthcoming National Rail Summit

(6) I will be advancing the Queensland Government's position for a national approach to the Inland Rail with my Australian Transport Council colleagues at the special National Rail Summit scheduled for 9-10 September this year.

(7) The Honourable Member's question referred specifically to the Davidson Scheme for an inland railway linking major cities and ports on the eastern seaboard. Members should appreciate that there are a number of groups and individuals actively promoting the broad concept of an Inland Rail. Although there are some similarities, each proponent group has a different view in respect of the precise operating standards, routes and timing for construction of such a railway.

(8) It is my understanding that the ATEC proposal would differ significantly from the Davidson "National Trunk Railway" scheme. For instance, ATEC advocates a more direct inland rail corridor through central and western Queensland linking Mt Isa to Tennant Creek.

(9) At this early stage of development of such proposals, it would be premature for the Government to comment on technical and operational matters relating to the ultimate route of an inland railway or possible future connections to major ports and industrial centres in Queensland.

851. Animal Husbandry Research Farm, Rocklea

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/8/97)—

With reference to current deliberations concerning the future of the Department of Primary Industries farm at Rocklea—

(1) Is he aware of community concern over the future of this site and, in particular, of community groups' desire to see a city farm providing educational opportunities for school children and TAFE students?

(2) Will he give an assurance that there will be further community consultation before a decision is made on the future of the site?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. When I assumed office in 1996, I directed that the disposal of the Animal Husbandry Research Farm at Rocklea be deferred pending the outcome of discussions with the Department of Education and Queensland Farmers' Federation to gauge their commitment to a proposed education centre at Rocklea. These discussions were later extended to include TAFE Queensland.

Although each of these organisations has been reluctant to proceed with the proposed education centre/city farm in view of the significant costs associated with the concept, I have directed my Department to continue negotiations.

2. I am sympathetic to the concerns of community groups and, accordingly, have invited two local community representatives to participate in further discussions regarding the future of the Animal Husbandry Research Farm.

852. Home and Community Care Program

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to complaints in recent months by a number of elderly constituents that their allocated hours of assistance under the HACC program have been cut back and at the same time, the Government was wasting \$14m on the politically biased Connolly-Ryan Inquiry—

- (1) Why were elderly Queenslanders who have contributed to this State and paid their taxes over many decades being denied basic home help?
- (2) What steps will he take to restore basic home help to older citizens who need assistance in their basic daily activities?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) There has been significant increases to the total funds provided for HACC Services under the Coalition Government with increased funding from \$113 715 000 to \$120 236 274 over the period 1995/96 to 1996/97.

There has been no change in the eligibility criteria for home help services provided through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program. Due to the high demand for home help services, some clients who are assessed as eligible for the service, and who have an immediate need, are referred to other HACC funded services as an interim arrangement until services can be arranged through the home help service.

(2) To address the issue of increased demand, Queensland Health through the HACC Program has increased the level of funding for home help from \$19.2m to \$22.1m over the period 1995/96 to 1996/97. During that period the number of clients receiving home help services through the HACC Program has increased from 20,246 to approximately 23,000 clients throughout Queensland.

853. Motor Vehicle Registration Concession for Seniors

Mr PEARCE asked the Premier (19/8/97)—

With reference to his commitment to review a motor vehicle registration anomaly for those people in receipt of the Seniors Card—

- (1) On what date was the review begun and by whom?
- (2) What date did the review report to Government?

- (3) What action has the Government undertaken to honour its commitment on motor vehicle registration?
- (4) How many seniors will be affected by the decision?
- (5) What is the cost for (a) 1997-98, (b) 1998-99 and (c) 1999-2000?

Mr Borbidge (18/9/97): The Government recognises the significant amount of money that the annual motor vehicle registration and insurance bill means to many seniors. To help manage budgets better, Queensland Transport has introduced a new phone pay credit card system to allow more flexibility and has also introduced improved telephone information services which allow seniors to make inquiries from the comfort of their own home.

The Government is not proposing to make any changes to the eligibility requirements for motor vehicle registration concession. There is only a certain amount of money available and any expansion of the eligibility would result in the need to reduce other benefits to a much larger group of seniors than would receive the benefit.

Finally, the Government intends to continue to improve options for payment of motor vehicle registration and is currently considering the introduction of a 6 monthly payment option. If this option proves to be viable, this will make it just a little easier for seniors and other motorists to meet their annual registration costs.

854. Scallop Fishery

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/8/97)—

- (1) What is the status of the Queensland scallop fishery, i.e. is it a fact that the scallop returns for this year are significantly reduced from those taken in recent years?
- (2) Is he concerned at the apparent reduction in the scallop catch?
- (3) What steps is he taking to ensure that the scallop fishery continues to be sustainable?
- (4) Has he considered the possibility of introducing commercially reared scallops into the fishery?
- (5) What research is currently being undertaken at either the Bribie Island or Deception Bay research stations into the viability of the scallop fishery and the possibility of introducing commercially reared scallops into the fishery?
- (6) What results has either of these research stations achieved in the propagation of scallops and the restocking of these into the fishery?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. Yes. Catches of scallops in the 1996/97 scallop season were well below the average catches observed in the previous 10 years. Normally about 1,200 tonnes of scallop meat are taken annually, but this reduced to about ... in 1996/97.

2. Yes. I am concerned about the reduction in the scallop catch in 1996/97. I am particularly concerned about the resulting impacts on employment

opportunities and the economies of coastal communities between Hervey Bay and Yeppoon.

3. I am advised by Fisheries Scientists that the reduced catches observed in the 1996/97 scallop season have been caused by a reduction in the recruitment of small scallop onto the scallop grounds. Scallop have larvae which drift in the water currents before settling on the scallop beds. Following negotiations with industry, I approved the closure of some 300 square nautical miles of scallop trawl grounds off Yeppoon, Bundaberg and Gladstone. This represents about 8% of the main scallop trawl grounds. The closed areas act as a significant source of breeding stocks which will ensure a reasonable level of recruitment to all the scallop grounds.

Economic effects from the closure should be offset by greater future catches.

I have also committed significant resources for the next two years for a detailed survey to measure the abundance of small scallop in the main scallop grounds between Yeppoon and Hervey Bay. The results of the survey will enable my Department to give industry an early indication of the likely levels of scallop stocks in the coming season. This will enable industry to adjust, if necessary, in the coming season.

4. The concept of stocking our coastal waters and rivers with fish and shell fish raised in hatcheries is not new in Queensland.

Freshwater fish stocking has been highly successful in many inland areas. Trials by my Department with the stocking of Barramundi in North Queensland rivers and with whiting and flathead in the Maroochy River are yielding some very promising results.

I am advised however that some serious problems and issues can arise from fish and shellfish stocking.

These include the following:

The feasibility of whether the stocking will work successfully and produce more product.

The costs of stocking and who should pay.

The need to maintain genetic diversity in the wild stocks.

The need to ensure that diseases and foreign organisms are not introduced by stocking.

These issues need to be addressed as part of the initial consideration of all fish stocking proposals including any proposal for scallop stocking.

5. My Department, with specialist facilities at the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre, and Southern Fisheries Centre, Deception Bay, has an open mind on the concept of scallop stocking. The commercial trawl fishing sector is the major potential beneficiary and therefore this industry may need to bear the cost of such a scheme.

The consideration of any proposal for scallop stocking must be considered at a very early stage by the trawl industry and the Trawl Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TrawlMAC). All major stakeholders from industry and government are represented on TrawlMAC.

6. Officers of my Department carried out scallop hatchery trials in the early 1980s. Spawning of scallop and the raising of early larval stages were successfully achieved. However some problems were encountered in raising the young scallops after settlement of the larvae. If scallop stocking was seriously proposed, further research work on post larval biology, and culture of these stages and the newly settled scallops would be necessary.

855. Home Assist/Secure Program, Pine Rivers

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/8/97)—

Will the Pine Rivers area be the beneficiary of a Home Assist/Secure scheme since his announcement of a \$5.23m boost to the program in the local press during the week ending 16 August?

Dr Watson (18/9/97): Funding for the Home Assist/Secure program increased from \$4.9m in 1996/97 to \$5.23m in 1997/98. This increase was distributed among the 36 presently funded organisations throughout the State. The Community Housing Grants Board, through its Future Ways and Future Means project, is currently examining the effectiveness of the Home Assist/Secure program. Decisions relating to the future direction of the program, including the issue of expansion to the Pine Rivers area, will be made following the completion of the project.

856. Survey of Women

Ms SPENCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/8/97)—

With reference to her media release and the 150 women she recently surveyed—

- (1) What was the socio-economic and cultural composition of the women surveyed state-wide?
- (2) What were the key domains of the research?
- (3) Who and what informed the survey design?
- (4) When will the preliminary data be published?
- (5) Will she please define gender-based social engineering on men and boys and was this language used in the survey instrument?

Mrs Sheldon (18/9/97):

(1) to (4) The views publicised by the Office of Women's Affairs in the media release you identify were not those of the Government or of the Office of Women's Affairs. They were the views of women who took part in broad-based focus group interviews as part of the Survey of Women. The press release and subsequent statements cautioned that the findings were both preliminary and indicative; they were qualitative only and needed to be tested in a wider sample, a process now under way.

The Queensland Government is deeply committed to widespread community consultation. The Office of Women's Affairs employs a number of consultative mechanisms to seek the views of women throughout the State. They consist of the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Queensland Women, the Women's

Council for Rural and Regional Communities, the Steering Committee of Directors General for Indigenous Women and the Queensland Survey of Women as well as a range of direct consultation with stakeholders. Our interactive web site encourages electronic feedback from Internet users and Women's Infolink provides a direct telephone link with the community.

The Survey of Women process allows women in the general community, who are not necessarily members of advocacy or networking groups, an avenue for participation in policy formulation. Women who took part in focus groups were from a broad range of socio-economic, geographic and cultural sub-groups including women with urban, rural, regional, indigenous and ethnic profiles.

The Survey of Women is canvassing a wide range of issues affecting women and is being undertaken in a number of specific stages:

A community consultation and literature review which has been conducted by the Office of Women's Affairs with the University of Queensland's Department of Anthropology and Sociology and Deborah Wilson Consulting Services, who tendered jointly and successfully.

A qualitative stage conducted by the parties above. Stages one and two informed the third stage of the survey and provided input to questionnaire development.

A third stage, a statewide random survey of 5000 women is being undertaken by the Government Statistician's Office.

(5) The Honourable Member may wish to consult the Concise Oxford Dictionary Ninth Edition for standard term definitions such as those listed.

The terms constituted a clearly intelligible summary statement by the Executive Director of the Office of Women's Affairs for media advice regarding issues involving work and family and had no other purpose or use.

857. Aitkenvale State School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (19/8/97)—

With reference to the fact that Aitkenvale State School has been broken into or vandalised at least 17 times this year and over 60 times in the last two years and to his repeated refusal to fund a comprehensive upgrade of security at the school—

- (1) Will he provide a list of all schools which have been vandalised and/or broken and entered in 1997 and in each school, on how many occasions and will he provide a breakdown of money spent in schools in 1997 on security upgrades?
- (2) How many and which schools in Queensland have been broken into or vandalised more often than Aitkenvale State School in the last two years?

(3) How much money has been allocated for security at Aitkenvale State School in 1997 and how has this money been spent?

(4) Given the embarrassing situation where two private Townsville businesses have now stepped in to help fill the void created by the unwillingness of the Government to fund a comprehensive upgrade of security at Aitkenvale State School will he now reconsider and provide sufficient funds for the comprehensive upgrade the school deserves?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): I preface my response with the advice that as a matter of policy, Education Queensland does not publicly identify individual schools in relation to their offence history or security arrangements.

This protects individual school communities from adverse and unwarranted public perceptions, and helps to prevent potential offenders from identifying schools which they may perceive to be easier targets for vandalism or break and enter.

(1) In response to the first part of Question 1, 602 schools have reported break and enter or vandalism offences in 1997, as at 15 August 1997. The breakdown by numbers of reported offences is set out in the attached table.

With regard to expenditure on school security upgrades in 1997, the total expenditure from 1 January 1997 to 31 July 1997 is \$4,341,365.

(2) The number of schools which have reported more break and enter or vandalism offences than Aitkenvale State School in the last two years (1 July 1995 to date), is two.

(3) The total amount allocated to Aitkenvale State School to date in 1997 is \$5,351 for additional and emergency security measures. The majority of the \$5,351 has been expended on the installation of 13 additional electronic security detectors and some sirens, the remainder being expended on the hire of a guard service to deter offenders while the additional electronic security was being installed. In addition, \$598 will be expended on monitoring the electronic security at the school. Additional funds may be allocated for additional security measures, following the planned full security audit of the school in the near future.

(4) The Government has no control over the decision by private business concerns to offer funds to schools. In fact, schools often receive funds from sources other than the government. Parents and Citizens Associations are a prime example of this support. It is my understanding that this school did not solicit the donations to which you have referred and that the funds are being spent on a number of projects. This is a school decision.

With regard to a comprehensive upgrade of security at Aitkenvale State School, a security audit team is scheduled to visit Townsville this month. If there is a requirement for additional security measures at Aitkenvale State School, it is expected that this will be identified in the audit.

Should significant additional security requirements be identified at Aitkenvale State School, I am

confident that the work will be included in the 1997/98 security upgrade program.

858. Heroin Addicts, Trial Treatment Program

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to claims by Israeli Doctor Andre Waismann's that his "accelerated neuro-regulation technique" will cure heroin addiction—

- (1) Has Queensland Health investigated this technique; if not, will Queensland Health establish a team to evaluate this technique?
- (2) If the claims are correct, will Queensland Health establish a trial treatment program?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) While there have been promising case reports on this technique in the popular press, there has never been a controlled trial of this technique in the international literature.

Any new treatment regime has to be rigorously investigated, using controlled trials before it could be considered for the treatment of patients in Queensland. This is particularly so for the use of rapid opiate detoxification as it involves greater risks than existing treatment.

Dr Waismann's technique involves rapidly detoxifying patients from drugs under anaesthetic using Naltrexone. This method of using Naltrexone is in a way contrary to the instructions issued by the manufacturer of the drugs. It should be noted that a patient recently died undergoing opiate detoxification under sedation in the UK.

Naltrexone, the drug used by Dr Waismann, is an opiate antagonist which works by blocking opiate receptors and preventing other opiates from having any effect. Naltrexone is licensed in the United States of America for preventing relapse in patients who have already detoxified.

(2) The Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services is consolidating current knowledge on the use of these techniques in collaboration with other jurisdictions using expert medical knowledge. This will provide a basis on which relevant decisions about the use of Naltrexone in Australia can be made.

If a controlled evaluation of this technique shows it to be a worthwhile treatment, and the use of Naltrexone for rapid opiate detoxification is approved in Australia, then Queensland Health will certainly consider implementing this program.

859. Speed Cameras

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/8/97)—

With reference to the recent introduction in Queensland of speed cameras—

- (1) How many infringement notices have been issued since the cameras come into effect?
- (2) Will he identify which centres or regions throughout the State where the cameras have been implemented?

- (3) How much money has been collected from fines to date?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) A total of 19,467 Infringement Notices were issued for the period May—July 1997:

May—2,712;
June—5,904; and
July—10,851.

(2) A total of 10 speed cameras are in use throughout the eight police regions. They are distributed as follows:

Metropolitan North Region and Metropolitan South Region have two cameras each.

Far Northern, Northern, Central, Southern, South Eastern and North Coast Regions have one speed camera each.

Two additional speed cameras will be put into operation on 1 September 1997. One will be deployed in South Eastern Region. The other will be shared between the Southern and North Coast Regions.

One speed camera is retained by the Traffic Camera Office for training purposes. It is also used as a replacement van in the event of a breakdown and for use in holiday periods.

(3) Information from Queensland Transport indicates that no collections were received in May 1997. Collections to date are—

June 1997—\$108,830.00
July 1997—\$282,120.00
Total —\$390,950.00

860. Safe Disposal of Syringes

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to the comments of the Minister for Emergency Services in the Weekend Bulletin on 28 June in relation to syringe exchange—

Is it the policy of his department to promote needle bins for the safe disposal of syringes?

Mr Horan (17/9/97): The Department views seriously the need to implement appropriate strategies to ensure the safe disposal of all used injection equipment.

All injecting equipment distributed by publicly funded services is required to include a disposal container and education of people who inject drugs about disposing of this equipment safely.

861. Ruled out of order by Mr Speaker on 21 August 1997 (p. 3083)

862. Use of Metarhizium on Sugarcane

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/8/97)—

With reference to the grave threat to the sugarcane crops in the Burdekin posed by the greyback cane grub—

Will he speed up the introduction of Metarhizium which occurs naturally in the soil and which should not, therefore, be subject to the same pre-registration trials required for man-made chemicals?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97): Officers of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES) in conjunction with staff from CSIRO and a commercial organisation have been undertaking trials since 1995 using *Metarhizium anisopliae* (which is a pathogenic fungus) against greyback cane grub in sugarcane.

In May 1997, BSES requested that the maximum use of the product be increased from 1 000 kg per season to 5 000 kg per season so that the trials to be undertaken by BSES and the Burdekin Cane Protection and Productivity Boards could be extended.

Recent trials have shown that rates of between 5.0 and 10.0 g per metre of row (approximately 35-70 kg/ha) are managing cane grub very well. However, the upper limit of this dose range is unlikely to be a commercially viable product for the control of the species.

Once trialling is completed and prior to its release for widespread commercial use, the various data will need to be assessed by the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals.

863. Diversionsary Centre, Carramar

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (20/8/97)—

- (1) What action is he taking to take the issue of the Townsville diversionsary centre from Mr Lingard?
- (2) Is he aware of the confusion Mr Lingard has caused the Townsville community by his constant changing of position from Ecklin Street to Stanley Street to North Ward and the Bohle?
- (3) How much has Mr Lingard's constant changes cost Queensland taxpayers to date?
- (4) Who in his office or department will take control of the issue?
- (5) Exactly how incompetent have you got to be to be sacked from his Ministry or, in Mr Lingard's case, do you just expect it?

Mr Borbidge (19/9/97): By these five questions the Leader of the Opposition shows once again his preference for a negative and destructive approach when he perceives any political advantage, despite the sensitivities that the particular issues demand.

It would be incumbent on the Leader of the Opposition to display a level of maturity that the public might expect of someone in his position when dealing with such issues.

The establishment in Townsville of a permanent diversionsary centre, a facility to which intoxicated people can be taken as an alternative to custody, has been under consideration for several years.

A decision has been made to establish a permanent purpose built diversionsary centre at Bohle. The design concept for the centre has been finalised and

approved. The necessary local government approvals have been sought. It is anticipated that construction will commence shortly and a fast track construction program using local contractors will be instituted.

These questions by the Leader of the Opposition do nothing other than seek to undermine this important project which will provide a solution to a sensitive community issue in Townsville.

864. Maryborough Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (20/8/97)—

- (1) Why is he closing the Lady Musgrave Unit at Maryborough Hospital after only three and a half years?
- (2) How many maternity beds will be tacked on to the end of the surgical ward and what impact will this have on surgical ward patients?
- (3) Why is he breaking an election promise and closing the children's ward at the Maryborough Hospital?
- (4) Is the children's ward in close proximity to the medical ward; if so, what types of patients are there in the medical ward?
- (5) How many criminals have been kept in the medical ward and what security arrangements are in place to ensure the children are not in danger?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

- (1) Maryborough Hospital will maintain its Lady Musgrave maternity unit. I have given repeated assurances that current services will continue to be provided.
- (2) The advent of upgraded maternity units at both St Stephens Private Hospital and the new Hervey Bay Hospital will have an impact on the number of births at Maryborough. The current maternity service level will be maintained at Maryborough Hospital using those beds required in the Lady Musgrave unit.
- (3) The Children's Ward at Maryborough Hospital is not being closed.
- (4) Whilst the planning process is not yet complete there is no intention to collocate the Children's Ward with the Medical Ward.
- (5) Health Services are obligated to treat the sick without discrimination. A person held in custody would be escorted by either a Police Officer or a Prison Officer for the period of their hospitalisation. The Maryborough Hospital, to the best of the knowledge of senior medical management has not accommodated a convicted criminal for a number of years. As I have said earlier there is no intention to collocate the Children's Ward with the Medical Ward.

865. Work Carried Out by Contractor on Public Housing at Zillmere

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (20/8/97)—

With reference to work carried out by a contractor on two houses at 12 and 14 Funnel Street, Zillmere—

- (1) Were stormwater pipes at these properties damaged during construction of carports and the damaged pipes never repaired, rather they were covered with either concrete or a carport, thereby hiding the damage?
- (2) When was this damage reported to departmental officers, when was it repaired, and by whom?
- (3) Why do nearby residents continue to report that the repairs have never been undertaken?
- (4) Were private gardens of residents damaged during the work of these contractors, as well as personal property broken, mud traipsed through carpeted interiors and lifestyles disrupted; if so, why?

Dr Watson (19/9/97): In answer to the Honourable Member's question, I am advised that:

- (1) The stormwater piping to 12 Funnel Street was damaged during the construction of the carport and repairs were carried out promptly by the contractor. The contractor has raised concerns that the existing stormwater drainage system does not work adequately, and this matter will be investigated separately at the conclusion of the builder's repairs. The investigations will also reveal the adequacy of repairs made during the construction period.
- (2) The damage to 12 Funnel Street was reported in mid-May and repaired immediately by the contractor. Damage to the stormwater pipes was also identified at 14 Funnel Street during a post-contract defects' inspection, and included on a defects' list issued to the contractor on 7 August 1997. Repairs by the contractor of items on that list were commenced on 21 August 1997, and were completed on 28 August 1997.
- (3) The contractor undertook to repair the defects as per the issued defects' list between the 21 and 28 August 1997 and this was closely monitored.
- (4) There were minor instances of damage to private property and gardens, which have been included on the contractor's defects' list. There was also an early instance of mud being traipsed through one house, to which the contractor was immediately alerted and warned. No further such instances have occurred.

866. Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Environment (20/8/97)—

With reference to his altered captive breeding program for the endangered hairy-nosed wombat—

- (1) Which institutions are involved in this new program and in which way?
- (2) Are captive breeding programs for southern hairy-nosed wombats being established at "The Woolshed" at Ferny Grove and at Fleay's Wildlife Park; if so, why?
- (3) Has Dubbo Zoo yet established a captive colony of southern hairy-nosed wombats at its zoo?

- (4) What financial support is the Queensland Government giving to the establishment of any captive colony of southern hairy-nosed wombats?

- (5) Where are these southern hairy-nosed wombats being drawn from and are any coming from wild caught stock?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

- (1) Four institutions are involved in the captive breeding program for southern hairy nosed wombats. These are (1) Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo (2) Currumbin Sanctuary (3) Monash University (4) Department of Environment, which is coordinating the captive program.

(2) No.

(3) No.

(4) None.

- (5) It is expected that the southern hairy-nosed wombats to be used will be wild caught stock from South Australia. That decision will be made by the South Australian Government.

867. Capital Works Reporting System

Mr HAMILL asked the Premier (20/8/97)—

With reference to the establishment of the whole of Government capital works monitoring system established in his department—

- (1) In respect of each department and agency funded from the consolidated fund, what was the allocation for capital works from this fund in 1997-98?
- (2) What proportion of this allocation was spent in respect of each department and agency as at 31 July?

Mr Borbidge (19/9/97):

- (1) The original Capital Budgets for each Department for 1997-98 are provided in Budget Paper 2, page 103.

- (2) The Government's Capital Works Reporting System is currently being implemented across all Departments. At this stage, information within the system is incomplete as some Departments are yet to finalise their data. It is anticipated that all data issues will be resolved within 2 months. Pending this, it is recommended that questions in relation to expenditure for individual Departments be addressed to the relevant Ministers.

868. Greyhound Racing Facility

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (20/8/97)—

With reference to his 1995 pre-election commitment to the Greyhound Racing Industry that he would establish a greyhound racing facility north of Albion Park to compensate for the closure of the Lawnton Greyhound Track—

- (1) Does he still intend to honour this commitment; if so, in view of the competing interests of

Redcliffe, Dakabin and Lawnton, will he ensure the Queensland taxpayers interests' are protected by taking the most economically viable option available?

- (2) When will he make a decisive announcement on this issue?

Mr Cooper (19/9/97):

- (1) Yes; issues of economic and strategic importance to the industry will be considered.
 (2) After the Greyhound Racing Authority has completed its feasibility studies and has made a submission to the Minister.

869. Queensland Law Society Statutory Committee; Mr C. Bax

Mr NUTTALL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (20/8/97)—

With reference to recent media coverage of the appearance of Mr Craig Stephen Bax before the Queensland Law Society's Statutory Committee for professional misconduct and, in particular, comments attributed to the Minister in the media regarding the lodgement of an appeal against the inadequacy of the penalty imposed on Mr Bax by the Queensland Law Society's Statutory Committee—

- (1) Is the offence for which Mr Bax has been found guilty forgery under the Criminal Code?
 (2) Has there been, or is there presently, a police investigation into the matters involving Mr Bax; if not, why not?
 (3) Are any further charges being considered?

Mr Beanland (19/9/97):

- (1) The proceedings before the Statutory Committee of the Queensland Law Society are disciplinary in nature. The Statutory Committee considers whether particular conduct by a practitioner constitutes professional misconduct. These were not criminal proceedings and did not consider the question of liability for any criminal offence.
 (2) Whether there is an investigation by the police of matters involving Mr Bax is a matter for the Queensland Police Service.
 (3) The consideration of laying charges in relation to a criminal offence against Mr Bax is also a matter for the Queensland Police Service.

870. Eco-Challenge; Mr A. Cattermole

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (20/8/97)—

With reference to a briefing note prepared for him by a Cairns-based departmental officer called Allan Cattermole on 8 July, in which he expressed concerns about arrangements for the Eco-Challenge race in North Queensland—

- (1) What is Mr Cattermole's position within the department?
 (2) Did he receive this briefing note; if so, when?
 (3) If he didn't receive it, what and who stopped it making its way to his office as Mr Cattermole obviously intended?

- (4) Which points in this briefing note does he disagree with, and on what and whose advice does he base this disagreement?

- (5) Is he comfortable with the procedure his department follows that obviously prevents briefing notes prepared by senior regional officers from reaching him, and what does he intend to do to rectify the situation?

- (6) Is he satisfied that the safety concerns raised in the briefing note were adequately addressed prior to the Eco-Challenge event?

Mr Littleproud (18/9/97):

1. Alan Cattermole is the Visitor Management Officer (TO3) based at the Atherton office of the Department of Natural Resources. He is responsible for the management of all Commercial Tour Operators in the Far North District on State Forest land.

2. Following the matter becoming an issue I have been provided with a copy of the draft brief note.

3. Mr Cattermole reports directly to senior officers including the Operations Manager at Atherton. Through this reporting process the form, content, accuracy, format and quality of advice is assessed before forwarding it to me, as has been the case before, during and since the Labor Government's time in office. It is normal procedure for drafts to be assessed and validated by the Operations Manager, Resource Management, Far North District.

(5) Yes. The final brief, sanctioned by the senior staff to which Mr Cattermole reports was both quality assured and accurate and in accordance with practices that have been applied by successive governments over the years.

(6) Yes.

871. Redevelopment of Boggo Road Site

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier (20/8/97)—

With reference to recent announcements regarding the redevelopment of the Boggo Road precinct, including the development of a high-tech industry park—

- (1) Have any discussions been held with the University of Queensland regarding the possible involvement of the university in the high-tech park?
 (2) Have any such discussions included discussion of a vehicle bridge being constructed between the St Lucia campus and Dutton Park?
 (3) Will he rule out any plans to construct a bridge across the Brisbane River between St Lucia and Dutton Park?

Mr Borbidge (19/9/97):

(1) Yes.

(2) The idea of a light-rail or people-mover link has been discussed. However, no engineering specifications nor detailed planning for any such link has been undertaken in relation to the development of the Boggo Road site as a Science and Technology Precinct.

(3) The success of a Science and Technology Precinct depends heavily upon close linkages, including physical access, between the Precinct and centres of research excellence, such as universities. The Boggo Road site has been identified as a potential Science and Technology Precinct because of its close proximity to three universities. The Queensland Science and Technology Council is undertaking the preparation of a Concept Development Plan for the Boggo Road site. The Plan will be submitted to the Government for consideration. The preparation of the Concept Development Plan will involve the investigation of the potential for creating direct public transport links between the site and the universities. I have asked the Council to contact the Member for South Brisbane to ensure that her views on the potential for the development of the site, transportation issues and community issues are taken into account in the preparation of the Development Concept.

872. Sithe Industries; Power Station, Brisbane Region

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/8/97)—

- (1) Has he, his department or SEQEB had any talks with Sithe Industries who have Brisbane City Council town planning approval to build a 500 megawatt gas powered station on what is known as Gibson Island near the mouth of the Brisbane River; if so, (a) what cost will the State buy the power for, (b) what environmental restrictions will be placed on the station if any, (c) when will the station start putting power into the State grid and (d) how many employees will the new power station employ?
- (2) Has he any plans to convert Swanbank Power Station to gas as it is the single largest polluter in the Brisbane air shed; if so, will the conversion to gas be over time so that coal miners and power station workers will be looked after and given timely notice to find alternative work?

Mr Gilmore (16/9/97):

- (1) Sithe Industries, along with many other prospective participants in the electricity industry, have had discussions with officials regarding the new industry arrangements to apply following the implementation of the Government's reform agenda—currently being undertaken by the Queensland Electricity Reform Unit.

These discussions have centred on industry arrangements to apply under the National Electricity Market rules as a rule of Queensland's participation in the NEM.

- (a) Any discussions with Sithe have in no way involved the cost of electricity or the State becoming involved with any contract with Sithe to supply electricity. Any decision by Sithe or any other prospective generator to invest in electricity capacity will be based on their assessment of market risk. The Government will no longer be intervening in what should be

investment decisions by the market by engaging in contracts for capacity with investment proponents.

- (b) Environmental restrictions are introduced through Environment Impact Studies, public consultation process and continuous monitoring of plant emissions. The Brisbane City Council has made a decision to approve the project under certain conditions. The applicant is allowed to appeal, if the conditions are not favourable, within forty days. The appeal period expires in September.
- (c) Future electricity demand will largely depend on how the competitive electricity market will be operating. Based on future demand studies, generators fully aware of the open competitive electricity market operation, will develop future generation capacity. It is envisaged that there will be many generators competing to provide the additional power required in Queensland by the year 2001 or 2002 and Sithe Industries could be one of them. The date for connecting future power supply to the grid either by Sithe Industries or by any other generator is not yet known.
- (d) The responsibility for developing Gibson Power Station lies with Sithe Industries. With a view to facilitating competition and implementing competitive neutrality, the Government will not be involved with any details regarding the power station or the likely number of employees.

- (2) Swanbank Power Station located near Ipswich is mainly a coal fired thermal power station comprising 10 units of coal fired power plant capable of producing 840 MW and a gas turbine plant (Swanbank C) of 26 MW.

The power station currently receives its coal supply from three mines in the Ipswich area and one near Oakey on the Darling Downs.

In order to reduce environmental pollution, the power station is currently in the process of fitting fabric filters to each of its coal fired units at a cost of \$30m. Installation of the fabric filters on eight units has been completed and this has resulted in the reduction of particulate emissions to less than 10 mg per cubic metre. Installation of fabric filters on the remaining two units will be completed in April and July 1998.

As regards conversion of Swanbank Power Station to gas turbine operation, no commitment has been made for such conversion. However, there is an opportunity to re-power the units at Swanbank using combined cycle gas turbines operating in parallel with the existing turbines. Introduction of this gas technology to Swanbank Power Station would be progressive according to electricity load growth, market opportunities, gas availability and its economics.

The conversion process would allow a gradual phasing out of the existing coal fired plant, whilst providing the opportunity for the Station to increase its capacity in line with the State's load growth. This increase in Station capacity would be achieved with

a reduction in overall emissions including greenhouse gas emission rates.

As regards the future of power station workers, in the context of such changes taking place, opportunities would be made available to the staff to be re-trained in the new technology.

873. Wynnum North State High School

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (20/8/97)—

With reference to the urgent need for a performing arts complex to be provided at the Wynnum North State High School and the lobbying for this project undertaken by both myself and the school community—

- (1) Will he (in accordance with the request in my letter to him of 23 May, which request he has ignored) make arrangements for me to meet the appropriate departmental officers so as they may provide me with a detailed briefing concerning assessment of such proposals including (a) procedures involved by which an assessment is made for inclusion on the capital lists, (b) prioritising that capital list so as immediate funding decisions are made and (c) what detailed evidence is required to be placed before the department so as to demonstrate the immediate and high priority of the proposed Wynnum North State High School Performing Arts Complex?
- (2) Will he release documents to myself and the school community to demonstrate his obvious view that the performing arts complex is not of a high priority and why schools in other areas have had their proposals constructed?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1)(a) Procedures involved for assessment of request
At the present time, there is a two stage assessment process employed to determine whether a capital works request is included on the list of potential projects for inclusion on a draft capital works program.

The first stage involves assessment of requests at a Regional level in order to determine a listing of Regional priorities. This process may differ slightly from region to region but the same principles of equity and consultation are employed. The process consists of:

Determining regional strategic direction (for example an emphasis on clustering arrangements between groups of schools or emphasis on projects in a particular school sector).

Highlighting requests in schools experiencing enrolment growth.

Assessment/ranking of projects through a reference group arrangement, generally consisting of representatives of all school sectors.

Development of a prioritised regional list which is forwarded to the Facilities Development Section of Education Queensland.

The next stage involves the grouping of regional nominations into project specific areas and the application of a mathematical modelling process in order to determine a statewide ranking within project specific requests. This ranking can be used to determine an overall statewide ranking for all capital requests.

(b) Prioritising the capital list

There are several factors which are used in determining the statewide ranking of a capital works request. These include:

Sponsorship of the request from the respective region.

The number and condition of any existing facilities of this type at the school.

The enrolment trends of the school.

The student capacity of existing facilities.

Whilst this process is used to determine the statewide ranking of a project, final funding allocation will be made on the basis of corporate strategies and the amount of capital works funds available.

(c) Detailed evidence

These factors have been outlined in response to part 1(b) of the question.

(2) Release of documents for purposes of comparison

In the past two years, there have been four performing arts complexes funded from Education Queensland's Capital Works Programs. All of these facilities were constructed in growing schools as part of their core facilities. Each new complex has cost in excess of \$600 000. It is recognised that there has been much enthusiasm generated by the Wynnum North State High School community for a performing arts complex. However, factors such as revised projected enrolment growth and surplus accommodation capacity will continue to affect the project's overall statewide ranking in the short term.

As part of the Leading Schools concept of school based resource management, Education Queensland is developing strategies for innovative design solutions for and project delivery of capital works projects. When the performing arts project attracts funding on a future program, it is hoped that creative solutions will result in a project which fulfils the expectations of the school for performing arts facilities.

874. Fish Habitats and Sanctuaries

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/8/97)—

With reference to declared fish habitats along the Queensland coast—

- (1) Where are these fish habitats located and what area do they cover?
- (2) What restrictions apply to fishing in these fish habitats?
- (3) How many fish sanctuaries exist along the Queensland coast, where are they located and what area do they cover?

- (4) What restrictions apply to fishing in these sanctuaries?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. Fish Habitat Areas are declared under the provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994. A total of eighty Fish Habitat Areas have been declared along the east coast of Queensland and within the Gulf of Carpentaria. The area of fish and fisheries habitats protected is in excess of 650 000 hectares. Further declarations, including Fish Habitat Areas for Trinity Inlet, Kinkuna (Woodgate), Burdekin Delta and Calliope River are proposed within twelve months.

2. No additional restrictions apply to fishing activities within the boundaries of these Fish Habitat Areas. All legal recreational, commercial and traditional fishing activities are able to continue.

3. The Fisheries Act 1994 did away with the provision for declaring Fish Sanctuaries as the same level of protection is now able to be provided by the gazettal of a 'Fishing Closure'. The six (6) areas previously given Sanctuary status have been given 'Fishing Closure' under the new Act. The areas are located at Coombabah Lake and Swan Bay, north of the Gold Coast; Middle Island, Central Queensland; Hook Island, Whitsunday; Centenary Lakes, Cairns and German Bar, Bizant River, Princess Charlotte Bay.

4. No fishing activities by commercial or recreational fishers may be undertaken in these Fishing Closures.

875. Home Assist/Secure Program, Inner Western Suburbs

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (20/8/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Inner West Home Assist-Home Secure Project (HAS) has had to substantially reduce the available financial assistance for needy pensioners and the disabled for security upgrades and home maintenance from \$23,000 in 1996-97 to \$5,000 in 1997-98?
- (2) Is he also aware that this difficulty is being experienced by all 36 HAS projects?
- (3) Will he, as a matter of urgency, provide a funding upgrade to redress this unacceptable situation?

Dr Watson (19/9/97):

(1) The Home Assist/Secure program in the inner western suburbs of Brisbane is delivered through the Red Hill Paddington Community Centre. Funding to this organisation increased from \$100,731 in 1996/97 to \$118,196 in 1997/98. It should be noted that the amount of 1997/98 funding includes the increased project staff salary payments in accordance with the Social and Community Services Award (SACS).

While the Red Hill Paddington Community Centre in applying for its budget has identified greater administrative costs in 1997/98 than in 1996/97, I am advised

the total amount available in 1997/98 to directly assist clients is \$89,525 compared with \$75,864 in 1996/97.

(2) Yes.

(3) Future funding for the Home Assist/Secure program will be determined following the outcome of the Future Ways and Future Means project.

876. Cleveland Rail Line

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/8/97)—

With reference to the ongoing serious assaults occurring on the Cleveland line—

When will he ensure that school children can travel to and from school in safety?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): The safety of all passengers and staff utilising Queensland Rail's network has one of the highest priorities for myself and Queensland Rail. Continual financial and human resources are directed to safety and security issues for all passengers.

Citytrain is continuing with the implementation of the TrainSafe strategy which was launched by me and this includes a whole range of security initiatives and part of this is the installation of CCTV cameras at all stations which enhances the detection and prosecution of offenders.

No organisation can totally guarantee a person's safety, however every endeavour is made to enhance the safety of passengers, especially children and staff, on the QR network.

Unfortunately, the increase in violence is a community wide problem and is not just peculiar to the rail network. The Queensland Police Service has previously indicated that the rail system is 2.5 times safer than the broader community.

In regard to the recent problems involving troublesome youths intimidating school children on the Cleveland line, Queensland Rail has responded by hiring private security guards to patrol stations and school trains, as well as working in close co-operation with the Queensland Police Service. At this point in time, Queensland Rail has an additional 30 to 40 people placed on this line to ensure the highest level of safety is provided to Queensland Rail customers.

This subject is now a police matter and results are expected.

877. Police Drug Raids

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (20/8/97)—

With reference to recent allegations by a Whitsunday drug dealer that a senior Queensland police officer stole \$5,000 from him during a police drug raid on the dealer's car—

- (1) How many other allegations of similar police theft have been made against Queensland police in recent times?
- (2) Does he find it perplexing that all five police officers involved in the raid had no independent recollection of the drug dealers arrest?

- (3) Does he find it odd that the dealer, after having been found in possession of 237 grams of marijuana, was only fined \$500?
- (4) What provisions has he put into place to ensure that all future drug raids properly account for all drugs and/or monies seized?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) Records of complaints held at the Professional Standards Unit indicate that there are five (5) complaints of a similar nature dating back to 1995. On investigation there was insufficient evidence on which to base any criminal charge. Two investigations resulted in disciplinary action being taken. Records held by the Queensland Police Service concerning complaints of this nature are not exhaustive because complaints are often made direct to the Criminal Justice Commission and this information is not made available to the Queensland Police Service.

(2 & 3) These matters are subject to investigations by the "Criminal Justice Commission Inquiry into Police and Drugs" (Carter Inquiry). The findings of Judge CARTER will be released in his final report. It would be inappropriate to comment on these matters prior to the release of his report.

(4) This matter is subject to investigations by the "Criminal Justice Commission Inquiry into Police and Drugs" (Carter Inquiry). The findings of Judge CARTER will be released in his final report. On 1 January 1995 the Commissioner of Police published an Operational Procedures Manual (OPM) containing Queensland Police Service policy, orders and procedures on an extensive range of operational policing issues. The manual is issued pursuant to Section 4.9 of the Police Service Administration Act 1990. Instructions with respect to the seizure of drugs and money are contained in Sections 4.6.1 to 4.6.4 of the OPM which have been recently updated. The Commissioner's Inspectorate is presently conducting a State-wide audit to gauge compliance by members of the Queensland Police Service in respect of the abovementioned sections of the OPM and the drug handling process generally. The results of this audit are still being evaluated and remedial action will be taken where necessary.

878. Ambulance Service, Kurwongbah Electorate

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (20/8/97)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service and the recent experience of Ms Kylie Griffin of Lawnton, who made an emergency call to the Queensland Ambulance Service on 26 July—

- (1) Will he give an undertaking that Kurwongbah residents in the North Pine Rivers area will be serviced by the Petrie Ambulance Station rather than the Sandgate Ambulance Station?
- (2) Will he provide details of the number of emergencies in the North Pine Rivers area

which are serviced by ambulance units from other areas?

- (3) How many emergency calls from outside the Petrie station's coverage area does the Petrie station service, taking units away from the area?
- (4) Will he provide details of funding allocated to ambulance services in the Kurwongbah Electorate in 1996-97 and estimated funding levels for 1997-98?
- (5) Will he provide current average and standard deviation statistics for emergency response times in Kurwongbah?

Mr Veivers (19/9/97):

(1) In the Greater Brisbane Region, which incorporates the Kurwongbah Electorate, the Queensland Ambulance Service, (QAS) undertakes up to 700 cases per day. This means that ambulance vehicles are routinely transversing the region to provide patient care and transport services and are therefore not always waiting in stations for their next call. In order to provide the best possible response to the community, the QAS has standard operating procedures which require that the nearest available ambulance unit is dispatched to all code 1 emergencies. As a result of ensuring that the nearest available ambulance unit is dispatched to emergency cases the attending vehicle may not be a unit located at the closest ambulance station.

The QAS also uses a process which is referred to as system status management. This process is used to maintain the integrity of emergency response coverage throughout the region. In essence, it facilitates the movement of ambulance units from other areas to provide coverage to areas where local units are already assigned to cases.

(2) As QAS stations do not confine their operational area to set boundaries, it is impractical to provide the number of responses in the North Pine area serviced by ambulance units from other areas. It is the philosophy of the QAS to dispatch the closest unit to an emergency.

(3) In the 1996/97 financial year, Petrie attended 171 out of 1,297 code 1 cases outside the North Pine area. At this stage the database does not indicate where the 171 cases were located.

(4) Prior to October 1996 there were two ambulance stations located in the Kurwongbah electorate. These stations were located at Dayboro (a two officer station) and Petrie (a 24 hour station).

Following the restructure of the Greater Brisbane Region and the redistribution of resources consistent with demand profiles and demographic changes, an additional 24 hour ambulance station has been established in the Kurwongbah Electorate, located at Brendale.

As a result, this Electorate received a significant increase in ambulance resources and this has been consolidated in the 1997/98 budget for the Greater Brisbane Region.

The funding allocations for this area prior to and post these changes are as follows:

Stations	FINANCIAL YEAR	
	96/97	97/98
	Petrie, Dayboro	Petrie, Dayboro & Brendale
Salaries	\$924,633	\$1,248,083
Staff	\$22,643	\$26,985
Admin	\$119,450	\$185,581
Maintenance & Equipment purchase	\$15,271	\$20,619
Other		\$20,000

The increases are due to the establishment of a new station at Brendale:

7 additional staff

4 additional vehicles

(5) As the QAS stations of Dayboro, Brendale and Petrie do not confine their operational area of response to the electoral boundaries of Kurwongbah, it is impractical to provide average and standard deviation statistics for the electorate.

879. AVCO Financial Services Ltd

Ms SPENCE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (20/8/97)—

- (1) Is he aware of a report into the practices of AVCO Financial Services Ltd by the Legal Aid Commission of NSW and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre of NSW entitled "In Whose Interest"?
- (2) Does he think that the conduct of AVCO Financial Services Ltd as revealed in the report warrants the use of the negative licensing provisions of Part 6 of the Consumer Credit (Queensland) Act?
- (3) Does he intend to instruct the relevant officers within the Office of Consumer Affairs to investigate the conduct of AVCO Financial Services Ltd with a view to applying to the Court to prohibit them from acting as a credit provider in Queensland, as they can under Section 23 of the Act?
- (4) Does he at least intend to instruct the relevant officers within the Office of Consumer Affairs to ask AVCO Financial Services Ltd to enter into a Conduct Deed under Section 19 of the Act giving certain undertakings as to its conduct in Queensland?
- (5) If he does not think that the conduct of AVCO Financial Services Ltd as revealed in the report warrants such action, what action does he think would do so?
- (6) As the report reveals that AVCO Financial Services Ltd is still charging up to 29 per cent interest on its personal loans to consumers, and as the Act (Section 14) allows the Governor-in-Council to make regulations prescribing a maximum annual percentage rate, will he be seeking to exercise this power and to urge the other members of MECCA to do so; if not, what does he think is a permissible interest rate for consumer lending?
- (7) As the report reveals that AVCO Financial Services Ltd has been selling life insurance

policies from its wholly owned subsidiary, Hallmark Insurance, with its loans to consumers who already have paid for life insurance as part of their superannuation, what steps will he take to warn Queensland consumers and to prevent such over-selling in the future?

- (8) As the report reveals that AVCO Financial Services Ltd has engaged in practices which can only be described as debt collection by humiliation, does he think that this is appropriate for Queensland consumers faced with difficult circumstances, and what steps will he take to prevent such practices in the future?

Mr Beanland (19/9/97):

(1) Yes. I am aware of the report into the practices of AVCO Financial Services Ltd ("AVCO") prepared by the Legal Aid Commission of NSW and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre of NSW entitled "In Whose Interest" ("the Report")? The Report received considerable press and television coverage on or about 8 July 1997.

(2) The Report highlights alleged conduct by AVCO occurring throughout Australia. It is only conduct which takes place in Queensland that is pertinent in determining whether there are breaches of consumer credit legislation. Part 6 of the Consumer Credit (Queensland) Act 1994 ("the Act") provides for the control of credit providers' practices. It is premature to indicate whether AVCO's conduct, as revealed in the Report, warrants action under Part 6. Investigations by the Office of Consumer Affairs are determining whether there is sufficient evidence to establish "unjust conduct" by AVCO within the terms of Part 6.

(3) The Office of Consumer Affairs had initiated its own investigations into AVCO's conduct as soon as the Report was released. It is premature to advise whether the chief executive will be applying to the court to prohibit AVCO acting as a credit provider in Queensland pursuant to section 23. This will depend upon the results of the investigations and any legal advice that is furnished. Also AVCO have retained legal consultants to undertake an independent investigation into the allegations in the Report, as well as examining AVCO's practices and procedures. My office and the Office of Consumer Affairs are liaising with those consultants.

(4) I do not at this stage intend to instruct the Office of Consumer Affairs to require AVCO to enter into a conduct deed under section 19 requiring undertakings from AVCO in respect of its conduct in Queensland, unless investigations reveal and legal advice recommends such action being taken.

(5) As it is premature to provide a response on whether AVCO's conduct in Queensland warrants the course of action suggested by the Honourable Member for Mt Gravatt, it is not possible to comment on what action ought to be taken under Part 6 in response to AVCO's conduct.

(6) The Report correctly points out that AVCO's interest rates are amongst the highest of any mainstream lender in charging interest rates of up to 29% on its personal loans to consumers. This implicitly recognises that there are other lenders in

the marketplace which charge similar interest rates or even higher rates. A similar provision to section 14 of the Act exists in section 155 of the Credit Act 1987. Queensland has never relied on those provisions to set a maximum annual percentage rate. Victoria and New South Wales prescribed a maximum annual percentage rate under their Credit Acts. Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are the only jurisdictions in Australia to prescribe such a rate under the Code. The maximum annual percentage rate set is 48% for credit contracts under the Code. This is well above the rates charged by AVCO so they have no effect on the interest rates charged by AVCO. No doubt Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, when setting this rate, would have closely looked at the various competing arguments on what would be considered an appropriate maximum rate. A similar exercise would be required if Queensland were to consider prescribing a maximum annual percentage rate. I do not propose to embark on such an exercise, particularly as any rate that may be set is likely to be well above interest rates charged by AVCO and other similar lenders.

(7) If investigations reveal that officers from AVCO were aware, when selling life insurance policies to consumers, that they already had life insurance and if advice is to the effect that warnings should be given to Queensland consumers about such conduct, then appropriate action will be taken to issue such warnings.

(8) If investigations establish that AVCO has engaged in inappropriate and unreasonable debt collection practices in Queensland then this is certainly not appropriate conduct towards borrowers who may be in difficult financial circumstances. Depending on the legal advice that is provided, it may be appropriate that AVCO be required to enter into a conduct deed to ensure that its conduct in collecting debts does not frighten, intimidate or harass consumers.

880. Emergency Services Centre, Spring Hill

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (20/8/97)—

- (1) What is the Budget for 1997-98 for the development of the new combined Computer Aided Dispatch Centre at Spring Hill?
- (2) What is the projected completion date for the facility?
- (3) What are the projected running costs of the facility?
- (4) What is the total cost, including all capital costs, of the establishment of the facility at Spring Hill?
- (5) What is the current running costs, including capital costs, of Firecom, taken over a year?

Mr Veivers (19/9/97):

(1) The projected development budget which will meet commitments for 1997-98 including hardware, software, project and technical services is \$ 2.5M. An additional \$ 0.4M has been allocated for

commissioning costs to cover extensive training and business process re-engineering activities.

(2) The handover of all technical components is scheduled for completion at the end of October 1997. Transition to operations will then commence and be staged through to January 1998.

(3) Current salaries for AMBCOM and FIRECOM total \$2.9M. Technical, computer, data, and training support services and other running costs for the facility are estimated at between \$1.1M and \$1.3M. As this is a new centre, service agreements are still being negotiated and the extent of support services is yet to be finalised.

(4) It is incumbent upon the Department of Emergency Services to utilise modern 'state of the art' technology in call centres. A major driver for this project is to commission proprietary technology as opposed to the manual systems employed by the Queensland Ambulance Service and the 'in house' specially developed technologies employed by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority. The benefits include improved response time and incident support and improved inter service coordination. The total cost of the facility is still within the approved budget of \$14.075M.

(5) The 1996/97 budget for running FIRECOM was \$1.14M which included staff costs, stationery supplies, uniforms and other sundry items. Additional costs of \$0.3M were required for technical support, training, computer hardware and software purchases and support. This amount is not reflected in the specific FIRECOM budget but appears within individual program centre codes.

881. Contamination of Coomera River; Councillor Kleinschmidt

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (20/8/97)—

With reference to the major fish kill in the Coomera River in November 1996—

- (1) Have officers of the Environment Department investigated the extent of this environmental disaster and its causes?
- (2) What were the extent of the impacts on fish and other fauna?
- (3) Was the disaster caused by the escape of feedlot waste; if not, what other cause was identified?
- (4) What was the source of the contaminant and what volume and over what time was the contamination allowed to occur?
- (5) Who are the owners of the property from which the contaminant escaped, and do they include Deputy Gold Coast Mayor, Cr Kleinschmidt?
- (6) Does he acknowledge that this was a serious pollution incident; if so, could such an incident possibly have occurred without negligence?
- (7) Has action been instigated to prosecute the offenders for this disgraceful environmental harm; if not, why not and is it because of Cr Kleinschmidt's membership or associations with the National Party?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): This matter is being investigated by the Department and the material in respect to this incident has been referred to the Crown Solicitor's office for advice on what action, if any, the Department should take. The Crown Solicitor has not yet provided legal advice to the Department on this matter. The Department views this matter as serious and as the matter is under investigation and is subject to current legal consideration it would be inappropriate at this time to comment. With regard to (7), the Member shows surprising ignorance of such matters in thinking that I would have any involvement. I find it insulting for the Honourable Member to suggest that I would have acted in such a way.

882. Diamantina Lakes National Park; Stanbroke Pastoral Company

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Environment (20/8/97)—

With reference to the matter of grazing on Diamantina Lakes National Park—

- (1) When does this grazing lease expire?
- (2) Has he received a request from the lessee, Stanbroke Pastoral Company, to renew or extend the lease; if so, on what basis and for how long?
- (3) On what scientific basis are Doctors Lavery and Kirkpatrick of Australian Environmental International promoting this extension on behalf of Stanbroke?
- (4) Has he ruled this request out of order or, if he is considering it, on what basis does he intend to circumvent the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act?
- (5) Which other national parks has he received requests to allow grazing on?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): The Stock Grazing Permit on Diamantina National Park expires on 2 July 1998. I held a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Stanbroke Pastoral Company, Mr Cox, in July. A number of land management issues including grazing on Diamantina National Park were discussed. I advised Mr Cox that there was no intention to change the situation regarding stock grazing. I am not aware of any other requests before the department with regard to stock grazing on National Parks.

883. Dairy Industry

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/8/97)—

With reference to the issue of de-regulation of the dairy industry as part of Hilmer competition reforms—

- (1) Is he aware of concerns within the industry that such a move could lead to a 10 cent rise in the price of a litre of milk to consumers?
- (2) Is he aware of industry concerns that in the event of total de-regulation, they could expect lower farm returns?

- (3) Is he aware of industry concerns that de-regulation would inevitably lead to a drop in the quality of milk sold?
- (4) Does he intend to support dairy producers in their fight to retain a farm gate price and supply quotas; if not, why not?
- (5) What aspects of de-regulation of the dairy industry under Hilmer does he believe would meet a test of public benefit?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. The Honourable Member has lodged a series of questions relating to the National Competition Policy review of the dairy legislation. He has inquired as to my awareness of a number of aspects of the review and I would hasten to assure him that I am very well aware of the significance of this review for both the industry and the community.

Mr Schwarten should be aware that the review of the Dairy Industry Act 1993 is required under the Commonwealth/State National Competition Policy Agreements, which were entered into when his side of the House was in Government. One of the NCP requirements is that legislation should not restrict competition unless it can be demonstrated that the benefits to the community as a whole outweigh the costs, and that the objectives of the legislation can only be achieved by legislation which restricts competition.

2. There is no presumption that deregulation will occur, there is only a requirement that a review be conducted according to the criteria set out in the NCP agreements.

Mr Schwarten should be aware of the measures I have put in place for this review because the Queensland Dairy Legislation Review Committee sent him a copy of the Issues Paper, as it did to all Honourable Members.

This widely circulated Paper clearly outlines the comprehensive review process which is being undertaken by the Committee to address and evaluate, in terms of public benefits, such critical industry issues as farm gate prices, supply management and food quality and safety assurance.

3, 4 and 5. Mr Speaker, I am well aware of industry concerns related to this review, however there is a process under way which needs to be carried out properly and I trust that the Honourable Member opposite understands that no good purpose will be served by actions which would appear to direct or prejudice the outcomes of the Committee's work at this time.

The Committee will hand its recommendations to me early next year and any action the Government considers necessary will be based on the review outcomes including an assessment of the costs and benefits related to the review issues.

Mr Speaker, the dairy industry is important to this State, ranking fifth in terms of gross value of rural production and I believe members need to get behind the review process to ensure that the Committee's recommendations are developed with the maximum level of community input and debate possible. In this way, the Government will be in the

best position to make properly informed decisions which will best serve the interests of the community and the future development of the Queensland dairy industry.

884. Bundaberg Hospital

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (20/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed redevelopment project of the Bundaberg Hospital—

- (1) Who is the architect commissioned for this project?
- (2) When was this architect appointed?
- (3) Has the architect undertaken public consultation in the planning process; if so, with whom and on what dates?
- (4) When will final plans be available for public inspection and comment?
- (5) Is there an expected cost for the redevelopment project?
- (6) Have staff at the hospital had an input to the planning?
- (7) What are the major aspects of these new redevelopment plans?
- (8) When is the expected date for (a) the calling of tenders, (b) the commencement of construction and (c) the completion of construction?
- (9) What is the expected expenditure for this project for (a) 1997-98, (b) 1998-99 and (c) 1999-2000?

Mr Horan (17/9/97): 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 your constituents, I provide the following answers:-

- (1) Peddle Thorp Architects have been commissioned to provide architectural consultancy services for the Bundaberg Hospital Redevelopment Project.
- (2) Peddle Thorp Architects were commissioned in November 1994.
- (3) No.
- (4) Unfortunately the previous State Labor Government conducted minimal planning on the Redevelopment over the period November 1994 to February 1996. However, the Master Planning process is now nearing completion and will be followed by the development of the Project Definition Plan. Once the design plans have been completed, the Manager, Bundaberg District Health Service will display the plans and invite interested members of the public to provide comment.
- (5) A total of \$22.7m has been allocated for Stage 3 of the redevelopment project;
- (6) Staff at Bundaberg Hospital have been consulted during the planning process. A number of Hospital User Groups have been established and members will continue to be informed and are involved in the planning and design processes;

(7) It is planned that Stage 3 of the Bundaberg Hospital Redevelopment Project will include 4 operating theatres and 1 day procedure room; 5 birthing rooms; 1 endoscopy room; expansion of emergency and medical imaging departments; the provision of a district rehabilitation service; upgraded facilities for community health; and upgraded/new facilities for pharmacy, medical records, allied health, linen handling, stores, Central Sterilising Services Department, mortuary, administration and a new entrance. New maternity facilities are planned within the current Women's Unit.

(8) The approved program for the main development forecasts (a) tenders being called during September 1998; (b) construction commencing during November 1998 and (c) construction being completed during November 2000. An early works demolition package is expected to result in (a) tenders being called in October 1997, (b) the contract being let in November 1997, and (c) the contract being completed by May 1998;

(9) The forecast expenditure in (a) 1997-98 is \$2,900,000, (b) 1998-99 is \$7,500,000 and (c) 1999-2000 is \$8,700,000.

885. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (20/8/97)—

With reference to comments by the Member for Cunningham in the Courier-Mail (late city edition) of 19 July, page 11, where he said that the QIDC—merged into Suncorp-Metway, had lost direction and was not adequately strong for rural people—

- (1) What date did she have discussions with the bank to ensure that Mr Elliott's concerns were being addressed?
- (2) Is it true, as Mr Elliott alleged, that some staff have \$1m a month loan targets and pushed money on people who had no chance of meeting the repayments?
- (3) What action is she taking as Treasurer to ensure the bank provides special services for rural people?

Mrs Sheldon (19/9/97):

- (1) The matters raised by Mr Elliott are commercial matters for Suncorp-Metway.
- (2) This question should be referred to Suncorp-Metway as it relates to an operational matter in which the Government, as a shareholder, has no involvement.
- (3) Since its merger with Suncorp and Metway the range of services available to rural customers of QIDC has been significantly improved. These customers now have access to a fully integrated banking service providing a range of insurance and banking services. In addition to these services, there has also been the introduction of new products previously unavailable through QIDC. These include business cheque accounts, EFTPOS facilities and an Export Finance Facility. In rural areas where QIDC operates and agribusiness dominates the lending, the

QIDC brand has been retained and the specialist rural banking operation will be marketed as "QIDC Agribusiness Banking". The QIDC has also been given a greater regional focus since the merger, with eight (8) new regional administrative centres replacing two (2). The regional focus of these centres will facilitate decision making by people who have a detailed knowledge of each region's industries and people. Importantly, this regional focus will strengthen the rural partnership between Suncorp-Metway and its regional customers.

886. State Emergency Service Volunteers

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (20/8/97)—

What arrangements does the Government have to ensure that SES volunteers have made a will prior to an activation, particularly prior to a dangerous activation?

Mr Veivers (19/9/97): Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers are provided with information during their official induction into their Local Government volunteer SES units and during follow-up training which includes advice on the need to have their personal affairs in place before responding to SES operational activities.

From a legal and policy perspective the question of whether a SES volunteer has made a Will is considered a personal matter for the individual concerned. It would be inappropriate for the State Government to become directly involved in the conduct of an SES volunteer's personal affairs.

887. Roadside Service Centre, Deception Bay Road/Caboolture-Bribie Island Road

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/8/97)—

With reference to the Notification of Declaration of Roadside Service Centre Facility Zones on an Access Limited State Controlled Road in the Government Gazette of 15 August and, in particular, Zones BH5 and BH6, Deception Bay Road to Caboolture-Bribie Island Road—

Will he provide details of the time frame it will take in order to get a project under way?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): Offers were called on Saturday 16 August.

Offer period remains open to Monday, 17 November 1997.

The assessment of conforming offers is estimated to take about two months.

Following acceptance, the successful offerer has up to two years to obtain all local government and any other approval and a further six months to have substantially commenced construction of the service centre.

On this basis, service centre operations could commence as soon as early 1999 to as late as early 2000, depending upon the period taken to obtain local government approval.

888. Arts Office

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (20/8/97)—

With reference to the restructuring of the Arts Office—

- (1) How many jobs are to be lost in this restructuring?
- (2) How many staff will lose their current positions and be obliged to apply for positions in the restructured Arts Office?
- (3) What is the detailed breakdown of the total cost of \$6.8m in implementing the restructure of the Arts portfolio in respect of the Arts Office and each of the statutory agencies affected?
- (4) Over what period of time is it proposed that the "recoverable loan" of \$6.8m will be repaid out of future arts budgets?
- (5) How does she reconcile the claim in the 1996-97 budget papers that the corporate affairs restructuring would save \$800,000 with her recent admission that the implementation of the Arts portfolio restructuring would in fact cost \$6.8m to be repaid as a "recoverable loan"?

Mrs Sheldon (19/9/97):

- (1) The recruitment and selection processes are currently under way and the exact numbers will be known at the completion of the process.
- (2) All positions in The Arts Office will be recruited. The recruitment and selection processes will be in line with the current requirements of the Public Service Act 1996.
- (3) An amount of \$6.123m has been provided to meet the establishment costs of the Corporate Administration Agency and the cost of systems implementation. A further \$0.692m has been provided for the expenses of the Arts Implementation Office.
- (4) The period of time for the payment of the recoverable loan has not been determined.
- (5) The \$800,000 were the savings, the Corporate Services of the Arts portfolio were required to make in the 1997-98 financial year, following the savings decision made in the context of 1996-97 budget. Once established, this restructuring initiative is expected to generate significant savings from efficiencies in corporate service delivery, that will enable repayment of the initial cost.

889. Gold Coast Oral Health Service

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (20/8/97)—

With reference to the centralised waiting list for the Gold Coast Oral Health Service—

- (1) How many patients are on the waiting list?
- (2) What is the waiting time before patients can reasonably expect an appointment in their turn?
- (3) Will he provide an age and gender breakdown of patients on the waiting list?

Mr Horan (17/9/97): I thank the Member for Currumbin for the above questions. It was interesting

to note that in the recently released 'Better Health' Policy that the Queensland Labor party doesn't have a policy on Oral Health. I take this to mean that the Queensland Labor party has full confidence with the Coalition Government in improving and delivering oral health services to Queenslanders.

(1) The numbers of patients on the centralised waiting lists for Oral Health Services in the Gold Coast District compared with equivalent figures under the Goss Labor Government in 1995 are:

Under Coalition—Current

(General) Examination List—8939

Prosthetic (Denture) List—1089

Under Labor (April 1995)

(General) Examination List—1 447

Prosthetic (Denture) List—16 700

These figures show that the Coalition has halved the general dental examination list on the Gold Coast in just 18 months.

(2) Patients with emergency/immediate problems are seen on same day for urgent relief of pain, infection or other urgent conditions.

The average number of emergency patients seen under the Goss Labor Government in 1994/95 was 458 compared to 1 367 in 1996/97 under the Coalition. This is 909 people more on average, per month receiving emergency care under the Coalition Government.

The following table shows the average number of patients receiving oral health care per month has increased in throughput by approximately 1200/month since the Coalition government came to power :-

94/95—1100; 95/96—2300; 96/97—2300

New clinics at Southport, Runaway Bay and Palm Beach will be commissioned during the current 1997/1998 financial year which will further improve patient throughput for the oral health service.

The Coalition Government continues to give oral health care a very high priority and Queensland is the only state to fully supplement the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program, with a \$19.8 million New Initiative Program announced in the 1997-98 State Budget.

(3) The Waiting List does not record information on age and gender breakdown of patients on the waiting list.

890. Rail Yard, Parkinson/Larapinta

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/8/97)—

With reference to the plans for a possible new rail line to the Port of Brisbane and for a possible major rail facility at Parkinson—

(1) Is he aware that residents are still concerned, in that they believe these projects are still being advanced without disclosure to, or consultation with, the public and possibly without the knowledge of the Minister?

(2) Is he aware that there is information being disseminated in local suburbs, that Queensland Rail is purchasing land in the vicinity of existing railway property at Parkinson and Larapinta?

(3) Is he aware of a claim that Vegetation Protection Orders (VPOs) have been lifted on railway property, allowing unrestricted destruction of trees?

(4) Are any of these claims correct?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) I would like to state quite clearly that these projects are not being advanced.

On 2 September 1997, State Cabinet categorically ruled out any new rail freight corridor on the south side of Brisbane and also ruled out any future rail freight marshalling yards at Parkinson.

(2) Queensland Rail is not currently negotiating to purchase any additional land for the purposes of a terminal or a freight rail line in the area.

(3) It is not true that Vegetation Protection Orders (VPOs) have been lifted on the QR land at Parkinson. Most of this land has never had a VPOS. However, a VPOS is in force on part of the land. It was put in place on 31 March 1992 and has never been lifted.

The Brisbane City Council controls VPOs and has not made any changes to their status since 1992. Moreover, Queensland Rail is not doing any work on the Parkinson property.

(4) In summary, none of the claims are correct because:

projects are not being advanced without consultation;

QR is not currently purchasing additional land near the Parkinson property; and

VPOs have not been lifted.

891. Paedophilia; Teacher Registration

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (20/8/97)—

With reference to the revised administrative procedures being introduced into the New South Wales Education Department flowing from the findings of the Wood Commission of Inquiry regarding paedophilia—

(1) What steps are being taken to ensure that the strongest levels of protection for Queensland children are being introduced in the Queensland Education system?

(2) Does the Board of Teacher Registration have sufficient powers to scrutinise applications to the Register of Teachers and to monitor teachers on the Register; if not, what steps are being taken to give the BTR the powers necessary to ensure paedophiles do not become registered teachers in Queensland?

Mr Quinn (1/10/97):

(1) Criminal checks on all applicants for employment in school-based positions are run with Queensland Police Service. Regional staffing officers forward names of applicants for employment to Employee

Relations, Human Resources Branch, to conduct the criminal checks.

Human Resources Branch is also establishing a process to run interstate criminal checks on these applications for employment. Requests to other state police forces have revealed that some states are not able to provide information of criminal records directly to Education Queensland. To determine the overall position on exchange of criminal history between police services and Education Queensland, every state or territory police service has been asked to state its policy on such information exchange. When the responses to these requests are received, it will be possible to address the issue of establishing mechanisms to enable the exchange of information about criminal convictions, including for unlawful sexual activity such as paedophilia, among states and territories.

As part of the implementation of The National Strategy for the Elimination of Paedophilia and other forms of Child Abuse, a national contact officers' network for the National Register of Teachers has been established and Education Queensland has a nominated contact officer. The function of this network is to facilitate national screening of people who are applicants for teaching positions. The national screening process will detect not only those teachers who have a criminal record of a sexual offence against a child but also those who have been the subject of formal disciplinary action in relation to improper conduct of a sexual nature. The National Strategy Working Party is also working on the exchange of information about employees who have had allegations of child sexual assault or improper conduct of a sexual nature and those who have had a warning or penalty imposed following allegations of improper conduct of a sexual nature with a student. There are presently some concerns about defamation under the existing definitions of the categories identified for exchange information.

The Attorney General has agreed to include amendments to Section 9A at item 5, column 1 of the table in the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 regarding disclosure of criminal history by employees which would capture contract employees; volunteers; any employee, agent or member of any entity providing an educational service; adult students; and any employee, agent or member of any entity which receives funding from the Minister of Education or Education Queensland. The nature of the offences will also be more inclusive.

In 1992, Education Queensland developed a comprehensive policy entitled Allegations of Physical or Sexual Abuse of Students made against School Staff to establish procedures for dealing with such issues. Principals and managers are aware of legislative underpinning of the policy and their obligations to report any allegations of this nature. The policy is available to all worksites and staff through the Department of Education Manual.

The Board of Teacher Registration also contributes significantly to eliminating paedophilia in schools. Through the statutory system of compulsory registration of teachers employed in schools in this state, Queensland is already providing among the

strongest levels of protection in Australia for its children, whether they attend government or non-government schools. For over twenty years, teachers convicted of indecent dealing, or found by the BTR to be guilty of improper behaviour, have been deregistered by the Board after due process. Once deregistered, they are unable to be employed in any school system in Queensland. Currently BTR is liaising with the Deputy Director-General and with non-government employing authorities on assisting with the implementation of MCEETYA recommendations on The National Strategy to Eliminate Paedophilia to facilitate final recommendations and initiatives as they apply to Queensland.

(2) The Board of Teacher Registration requires applicants to complete a criminal offence declaration and to indicate whether or not an entitlement to teach has ever been cancelled or withdrawn, to indicate whether or not they are the subject of any disciplinary proceedings, and provide a character reference.

The BTR has liaised with Education Queensland, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and the Association of Independent Schools of Queensland with regard to the implementation of the MCEETYA recommendations concerning a national strategy to prevent paedophilia in schools. These agencies have agreed that extending the existing powers of the BTR under the Education (Teacher Registration) Act 1988 would enhance public assurance for the protection and welfare of Queensland school children.

As a consequence, a number of legislative amendments have been proposed and it is my intention that these be introduced into the parliament in the near future.

As well, the BTR already has in place a number of arrangements to ensure the protection and welfare of Queensland school children.

Through the support of the Queensland Police Service, the Board is implementing its policy that all applicants for registration, and all applicants for restoration of registration, be subjected to national criminal history checks which will reveal a range of convictions including any involving an assault of a sexual nature. The Board has power to conduct these checks under section 9A of the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 and in monitoring the situation as to whether this power should come under the Education (Teacher Registration) Act 1988.

As a further safeguard, the amended Education (Teacher Registration) Act 1988 requires the Board to refuse any application for registration unless the Board is satisfied that the applicant is "of good character". The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate fitness to be registered.

The Board is being kept informed of developments and will support any further action which may become necessary in the light of MCEETYA recommendations or other nations of interstate developments with regard to paedophilia.

892. Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Levy on Mango Growers

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/8/97)—

With reference to plans by the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association to raise their levy on mango growers from 28 cents to 30 cents—

- (1) What justification is being used for this 2 cent rise?
- (2) What amount of money will this 2 cent rise raise in the first 12 months of operation?
- (3) What will these additional funds be used for?
- (4) What is the current breakdown of the levy currently collected by the association for purposes such as research, advertising, marketing and administration?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. I am advised that QFVG is not planning to raise the levy on mango growers from 28 cents to 30 cents.
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable
4. The current breakdown of the levy currently collected is:
 - General—8 cents
 - Promotion—18 cents
 - Research—2 cents.

893. Staff Reductions, Queensland Rail

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/8/97)—

With reference to a now widely circulated document from Queensland Rail which refers to a proposed reduction of staff from 1,217 down to 941, a reduction of 276 jobs across the State with particular mention of losses in the ALP seats of Bundaberg 20, Cairns 11, Mackay 20, Maryborough 20, Rockhampton 38 and Townsville 32—

What is the time table for these proposed reductions and what categories of employment classifications are affected?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): The anticipated reduction in staff requirements is associated with the current development of a certified Industrial Agreement between Queensland Rail and relevant unions representing station and yard employees. The Agreement is necessary to enable Queensland Rail to meet the challenges of a competitive rail industry through the adoption of a commercial operational culture which delivers significant productivity and efficiency gains.

The likely scope of the reduced staff requirements are generally of the order mentioned above, however the exact numbers will be determined after the completion of reviews at each location. The reviews are being progressed in full consultation with staff and unions (at both State and local level), and it is expected that the changes will be completed within 6-12 months.

The anticipated changes affect employees in the station and yards area of Queensland Rail (both Coal & Minerals and Freight Groups) and typically involve the following classifications:

Station Officer
Shunter
Porter
Numbertaker

In accordance with long standing policy, employees who become surplus as a result of these changes will not be subject to redundancy or compulsory relocation. They will however have access to benefits available under QR's current Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme.

I have recently sought to have this scheme enhanced for those wishing to avail themselves of a package under the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme. In addition, Queensland Rail is actively working on marketing strategies designed to grow its business and produce more jobs. It is also pointed out that under the Coalition Government, the number of staff reductions have dropped markedly in comparison to the approach under the Labor administration.

894. Redcliffe Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (21/8/97)—

With reference to the redevelopment program for the Redcliffe Hospital—

- (1) When will construction commence?
- (2) Will there be further bed closures during construction?
- (3) What is the estimated date of completion of the redevelopment?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

- (1) Construction for the redevelopment of Redcliffe Hospital is due to commence on 24 November 1997. The present program proposes a staging arrangement and identifies a number of early works packages with commencement of construction of the main building works planned for commencement by March 1998.
- (2) Construction is being planned and staged with a view to minimising impact on inpatient services.
- (3) Approximately April 2000.

895. Relocation of Residents of Basil Stafford Centre

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (21/8/97)—

With reference to his recent announcement of an additional allocation of \$2.6m for the relocation of residents of the Basil Stafford Centre who choose to live in the community—

- (1) Over what period has the allocation been made?
- (2) How many residents does he anticipate can be relocated with these funds?

- (3) On what basis will access to these funds be determined?
- (4) Does the allocation include any funds to support the involvement of family and independent advocates in the decision making process, as per his motion to the Parliament on 29 April?

Mr Lingard (2/9/97):

- (1) The allocation has been made for the 1997-98 financial year with a commitment having been made to provide ongoing recurrent funding for the people who relocate.
- (2) The precise numbers of people to relocate will not be known until the process of consulting with families and considering compatibility issues has been determined.
- (3) Access to these funds will be determined on the basis of individuals whose families have indicated a preference for them to live outside of Basil Stafford Centre. My Department will shortly be calling for Expressions of Interest to contract an individual or organisation who will consult with all families of people with intellectual disabilities living at Basil Stafford Centre. Once this process has been completed, it will be possible to then select the individuals and groups who will relocate as part of this exercise.
- (4) As noted previously, a key part of this initiative will be the involvement of families in a detailed consultation process to ascertain their views about the preferred outcomes for their family member. Once these consultations have occurred, the issue of the involvement of independent representatives will be further considered. Ongoing support will also be provided to families during the process of relocating individuals from the Centre.

896. Tourism, Small Business and Industry Minister, Meeting with President Mandela

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (21/8/97)—

- (1) What arrangements had he or his office put in place to meet with President Mandela prior to his visit to South Africa?
- (2) On what date was his office notified that President Mandela would meet with him?
- (3) Who in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs was contacted about his proposed meeting with President Mandela?
- (4) Who were the South African contacts he had arranged with to organise his meeting with President Mandela?
- (5) What assurances did he receive prior to leaving Brisbane that his meeting with President Mandela had been confirmed?
- (6) Who in the Premier's office approved his visit to South Africa?
- (7) What reaction did National Parks Board Chief Executive, Dr George Hughes, have to his proposal for a rhino park in Queensland?

- (8) Has this park in the past donated rhinos to Australia; if not, why then did he meet with Dr Hughes, and was this meeting arranged by his office before his departure from Brisbane?

Mr Davidson (22/9/97):

- (1) This meeting was organised by the proponents of the project.
- (2) See (1).
- (3) The Australian High Commissioner Mr Ian Porter was contacted regarding the Ministerial visit to South Africa and Mr Porter attended part of the visit.
- (4) See (1).
- (5) See (1).
- (6) The Premier.
- (7) The meeting with Dr George Hughes was very informative and successful.
- (8) No. They are world renowned for being the leaders in Rhino conservation and preservation. Yes.

897. WorkCover

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/8/97)—

With reference to a letter recently published in the Courier-Mail of 4 August from a small businessman in Caloundra, complaining that WorkCover have stopped providing a facility for employers to pay their premiums by instalment—

- (1) What changes have occurred to premium collection policies of WorkCover since its establishment?
- (2) Did WorkCover respond to this person's inquiry by suggesting he take out an overdraft to cover the premium, or alternatively that a time payment would be available, but at an interest charge of 11.75 percent per annum?
- (3) How does he reconcile this usurious and inflexible premium collection policy with his often quoted, but rarely demonstrated, commitment to small business?

Mr Santoro (22/9/97): WorkCover Queensland continues to offer instalment plans to employers where payment of the premium in full by the due date would impose financial hardship.

(1) In respect to premium collection through instalment plans, an instalment plan can only be entered into if the payment of premium by the due date would impose financial hardship on the employer. To ensure equity for all employers, a reasonable but practical criteria has been applied to the determination of financial hardship. To this extent, WorkCover requires written advice establishing finance is not available, or that the interest rate proposed by a financial institution or premium funding agency is unacceptably high. Upon provision of reasonable practical evidence, WorkCover will consider providing an instalment plan to those policyholders where the premium paid exceeds \$1,000 in an insurance year.

(2) Employers who are experiencing difficulty in paying their premium are not advised by WorkCover

to take out an overdraft in order that they meet their obligation. Those employers who qualify for an instalment plan may do so at an interest rate of 11.75% per annum.

(3) The WorkCover Queensland Board determined that the revised position regarding instalment plans and interest rates provides a more equitable position for all employers. The policy to fund instalment plans where the interest rate being asked by financial institutions is 12.5% or greater, is intended to shield employers from unacceptably high interest rates, thus reducing the burden on business.

898. Ski Boat Races, Hinchinbrook Channel

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

With reference to the issue of boat traffic and speed in the Hinchinbrook Channel—

- (1) Has he recently issued permits for monthly ski boat races in this channel?
- (2) What numbers of boats does he envisage will be involved in this racing and what sort of top speeds will these boats reach during these races?
- (3) How do these boat numbers and speeds equate with the coastal management plan requirements for the area or the dugong protection plan his Government only recently announced?
- (4) Where will these races start and finish?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) Permits have been issued to the Hinchinbrook Waterski Club for ski races in the Hinchinbrook Channel for the following dates this year: 2 February 1997, 23 February 1997, 23 March 1997, 20 April 1997, 1 May 1997, 18 May 1997, 21 July 1997, 18 August 1997, 21 September 1997, 26 October 1997, 23 November 1997.

(2) Each ski race comprises from twelve to fifteen boats. During a race, the maximum speed reached will be in the order of sixty to seventy knots (110 to 130 km/h).

(3) The races are conducted along the main navigable channel which is open to unrestricted navigation.

At present Queensland Transport has no specific information on dugong habitats in close proximity to the navigable channel.

Arrangements have been put in place to have Queensland Transport and the Department of Environment undertake a joint study to clearly identify areas of dugong habitat in Hinchinbrook Channel.

In the interim, no speed restrictions will apply to the main navigation channel, which is some distance away from the shallow areas of Hinchinbrook Channel where dugong are known to feed.

(4) Races start at Lucinda inshore jetty and proceed to Scraggy Point, at the north end of the channel and return to Lucinda.

899. Health Facility, Wacol

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (21/8/97)—

With reference to the relocation of the new prisons at Wacol by the Minister responsible for prisons to a piece of land previously owned by the Health Department—

- (1) What health facility was intended to go on this land prior to this change?
- (2) Where will this facility now be located?
- (3) What return did the Health Department get from the Corrective Services Commission for agreeing to this swap?
- (4) Has the Health Department acquired the land on which the new prisons were initially intended to be built?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) No health facility was proposed to be located on the land in question prior to any decision being made in respect of the establishment of new correctional centres.

(2) Refer to question (1).

(3) Acquisition will be based on market valuation and this is currently being determined.

(4) No.

900. Revocation of Drought Status of Shires

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (21/8/97)—

With reference to the recent furore surrounding the revocation of the drought status of several Queensland shires by the Federal Government—

- (1) On which guidelines were these revocations based?
- (2) Was Queensland a signatory to these guidelines at the time of these revocations?
- (3) When did the independent Rural Adjustment Scheme Advisory Committee (RASAC) examine the shires in question?
- (4) Who was the prominent Queensland farm industry leader the Federal Primary Industries Minister checked with before supporting the RASAC recommendation to lift the drought status of these shires?
- (5) When was the drought affected status of these shires revoked?
- (6) When did he formally reapply to his Federal counterpart for these shires to be again drought listed and what caused the delay?
- (7) Will he table this re-application?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. There are six criteria used when making an assessment of an area's eligibility for Drought Exceptional Circumstances (DEC) status. These six criteria are meteorological conditions, agronomic and livestock conditions, water supplies, environmental impacts, farm income levels and, scale of the event. As part of their assessment process, the RASAC

members must consider objective information against each of the six criteria. The meteorological criteria is the most important criteria in determining a DEC event.

2. The Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ), comprising all Commonwealth and State and Territory Ministers for agriculture and resource management, agreed on a process for reviewing DEC in 1994.

3. As part of the Autumn '97 Review of DEC, two representatives from the RASAC inspected DEC areas in northern and central Queensland on 14–16 April 1997. The RASAC members were also provided with a detailed Queensland submission which demonstrated that many areas of the State received only patchy summer rainfall which was not adequate to truly break the exceptional drought conditions, especially in consideration of the likely onset of another El Nino event. The RASAC nominated areas they wished to visit and also how long they were prepared to allocate to the visit.

4. As part of the review process, senior industry leaders and industry representatives are consulted by the RASAC. The Federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy also undertakes his own personal and confidential consultations with industry and community groups.

5. Following the Autumn '97 Review of DEC areas, 29 shires in Queensland were revoked from DEC status from 7 July 1997.

6. Of the 29 shires revoked on 7 July 1997, reinstatement was sought only for Mundubbera Shire. This submission was prepared immediately following Mundubbera Shire's revocation and forwarded to the Federal Minister in July. In addition, an application was lodged at that time for the South Burnett and adjacent areas due to deteriorating seasonal conditions following the "false break" in summer and autumn of 1997. The shires in the South Burnett, along with most shires in south east Queensland, were revoked from DEC in June 1996.

7. The submissions for both Mundubbera Shire and the South Burnett were provided to industry organisations and other agencies at the time and both documents are in the public domain.

901. Realignment of Bruce Highway at Gunalda Range

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

Has there been a decision made on whether Route A or Route B has been accepted as the preferred route for the realignment of the Bruce Highway at the Gunalda Range?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): A decision has not as yet been made as to which route will be accepted as the preferred route for the realignment of the Bruce Highway at Gunalda Range.

The Bruce Highway is a National Highway and any recommendation will need to be approved by the Federal Government before an announcement can be made.

The consultants, Maunsell Pty Ltd, who have carried out the concept planning for this realignment, have completed their report.

A recommendation is being considered by the Department of Main Roads and will be forwarded to me in due course.

It is anticipated that, by October 1997, a recommendation will be forwarded to the Federal Government for its approval.

A public announcement will follow.

902. Schools, Kurwongbah Electorate

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Education (21/8/97)—

With reference to the decision to sell the proposed Lawnton West State School site—

- (1) When was this decision made?
- (2) On what basis was this decision made?
- (3) What are the estimated enrolments for Lawnton State School, Bray Park State School and Strathpine West State School in (a) 5 years, (b) 10 years, (c) 15 years and (d) 20 years?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1) Ministerial approval for the disposal of Lawnton West school site in Todd Road, Lawnton was obtained on 27 August 1996. This site had been held for several years without being used for school purposes.

(2) Disposal of assets that are demonstrably surplus to requirements is an obligation upon the Department. This is in order to ensure that potential capital is freed to invest in the upgrading of the quality of facilities for students in existing schools.

An assessment of the need to hold this site showed that construction of a school would impact adversely on Lawnton State School, a short distance to the east of the property. Further, a school at this location is unlikely to significantly reduce enrolments at Bray Park State School and it would not impact on Strathpine West State School enrolments.

Enrolments at Lawnton State School have declined from 557 students in 1988 to 439 in 1997. Further subdivision to the west of this school is possible but it is limited by the topography and Lake Samsonvale (refer Table 1).

TABLE 1 ENROLMENTS HISTORIES FOR LAWNTON, BRAY PARK AND STRATHPINE WEST STATE SCHOOLS.

School	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Lawnton	542	557	550	512	526	497	498	486	420	403	439
Bray Park	1089	1052	1046	957	899	944	935	844	803	812	790
Strathpine West	632	690	722	717	689	685	707	689	701	723	698

Bray Park State School peaked in 1986 with 1134 students. In February 1997, 790 students were enrolled.

As a consequence, both these schools are able to cater for enrolments greater than those experienced presently.

At Strathpine West State School, enrolments have increased from 632 students in 1987 to 723 in 1996. In 1997 enrolments fell to 698.

(3) Forecasts indicate that enrolments could increase by about 100 students at Lawnton State School during the next 20 years (refer Table 2). However, this level of enrolment will not be very different from that recorded at the school during the 1980s, as indicated in Table 1.

TABLE 2 ENROLMENT FORECASTS FOR LAWNTON, BRAY PARK AND STRATHPINE WEST STATE SCHOOLS.

School	1997	2002	2007	2012	2017
Lawnton	439	484	530	534	521
Bray Park	790	837	834	806	839
Strathpine West	698	672	640	641	640

Bray Park State School is expected to stabilise with an enrolment of about 840 students. The enrolment at Strathpine West State School could decline marginally to stabilise at about 640. Existing facilities will be sufficient to cater for these anticipated enrolment levels.

903. Rail Fare Evasion

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

With reference to fare evasion on the Queensland rail system—

- (1) How many persons, for each month in the last twelve-month period, have had infringement notices issued against them for failure to possess an appropriate rail fare ticket?
- (2) Is there a system (official or unofficial) of warnings being issued to rail patrons in lieu of fines under infringement notices?
- (3) If there is such a system as referred to in question (2) above, for each monthly period in the last twelve months, how many persons have been issued with such cautions or official warnings?
- (4) Are there any guidelines made available to Queensland Rail revenue protection officers for assessing whether to issue an infringement notice, or a warning in any particular case, and will he table copies of those documents?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) August 1996—32; September 1996—26; October 1996—44; November 1996—49; December 1996—27; January 1997—78; February 1997—119; March 1997—1218; April 1997—873; May 1997—586; June 1997—910; July 1997—241; August 1997—237.

(2) There is an official system to record details of persons issued a warning letter in lieu of an infringement notice.

This system is confidential and has restricted access to Authorised Personnel only.

Names are recorded for the different offences under the Transport Operations Passengers Act, Transport Infrastructure Rail Regulations. However, Ticket Inspectors are required to exercise discretion as each case warrants.

(3) August 1996—270; September 1996—1330; October 1996—3962; November 1996—242; December 1996—166; January 1997—266; February 1997—228; March 1997—2485; April 1997—1278; May 1997—1098; June 1997—4684 (Joint Trainsafe Operation); July 1997—851; August 1997—1155.

(4) For each major fare evasion exercise the Ticket Inspectors are fully briefed. To assist them a "Ticket Inspectors Guide To Dealing With Offences" was prepared and I have tabled a copy of this for the Hon Members information.

At the completion of each exercise a debrief is performed to fine tune our operations.

A Revenue Protection Compliance Manual has been documented for Ticket Inspectors and this sets out the operational and legal requirement regarding the issuing of an Infringement Notice. In addition, this manual outlines procedures when dealing with complaints.

904. Promotional Campaign, Hervey Bay

Mr NUNN asked the Premier (21/8/97)—

With reference to his offer of a \$100,000 promotional campaign for the Hervey Bay region to offset the impacts caused to the local whale watch industry by his Government's issuance of competitive whale watch permits in Moreton Bay Marine Park—

- (1) Why was no consultation undertaken with the executive of the Hervey Bay Whale Watch Association about this campaign?

- (2) Why did he choose instead to include, in the people he did consult with, a Gold Coast based head of the Bay's Regional Tourism Association in whom RTA members had recently passed a vote of no confidence?
- (3) Was this promotional campaign discussed with the Government by Mr Ken Bennett, Mr Gary Smith and Mr David Nicholson only days prior to the release of the Moreton Bay permits decision?
- (4) What was the rationale behind the decision to involve the QTTC in this grant to the virtual exclusion of the Hervey Bay Whale Watch Association executive?
- (5) How can he deny that this \$100,000 campaign offered at the last minute was nothing more than an attempt to buy off the association and prevent further politically damaging criticism within the electorate of Hervey Bay?

Mr Borbidge (22/9/97): The proposal to conduct an advertising campaign promoting Hervey Bay as the whale watching capital of Australia was put to the Government by the local regional tourist authority, members of the local whale watch association and individual tourism operators.

The campaign consolidates the Government's view that Hervey Bay is the whale watching capital of Australia.

Such a campaign can only be conducted through the QTTC which as the honourable Member should be aware operates on behalf of the tourism industry of Queensland.

The State Government acknowledges the support for the campaign of a number of tourism operators in the region, including:

- Spirit Of Hervey Bay Whale Watching
- Volante Tours
- Mimi McPherson Whale Watch Expeditions
- Wilderness Cruises
- Kingfisher Bay Resort And Village
- Top Tours
- Fraser Island Retreat
- Eclipse Charters

It is disappointing that the State Opposition and you, as the local member of Parliament, do not support an advertising campaign promoting Hervey Bay.

905. "Submarine Rail", Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Premier (21/8/97)—

With reference to a tourism scheme being promoted for waters offshore of the Gold Coast in which tourists will travel by submarine amongst sunken ships and aircraft—

- (1) Is he aware of this scheme and does he support it?
- (2) What is the name of the company promoting the scheme and its principal?
- (3) Where off the coast is this scheme proposed to be sited?

- (4) Will an environmental impact study be required for the project; if not, why not?
- (5) Is Grant Kenny, the noted lifesaver, associated with the submarine component of the scheme?
- (6) Where will the boats and aircraft for this project come from?

Mr Borbidge (22/9/97):

(1) The project is too early in its conception for any assessment to be undertaken by the Government.

(2) The scheme is known as 'Submarine Rail' and I am informed that the principal's name is John Fairfax according to Rapid Searches. (Submarine Rail is BN 6288649 registered 4 November 1996.)

(3) The proposed scheme is to be sited off the coast of Surfers Paradise; about five kilometres offshore.

(4) If the project is to proceed, it is likely that an environmental impact study (EIS) will be required. For example, the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 and the Beach Protection Act 1968 are likely to trigger a requirement for an EIS to be undertaken. Further, if the project is supported by the EIS, then a number of approvals would still be required, including under section 86 of the Harbours Act 1955 which relates to works below the high water mark and section 47 of the Beach Protection Act 1968 which relates to the disturbance of sand.

(5) I am not aware that Grant Kenny has any association with the project.

(6) I am not aware at this stage where the project will obtain the boats and aircraft.

906. WorkCover

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/8/97)—

With reference to the insistence of his Cabinet colleagues to claims that WorkCover has unfunded liabilities of \$400m—

- (1) Is this figure an accurate reflection of the state of the workers' compensation scheme either now or previously?
- (2) What is the latest estimate of the level of unfunded liabilities as at 30 June?
- (3) What was the number of common law claim intimations over the course of 1996-97, and how does this compare to the previous five years?
- (4) What is the distribution of these intimations across the years to which each claim relates?
- (5) How many of these intimations relate to an injury incurred after 1 January 1996?
- (6) What was the total number of statutory claims made during 1996-97, and how does this compare to the previous five years?
- (7) How many of these statutory claims relate to an injury incurred after 1 January 1996?
- (8) What was the average payout for common law and statutory claims during 1996-97?

Mr Santoro (22/9/97):

- (1) Yes.

(2) I expect to table the latest actuarial assessment during the next session. The assessment will provide the detailed information related to 1996/97 required by various parts of your question.

(3&4)

Injury Year	Intimation Year			
	1995/96	1994/95	1993/94	1992/93
1995/96	345			
1994/95	1273			
1993/94	972			
1992/93	619			
Prior Years	238			
TOTAL	3447	2500	1678	1653

(5) See (2) above.

- (6) 1995/96—93,008
 1994/95—100,530
 1993/94—92,741
 1992/93—83,567

(7 & 8) See (2) above.

907. Police to Population Ratios

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (21/8/97)—

With reference to the issue of police to population ratios—

- (1) What is the national police to population ratio average?
- (2) What is Queensland's police to population ratio?
- (3) What are the police to population ratios in all other police regions and districts in the State?
- (4) Will he provide this information in the same format as provided in answer to Question on Notice No. 1243 (3 December 1996)?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) The estimated national police to population ratio average at 30 June 1997 was 1:455.

(2) The Queensland police to population ratio at 30 June 1997 was 1:524. The ratio has improved from last year in almost every police region. It is anticipated that the ratios for June 1998 and June 1999 will continue that trend and be substantially reduced given the Government's Commitment to increase police numbers. A three-year staffing plan to deliver 800 extra sworn officers and 400 extra civilians was instituted to overcome the shocking malaise the Government inherited from Labour, who between 1993 and 1996 refused to increase police numbers to keep pace with population growth and a spiralling crime rate. The Coalition is now clawing its way back with 160 extra police in 1996-97 and 252 and 409 budgeted for during this and next financial year respectively.

(3) The police to population ratios in all police regions and districts is as follows:

Far Northern Region	1:455
Cairns	1:470
Innisfail	1:532
Mareeba	1:471
Northern Region	1:529
Mount Isa	1:305
Townsville	1:621
Central Region	1:616
Gladstone	1:663
Longreach	1:267
Mackay	1:754
Rockhampton	1:598
North Coast Region	1:806
Bundaberg	1:894
Gympie	1:744
Maryborough	1:835
Redcliffe	1:828
Sunshine Coast	1:806
Southern Region	1:676
Charleville	1:235
Dalby	1:515
Ipswich	1:741
Roma	1:414
Toowoomba	1:934
Warwick	1:615
South Eastern Region	1:678
Gold Coast	1:625
Logan	1:812
Metropolitan South Region	1:778
Oxley	1:778
South Brisbane	1:687
Wynnum	1:1120
Metropolitan North Region	1:565
Alderley	1:1139
Boondall	1:1121
Brisbane City	1:64
Clayfield	1:759
Fortitude Valley	1:198
Petrie	1:975
Sandgate	1:901
Toowong	1:1275

(4) Yes.

908. Disability Program

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (21/8/97)—

With reference to the budget allocation of \$1.9m over 3 years to meet the unmet needs of those families caring for people with a disability—

- (1) When will the funds for 1997-98 become available?
- (2) How will the funds be allocated?
- (3) Will any funding round, other than the "moving ahead" program, occur in the disability program in 1997-98; if so, (a) how much will be available, (b) who will be eligible to apply and (c) what process will be used to allocate the funds?

Mr Lingard (2/9/97):

(1) Funding has already been allocated to regional areas of the Department, and individual proposals are being approved as they are finalised.

(2) I have already answered this question during the Estimates Committee debate, and I refer the Honourable Member to the transcript of these proceedings.

(3) The majority of new monies for the Disability Program in 1997-98 have been targeted for specific purposes, such as the Moving Ahead Post School Options Program, the closure of the Challinor Centre, the Queensland Guide Dogs Training Centre, and the funding of the SACS Award.

909. Removal of Crocodiles from Cairns Area

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (21/8/97)—

With reference to a recent public call by a Department of Environment officer for the total removal of all crocodiles from the Cairns area—

- (1) Does he support this call; if so, what purpose does he believe it will serve?
- (2) Did the officer who made this highly contentious policy announcement have official sanction for it; if so, from whom?
- (3) In which regard has the present problem crocodile policy failed to warrant such wholesale removal?
- (4) Where would he envisage the removed crocodiles would be relocated to in the event this policy is implemented?
- (5) Would he entertain their slaughtering and marketing as skins, meat and souvenirs?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97): I have consulted with senior Departmental staff who are unaware of any officer from the Department calling for the total removal of all crocodiles from the Cairns area. I am supportive of the action proposed with the Cairns City Council and my department as expressed in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties. I include a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for information.

910. WorkCover

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/8/97)—

With reference to the WorkCover scheme—

- (1) Has the \$1.5 billion the scheme has invested with Queensland Investment Corporation shown a return of 16 per cent, which translates to an income of \$210m in 1996-97?
- (2) Will this result now enable WorkCover to reduce its liabilities without the need to raise premiums or reduce workers' common law entitlements?
- (3) Will the final actuarial assessment in August show a vastly improved debt position, thereby allowing WorkCover to maintain its current levels of benefit for injured workers?

Mr Santoro (22/9/97):

(1) The final amount of the return on WorkCover's investments with the Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) is yet to be finalised. An early

indication of the return from QIC shows an amount in the order of \$210M equating to approximately a 16% return.

(2) If a return approximating \$210M or 16% is realised, then it will have a very positive effect on the operating results for this financial year. As I have stated on other occasions, the Coalition Government is committed to maintaining the average premium rate target of 2.145% set by the Labor Government from 1 January 1996. The Government has no plans to reduce workers' common law entitlements.

(3) The end of year position for WorkCover is not yet available. Early projections indicate an improvement to the deficit position of the fund, primarily as a result of the above average investment returns. The Government has no plans to alter current levels of benefit for injured workers.

911. Commercial Fishing, Hay's Inlet and Pine River

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (21/8/97)—

With reference to a report prepared by Sunfish North Moreton which calls for Hay's Inlet and the Pine River system to be declared a recreational fishing zone—

- (1) Does he agree with the report and is he intending to implement it; if not, why not?
- (2) Does he agree with the Sunfish claim that there appeared to have been a major impact by commercial fishing on Bay and greasy prawns in the area?
- (3) What has been the size of the decrease in the commercial catch of these species over past years and what has been the decrease in prawn size over this time?
- (4) Will he entertain the closure of Hay's Inlet to commercial fishing for a year, and Pine River for nine months, as called for by Sunfish North Moreton in this report?
- (5) Does he agree with the Sunfish claim that problems existed with water quality in the area and algae blooms, sulphate soils, mosquito larvae spraying and sewerage outfalls were contributing to the problem?
- (6) Will he support the Sunfish call for an intense short term testing program of water quality in the area?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. Thank you for raising this issue as it is of importance for all users of Moreton Bay's fisheries resources.

The report prepared by Sunfish North Moreton provides an opinion that calls for the removal of commercial fishing from Hay's Inlet and the Pine River Systems.

At the outset, it must be recognised that this is only one opinion on the future management of fisheries in that area. I can assure the Member for Woodridge that other opinions have been put forward by other interested groups and stakeholders which are at variance with those of Sunfish North Moreton.

Some twelve months ago, I supported the establishment of a small working group, comprising all key stakeholders to investigate the need for recreational only fishing areas in Hay's Inlet and the Pine River. This working group has completed its work and has recommended relatively minor changes to commercial fishing practices.

This recommendation is now being considered as part of a Moreton Bay Fisheries Management Plan by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and its advisory committee, the Moreton Bay Task Force.

It is important that all interest groups, not just a single branch of Sunfish have input to the future management of fisheries in Moreton Bay.

I intend to await the total proposal for management of all fisheries in Moreton Bay which will be submitted to me by the QFMA in about 12 months. This plan will have had input from all interested parties, including Sunfish and its Branches.

2 & 3. The QFMA recently released a Discussion Paper on the fisheries of Moreton Bay. Available information on all fish stocks was included in that Paper. The mixture of small prawns called "bay prawns" comprises several species including greasy prawns, school prawns, small king and tiger prawns and various other types. The overall catch of bay prawns in Moreton Bay has decreased from about 600 tonnes to about 350 tonnes in the past eight years. The reasons for this decrease are not clear. Some possible causes are a change in the fishing patterns by commercial fishers or a reduction in the abundance of the prawns. I am advised that there is no scientific information available on the average size of bay prawns taken annually during the past eight years.

4. I shall await the recommendations of the QFMA as put forward in the Moreton Bay Fisheries Management Plan.

5. I am aware that there have been some concerns regarding water quality and other impacts on the area. Development of the catchments of Hay's Inlet and the Pine Rivers is growing rapidly with significant increases in both residential and industrial activity. It is a matter for all agencies and all levels of Government to ensure that adverse impacts on our coastal waterways are kept to a minimum.

912. Increase in Leasing Charge for Road Reserves

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Natural Resources (21/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to increase the minimum charge for leasehold of unrequired road reserves by a massive 200 per cent—

- (1) How many Queensland primary producers will be affected by this massive rent hike, and how much revenue will this generate for the State Government?
- (2) How many cane farmers in the State will be affected by the decision, providing a breakdown by local authority?

- (3) What consultation occurred with affected industries prior to the decision being made?
- (4) Given that some cane farmers have little option but to continue to use the unrequired road reserve, will he now reconsider this attempt as "highway robbery"?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

(1) I am advised by my department that across the State, some 7113 permits to occupy and road licences over areas of unused road are held by persons engaged in the business of grazing or agriculture and intensive primary production. The estimated revenue from these permits and licences, based on the new minimum annual rental of \$150, is \$969,000.

(2) The records of my Department of Natural Resources show that some 1590 permits and licences are used in conjunction with canegrowing activities.

The bulk of these are located within the Local Government areas of: Burdekin (50), Cairns (375), Cardwell (40), Dalrymple (24), Douglas (165), Hinchinbrook (183), Johnstone (400), Mackay (25), Mirani (152), Sarina (20) and Whitsunday (117).

(3) The decision to adopt the new minimum rental level of \$150 was taken by the Government after consideration of the findings and recommendations of an independent committee which reviewed the Leasehold Rental System between August and December 1996. This committee, which included representatives from rural and non-rural industries invited written submissions on the Terms of Reference from 86 key stakeholder groups including the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Canegrowers and other agricultural and primary producer peak bodies. The original recommendation was for new charges to be \$250, which in my opinion was overly prohibitive, hence the reduction to \$150. I am considering options to further reflect the capacity to pay principle and a rationalisation of the tenure and subsequent cost structure of these charges, which will be taken to Cabinet for ratification in the near future.

Neither the Queensland Farmers' Federation nor Canegrowers chose to make a formal submission to the committee notwithstanding that the Terms of Reference for the Review included a specific reference to the appropriate method of determining minimum rentals.

The report of the Committee was presented to me on 18 December 1996 and was subsequently available to the public through all offices of my Department. I have made several Ministerial Statements on the outcomes of the review before the new charges were issued and several articles have appeared in the Courier Mail, Queensland Country Life and provincial newspapers.

(4) I must point out that the areas of road which are covered by these permits and licences are not "unrequired". If these road areas were no longer required, they would have already been permanently closed and sold to the adjoining owners for inclusion in their land. The fact is that the road areas are not currently being used as road and must be retained

until their future use and any impact of Native Title has been clarified.

While interpretation has included reference to a 200% increase, in reality the increases represent up to an extra \$1.90 per week for the continued use of an area of State land in conjunction with primary production activities. This does not in reality constitute "highway robbery".

913. Stradbroke Island Fishing Classic

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (21/8/97)—

With reference to the recent Stradbroke Island fishing tournament (the 'Straddie Classic')—

- (1) How many participants competed in this event over what timeframe?
- (2) How many fish were caught by these people during this time and how many were released?
- (3) How many of the released fish were tagged and how many were subsequently caught again during the Straddie Classic and how many have been caught since?
- (4) Does he believe fishing competitions on the scale of the Straddie Classic are good examples of ecologically sustainable use of a natural resource?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. I am advised that 1370 people registered for the Stradbroke Island Fishing Classic this year. This event started at midnight on Sunday 10 August and finished at 4 pm on Saturday 16 August.

2. There was no information collected on the total number of fish caught or the numbers of fish released during this event. However 1458 fish were weighed in over the six days. Predominant species which were weighed in are: Snapper, 311; Bream, 308; Dart, 156; Tailor, 128; Parrot fish, 119; Flathead, 105.

3. No fish were tagged as part of this event

4. These events can be good examples of sustainable use of our fisheries resources. Small business communities such as those at Point Lookout experience difficulties outside the main holiday periods. This event results in the injection of many hundreds of thousands of dollars into the economy of this small community at a time when activity is normally depressed.

I appreciate that the event results in a large number of people staying at Point Lookout and this may be a concern to some local residents who are seeking a different life style. However, I am informed that the majority of the business community support this event as a means of improving the local economic base.

Whilst the numbers of fish taken may seem to be high, the event only lasts for six days and hence there is ample opportunity for stocks to recover. In addition the organisers and the fisheries management agencies are encouraging people to catch and keep only small numbers of fish. The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority only allows these events to

occur under permit and steps are being taken to improve the monitoring of catches.

914. Mr Childs; Sir David Longland Correctional Centre

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (21/8/97)—

With reference to the death in custody of a Mr Childs recently in the Sir David Longland Centre—

- (1) Was an autopsy performed on Mr Childs?
- (2) What were the results and to what was the cause of death attributed?
- (3) Is there any truth to reports that Mr Childs died of a heroin overdose while in prison?
- (4) What have Mr Childs family been informed was the cause of death?
- (5) Does he regard the Corrective Services Commission description of Mr Childs' death as 'exhibiting no sign of foul play' as being consistent with a death resulting from an overdose of heroin?
- (6) How many prisoners have died in Queensland jails of a heroin overdose since February 1996 and in which prisons?
- (7) How did Mr Childs come into possession of this heroin?
- (8) Does he admit his much publicised drugs in prison inquiry has failed to address this most serious problem if prisoners can not only get access to heroin, but sufficient quantities and strengths to overdose on it?

Mr Cooper (9/9/97):

(1) Yes, it is Police procedure to require an autopsy to be performed in the event of any death that occurs in a correctional centre.

(2) The results of the autopsy are not yet available. When they are available they will be provided to the Police and to the Coroner.

(3) The investigation into the death of Mr Childs has revealed that he ingested heroin the day before he died. This is believed to have been a contributory factor in his death.

(4) The next of kin were personally visited by the Programs Manager and a Counsellor from the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre for the purpose of advising of the death. A subsequent visit was also made at a later time for the purpose of delivering the personal effects of Mr Childs and to assess any further need for assistance. No cause of death was confirmed at any stage due to the requirement for a post-mortem examination. Some indications were given that in the circumstances it was probable that Mr Childs had either died as a result of natural causes or a drug overdose.

(5) This comment is only an indication of the absence of any evidence which would suggest that any other person 'directly' contributed to the death of Mr Childs.

(6) It is testimony to the impact of the focus that the QCSC have put on illicit drug usage that there have been no deaths of this type in Queensland prisons during this period.

(7) The source of the heroin has not been established.

(8) No. The Drugs in Prison Inquiry has helped to identify both the nature and extent of the problem and I am currently engaged in implementing the recommendations from that report to strengthen our fight against this most insidious and disturbing problem. Your question is facile in the extreme and indicates an alarming ignorance of the difficulty in dealing with some of the complex and intractable problems facing this portfolio area. This indication of such ignorance bodes very ill indeed for the welfare of this portfolio area should you ever be entrusted with the position of Minister and the responsibility of administering it.

915. South East Transit Project

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

Will he accept the recommendations of the Public Works Committee contained in its recently tabled report "The South East Transit Project" and (a) direct the Department of Transport to engage an independent consultant to undertake a review of the Logan City regional road network and table the report of the review in Parliament within six months; if not, why not, (b) direct the Department of Transport to evaluate the viability of extending the busway further south to the Logan Motorway; if not, why not and (c) engage an independent consultant/organisation to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the south-east transit project; if not, why not?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(a) As the Honourable Member for Sunnybank is aware, on 26 August 1997 the Legislative Assembly of Queensland directed the Public Works Committee to re-evaluate the South East Transit Project and report to the Parliament by 9 October 1997. It would therefore be premature and inappropriate for any further comments to be made on the Committee's report until the inquiry has been completed. I believe it is essential that the inquiry runs its course and the true picture on the South East Transit Project revealed.

(b) See answer to Question A.

(c) See answer to Question A.

916. Computerised Traffic Light Control System

Mr PURCELL asked the Premier (21/8/97)—

With reference to his promise during the last election campaign of "a \$30m three year program to introduce a computerised traffic light control system to smooth traffic flows. Construction of the system which already existed in Sydney and Melbourne would start in 1995-96 on Gympie, Bowen Bridge and Lutwyche Roads before spreading to all metropolitan arterial

roads. The smart traffic lights would cut congestion at road work sites and events like sporting matches and provide clear runs for emergency vehicles"—

Has his Government implemented this promise; if not, why not, and when will this election promise be kept?

Mr Borbidge (22/9/97): The Government has given a high priority to traffic management and traffic safety issues. The Department of Main Roads has a world class traffic management system for Traffic Responsive Area Control, called TRACS, which provides computerised control of traffic signals on all major arterials and freeway management. Upgrading to make this system automatically adaptable to any changes in traffic flows is nearing completion. Further development of this system to encompass the operations of the Pacific Motorway project and the South East Transit project is occurring.

Main Roads officers have been engaged by the Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales and VicRoads to assist them with the upgrade of their old traffic management system (SCATS). Those agencies need to upgrade their systems because of the age of the hardware and they have recognised that Queensland's TRAC system is based on a very modern computer platform, superior to that used in the southern states.

The Queensland Government is strongly committed to the development of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). Two conferences have been held in Queensland in the last twelve months: the ITS Australia Conference in Brisbane and the Asia-Pacific ITS Seminar in Cairns. Both these conferences attracted international involvement and are indicative of Queensland and Australian excellence in this growing area of technology.

After extensive consultation with a broad range of stake-holders by the Department of Main Roads, Traffic Management and Intelligent Transport System Strategies have been developed and are to be released shortly. While these systems cannot provide a green light at every intersection to every driver, they do provide significant improvement to traffic operations.

The operation of a number of major routes has been reviewed to improve the progression of traffic for the major traffic movements. These include Gympie Road, the Gold Coast Highway and Cleveland-Capalaba and Redland Bay Roads. (This process is ongoing as traffic demands increase with the continued growth of the State).

A bus priority system for both Gympie and Lutwyche Roads, in partnership with Brisbane City Council, is proposed to be completed this financial year.

917. Motion of No Confidence in Attorney-General

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (21/8/97)—

With reference to his decision not to resign his commission despite a motion of 'no confidence' in him—

- (1) What legal or constitutional advice did he rely on in coming to his decision?
- (2) What constitutional conventions did he consider in coming to his decision?
- (3) Is he aware of any precedent for his decision?

Mr Beanland (19/9/97): I refer the honourable member to the Ministerial Statement delivered by the Honourable the Premier on 26 August 1997.

918. Land Tax

Mr ARDILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (21/8/97)—

Will she advise the amounts of Land Tax now being collected from each State electorate and the amount estimated as being due from each electorate following the adjustments in threshold contained in the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, as this information was previously available to Members of this Assembly?

Mrs Sheldon (22/9/97): Land tax collected from each State electorate is unknown. The land valuation system provides a valuation for each parcel of land, however, data categorising valuations by electorates is not available. Up until 1993-94 rough approximations of land tax assessed on land in electoral districts were made based on an estimate of how land tax assessed in local government areas translated to electoral districts. This was not a satisfactory procedure as it lacked accuracy and it has therefore been discontinued. To my knowledge no approximations were made of projected collections by electorate.

919. Littering Offences on Public Highways

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

Will he provide details of the number of people charged with littering on public highways in Queensland during the last 12 months and, specifically, how many have been charged in the area north of the Pine River Bridge and south of the Bribie Island turnoff?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): I would like to advise Mr Hayward that this matter does not fall within the Transport and Main Roads Portfolio. Advice was sought from the Office of the Hon Brian Littleproud, Minister for Environment, and the Office of the Hon Di McCauley MLA, Minister for Local Government and Planning, who indicated that the primary enforcing authority for this matter are the respective local authorities. For specific information relating to the area north of the Pine River Bridge on this issue, I suggest contacting the Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shires directly.

920. Environmental Impact Assessments

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (21/8/97)—

With reference to the Government's growing habit of dispensing with the requirements of environmental impact assessment and with respect to the following

developments, namely (a) Great Barrier Reef International Resort site at Zelzie in the Livingstone Shire, (b) the proposed subdivision by Cardwell Properties of land south of Stoney Creek near Cardwell, (c) the Club Hinchinbrook resort near Dungeness, (d) the hazardous waste treatment facility proposed by Barkoola Environmental Pty Ltd at Yatala, (e) the Oyster Cove subdivision including the filling of Ramsar listed wetlands for another golf course adjacent to Saltwater Creek, (f) the Coomera Waters resort proposed by Austcorp International on the Coomera River, (g) dredging of the Maroochydore River and Noosa River estuaries and (h) a marine development by XYZ Pty Ltd on the Coomera River—

- (1) What advice, if any, did the Department of Environment give about the requirement for an EIS; if no advice was given, why not?
- (2) Was an EIS required; if not, why not?
- (3) If an EIS was required, what is the status of its preparation and consideration by Government?

Mr Littleproud (22/9/97): I am advised that such matters are considered no differently than under Labor and legislation introduced by the Goss Government. What needs to be taken into account are the anti-development views of the Honourable Member, which are a matter of concern to many of his colleagues.

(a) Great Barrier Reef International Resort at Zilzie in the Livingstone Shire:

1. The Department advised the Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP) that:

Stage One of the Development (for 104 residential allotments) considered in isolation, would not require an EIS. However certain environmental conditions of approval were recommended, in particular to address stormwater runoff, biting insects, waste management, and beach use and access;

The Department recommended that the development as a whole should be subject to an EIS to address the impacts and provide opportunities for Government and the community to comment, particularly with regard to impacts on the adjacent estuarine and marine systems and to inform the community and government.

2. The DLGP waived the requirement for an EIS for Stage One and concerns raised by the Department of Environment (DoE) were included in development conditions.

The requirement for an EIS for the development as a whole also was later (1991) waived when the rezoning for the development was recommended by Livingstone Shire Council.

3. No EIS was prepared.

(b) Proposed subdivision by Cardwell properties south of Stoney Creek near Cardwell:

1. The Department advised the DLGP in August 1997 that as submitted the studies did not specifically

address the proposal. It was recommended that the applicant expand on the work to enable the request to be properly considered.

2. No decision has been made.

3. The proponent is yet to provide the additional information requested.

(c) Club Hinchinbrook resort near Dungeness:

I am advised that the Council took over a failed development.

1. DoE recommended to the DLGP that an EIS be required due to the proximity of the development to sensitive areas within marine parks and World Heritage Areas.

2. DLGP required an EIS and issued terms of reference (ToR). However, the proponent, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, objected to their scope and entered into discussions with DLGP.

3. The Department received and commented on a draft EIS and in so doing raised a number of matters.

(d) Hazardous waste treatment facility proposed by Barkoola Environmental Pty Ltd at Yatala:

1. The Department recommended to DLGP that an EIS should be undertaken as no relevant studies demonstrated that all potential impacts and cumulative risks to the receiving environment could or would be addressed. However, the Department also indicated its general support for options for treating waste.

2. The DLGP waived the requirement for an EIS but advised the applicant that relevant referral agencies had recommended that an environmental management plan should be submitted with any planning application lodged with the Gold Coast City Council.

Barkoola Environmental Pty Ltd needs an environmental authority under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for its activities which also provides an opportunity to deal with some environmental concerns.

3. No EIS was prepared.

(e) Oyster Cove:

1(a) For extensions to an existing canal and lake, the Department suggested that no impact assessment study was necessary to establish the suitability of the site for the purposes which the intended zone would allow. The Department recommended the preparation of environmental management plans for the necessary works.

1(b) However, for the Oyster Cove development the Department recommended that a holistic approach to impact assessment should be taken to determine the nature and significance of cumulative impacts. The development appeared to have the potential to significantly impact on the environmental values of the site, adjacent Moreton Bay Marine Park and Ramsar sites and on cultural heritage values.

2(a) The DLGP waived the requirement for an EIS for the canal and lake extension but advised the proponent of the Department's opinions;

2(b) The DLGP directed that an EIS be prepared for Oyster Cove which comprised a golf course, marina

and development below the floodline adjoining a fish habitat area and wetlands. The proponent was advised of the Department's views.

3. No EIS has been submitted.

(f) Coomera Waters resort proposed by Austcorp International on the Coomera River:

1. The Department recommended in 1995 that an EIS be prepared and the DLGP accepted this advice.

2. An EIS was submitted to the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) with the planning application in the same year.

3. In August 1995, DoE provided comments to GCCC. A key issue was the inconsistency between the proposal and the East Coomera Structure Plan and potential impacts on environmental values.

In December 1995, GCCC officers recommended to the council that the rezoning be refused but before the matter was formally considered, Austcorp withdrew its application.

A revised concept plan was submitted by Austcorp to GCCC and the relevant State agencies in May 1996. The main amendments to the development proposal related to content and design.

In June 1996 the Department submitted comments to GCCC on the revised proposal.

The Gold Coast City Council has approved the application subject to conditions including the development of several management plans to address issues raised by the Department. Draft documents for each have been submitted and are being negotiated with the Council and proponent.

(g) Dredging of Maroochydore and Noosa River estuaries:

1. Advice sought from the Department has related to the feasibility of dredging.

Noosa River

There is an ongoing problem of erosion of Noosa Spit immediately upstream of the Noosa River mouth. This erosion has reached a point where urgent remedial works are necessary.

Two options suggested are:

rock revet the eroding bank area; or

nourish the eroding bank with sand.

Numerous discussions over an extended period have occurred between the Department of Primary Industries, Noosa Shire Council and the Department on options and preferred methods to mitigate this erosion. All three parties have opposed the option of rock revetment as it would lead to major detrimental impacts from a coastal management viewpoint.

Sand nourishment is preferred with sand sourced from the river mouth area. Computer modelling by the Beach Protection Authority indicates that the work would not detrimentally impact on the tidal regime within the river system.

Dredging would occur near a declared fish habitat area and to minimise any adverse impact on fisheries resources, a 40 metre buffer has been recommended between the dredge area and the fish habitat area. Noosa Shire Council has agreed to undertake a 12

month monitoring program post dredging to quantify any impacts on fisheries values. Results would be assessed by the Departments and Council before proceeding with any future nourishment programs near the river mouth.

Maroochy River

Extensive movement of the tidal channels and sand shoals at the mouth of the Maroochy River has occurred over many years. In recent years, the southern channel has become tidally dominant resulting in major erosion at the river mouth area near Pincushion Island and accretion of a large sandy spit from the northern river bank which is affecting the flow capacity of the northern channel pushing the river mouth to the south.

Members of the local community have expressed concern that the river mouth will break through south of Pincushion Island and cause erosion and flooding of residential and business areas of Maroochydoore.

In 1997, Maroochy Shire Council commissioned consultants to investigate dredging through the northern spit to arrest erosion to the southern river bank. A report was submitted recently to the Council.

Approvals for any dredging/beach nourishment would be required from the Department and the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry.

(h) Marina development by XYZ Pty Ltd on the Coomera River:

1. This Department recommended that an EIS should be required for this proposal, but also advised of inconsistencies between provisions of the town planning scheme and policies of the Moreton Bay Strategic Plan.

2. The Department of Local Government and Planning required an EIS.

3. A draft EIS was received on 16 July 1997, with responses due on 5 September 1997.

921. Federal Contribution to Thailand Economy

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Premier (21/8/97)—

With reference to the Howard Government's \$1.3 billion contribution to the financial rescue package for Thailand's ailing economy—

- (1) Does he support the Prime Minister's involvement in this rescue package to the extent of 1.3 billion; if not, why not?
- (2) Does he support the Prime Minister's summation that opponents of Australia's involvement are 'cheap and populist'; if not, why not?
- (3) Does he support the Prime Minister's assertion that failure to participate would brand us as 'fair-weather friends' in the Asia Pacific region; if not, why not?

Mr Borbidge (22/9/97):

1. Questions of Australia's international obligations and national interests are the province of the Federal Government. The decision to outlay \$1.3 billion in

defence of the economy of a major trading partner, Thailand, is likewise one for the Commonwealth authorities and the Prime Minister.

2. The issue of Australia's international relationships and the financial standing of important neighbours are complex. It is for the Prime Minister to decide what descriptions he wishes to apply to critics of these and other matters within the Commonwealth's domain.

3. It is beyond dispute that failure by Australia to play a full part in regional and global affairs would reduce this country's standing within and relevance to the international community.

922. Pollution of Brisbane Creeks

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Environment (21/8/97)—

With reference to pollution problems in Brisbane creeks—

- (1) What steps are being taken to monitor water quality in Brisbane creeks including, in particular, Oxley Creek, Rocky Water Holes, Stable Swamp Creek and Ekibin Creek?
- (2) What action is being taken to improve water quality in those creeks?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97):

(1) The Department of Environment is monitoring nine sites on a monthly basis at Oxley Creek.

In September and October 1996 samples were taken from Oxley Creek and tested for organochlorines, organophosphates and synthetic pyrethroids. Results from this monitoring showed that all levels fell well below guideline screening values recommended by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council.

Very little monitoring has been carried out at Ekibin Creek. Bacteriological sampling was carried out in early 1996 for faecal coliform contamination.

Monitoring at Rocky Water Holes and Stable Swamp Creek was carried out in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Department has funded a study by Griffith University on the extent and distribution of lead contamination in the environment associated with Stable Swamp Creek at Franklin Street, Rocklea. This area is known to be contaminated with lead from previous industrial activities in the area and the site is a registered contaminated land site.

Monitoring is also carried out by members of the Oxley Creek Catchment Association. The results are collected by the Brisbane City Council.

(2) Management of the Brisbane River and its catchment is being dealt with by the Brisbane River Management Group (BRMG) which is based within the Department of Environment. The Draft Brisbane River Management Plan was released in June of 1997 for public comment. The management plan proposes specific arrangements for the future management of the river system to ensure that the river remains healthy and able to achieve the community's environmental values. A number of priority actions have been highlighted in the management plan under

the groupings of river resources, river living and river environment.

The Brisbane River Management Group has worked with community and industry to develop an Oxley Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee under the Integrated Catchment Management framework. This committee has overseen a number of activities, including the development of the 1996 State of the Oxley Creek Catchment Report and the Water and Land Use Impact and Management Analysis.

It is worth noting the BRMG has become much more focused and outcome driven under the Coalition Government than it was under the Labor Government of which you were a member.

923. Mackay Hospital

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (21/8/97)—

With reference to his decision to close 36 beds, including the aged care unit at the Mackay Base Hospital—

- (1) How does this decision equate to his election commitment that he would not close any hospital beds or wards?
- (2) Why did he ignore his own report (Aged Care Plan: Mackay Region February 1994) which indicates a sharp rise in the number of people over 70 years of age in Mackay city who are the very people requiring aged care, and that a 20 bed aged care therapy unit be included in the overall re-development at the Mackay Base Hospital?
- (3) In view of the demonstrated need for aged care in Mackay city, will he review the matter as a matter of urgency and restore aged care to the elderly of Mackay city?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) There have been no bed closures at Mackay Base Hospital.

(2) The current accommodation for aged persons at Mackay Hospital is a pavilion style ward with no dedicated rehabilitation services. Aged persons occupying this unit receive essentially "maintenance" care. The present unit does not provide the total accommodation needs for aged patients, as a number are accommodated in other areas within the Hospital. Aged patients require acute rehabilitation, slow stream rehabilitation and maintenance care and also include those patients awaiting placement within community based nursing homes.

As part of the Mackay Hospital re-development strategy, it is proposed to establish a slow stream rehabilitation unit at Sarina Hospital, thereby achieving effective use of under utilised capacity within the District and allowing for the development of a dedicated rehabilitation unit. Under this strategy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and related allied health support and facilities are proposed in a patient friendly non-acute setting.

(3) The Sarina Hospital option will represent a significant improvement for aged care services within the District and assist to reduce numbers of patients

who currently are required to travel outside of the District to receive specialised rehabilitation services. The proposal will allow the development of an enhanced level of clinical expertise within the District which will support the development of a broader based and integrated service for both aged and young patients in need of rehabilitation support.

924. Maryborough Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to an editorial in the Fraser Coast Chronicle of 19 July which says of his office, "In the past Chronicle employees have been subjected to abusive language with the famous four letter word when trying to do nothing more than air the very real concerns of employees,"—

- (1) Are his staff abusive because they are covering up for the dishonesty he has shown to Maryborough Hospital staff?
- (2) Are permanent staff from Maryborough Hospital who are transferred to Hervey Bay being replaced by casual staff?
- (3) What equipment has been taken from Maryborough Hospital to Hervey Bay Hospital?
- (4) Is there an ICU planned for Maryborough Hospital?
- (5) What were the dates of consultation which took place between the hospital staff and Queensland Health over the Maryborough Hospital redevelopment?
- (6) What action has he taken with his staff to ensure they conduct themselves professionally when dealing with legitimate media inquiries?

Mr Horan (24/9/97):

(1) It is only the Labor Party which has been dishonest about the Maryborough Hospital redevelopment. Unfortunately, the Labor Party in Maryborough has embarked on a disgraceful and completely dishonest scaremongering campaign designed to damage this \$15 million redevelopment project.

In fact, so disgraceful has been the campaign by Mr Dollin and Mr Nunn, that the Mayors of Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Woocoo and Tiaro, have been forced to take the unprecedented step to release a public statement on 30 July 1997, condemning the actions of the Labor Members for Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

For the record, this statements reads:

"The Mayors of Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Woocoo and Tiaro are concerned at the adverse publicity created by comments in the Chronicle on 28th July 1997 by the Member for Maryborough and the Member for Hervey Bay.

This publicity is very unsettling for the staff and the Health Council and the four Mayors agree that this sort of publicity does not help the current situation ...

The Councils have observed that the recent printed publicity will only divide this community and is not in the best interests of the public, the

staff, doctors and people who rely on the Fraser Coast Health system.

We will not let political interference rail road what the Minister, Mike Horan, has planned for Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals ..."

This public statement, released by the four district Mayors is clear evidence that Mr Dollin and Mr Nunn have embarked on a campaign deliberately designed to destabilise the Maryborough Hospital redevelopment. By doing so they have needlessly upset and frightened Hospital staff and the Maryborough community, particularly the elderly. It has been a reprehensible action by the Labor Party, and Mr Dollin and Mr Nunn should unreservedly apologise to the Maryborough and Hervey Bay communities for their appalling and self-serving behaviour over this issue.

(2) As at 26 August 1997, only 19 staff (all of whom volunteered) have transferred from Maryborough to Hervey Bay. Although a large number of additional staff desire transfer to Hervey Bay, they will not be released if it leaves Maryborough in a difficult position. Vacancies at both Maryborough and Hervey Bay have generally been filled on a temporary basis pending the finalisation of the major recruitment exercise currently under way, when permanent appointments will be made at both sites, according to clinical need.

(3) No equipment has been transferred from Maryborough Hospital. However, some equipment purchased for the new Hervey Bay Hospital building project has been placed at Maryborough for staff familiarisation and training purposes.

(4) It has been repeatedly confirmed that an ICU has been incorporated into the Maryborough redevelopment.

(5) Consultation between District management staff and Queensland Health is ongoing with Steering Committee meetings scheduled monthly. Formal consultation with Maryborough Hospital staff about the redevelopment has occurred as follows:-

DATES—HOURS IN MONTH

February 5,7,28—15.5

March 19—2

July 4,9,10,11,16,22,23,30—19.5

August 6,13,20,21,22—30

Total time to 26/8/97—67 hours session time

(6) The Office of the Queensland Minister for Health enjoys a strong and professional working relationship with all sections of the media and this Office is committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders are aware of the inroads the Coalition has made into cleaning up the health mess left by the previous State Labor Government.

These successes include turning around elective surgery waiting lists, from having the worst in Australia under Labor to now having the best Category One waiting lists in Australia under the Coalition. Also, the Coalition has cleaned up the Labor health capital works fiasco, which saw former Labor Health Ministers, Beattie and Elder, blow-out the capital works program by a massive \$1.2 billion.

Also, the taxpayers of Queensland are still paying off the \$24 million "Elder health debt" and \$58 million of "Beattie debt"—a legacy left by these two former failed Labor Health Ministers.

925. Students with Special Needs

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education (26/8/97)—

With reference to the support available in State schools for students with special needs—

- (1) How many speech therapists are employed by Education Queensland?
- (2) Are there any unfilled positions for speech therapists; if so, how many and for how long have these positions been vacant?
- (3) How many reading recovery teachers are employed by Education Queensland?
- (4) What additional support, each week, is provided to classroom teachers, including teacher aide hours, in respect of each child who is ascertained at level 4, level 5 and level 6?
- (5) Is this level of additional support a common standard across all regions of Education Queensland?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

- (1) 152
- (2) At the end of August 1997 there were 23.6 full-time equivalent speech therapy positions not filled by permanent staff. Most of these positions are occupied by temporary staff.
- (3) 220
- (4) In 1998, more than 30,000 hours of teacher aide time will be allocated to assist students with special needs in mainstream schools and special schools. Teacher-aide time per student may vary according to the individual needs of each child. Assistance for these students is also provided by a range of therapists and from Advisory Visiting Teachers.
- (5) Allocations for student support relate directly to the number of ascertained students and the needs of individual students within a region.

926. Police Academy Graduates

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to his claim in the Sunday Mail of 8 September 1996 that 102 of the total number of recruits graduating from both the Oxley and Townsville campuses of the Queensland Police Academy during 1996-97 would be going to regional areas—

- (1) What were the total number of graduates in 1996-97?
- (2) How many of these graduates were assigned to each of the Metropolitan South, Metropolitan North and Gold Coast Police Regions?
- (3) How many of these graduates were assigned to non-metropolitan regions throughout the State?

- (4) To which districts were these graduates assigned?
- (5) How many were assigned to each district and region in Queensland?

Mr Cooper (25/9/97):

- (1) Total number of officers sworn-in in 1996/97—386
- (2) Total metropolitan—224
Metropolitan South Region—59
Metropolitan North Region—66
South Eastern Region—99
- (3) Total non-metropolitan—158
Southern Region—18
North Coast Region—40
Central Region—18
Northern Region—43
Far Northern Region—39
- (4) Metropolitan South Region—59 (no district allocation)
Metropolitan North Region—66 (no district allocation)
South Eastern Region, Districts—99 total
Logan—29
Gold Coast—70
Southern Region, Districts—18 total
Toowoomba—13
Ipswich—5
North Coast Region, Districts—40 total
Redcliffe—19
Sunshine Coast—10
Gympie—2
Maryborough—4
Bundaberg—5
Central Region, Districts—18 total
Gladstone—6
Rockhampton—4
Mackay—8
Northern Region, Districts—43 total
Townsville—25
Mt Isa—18
Far Northern Region, Districts—39 total
Cairns—29
Mareeba—10
- (5) Metropolitan South Region—59 (no district allocation)
Metropolitan North Region—66 (no district allocation)
South Eastern Region, Districts—99 total
Logan—29
Gold Coast—70
Southern Region, Districts—18 total
Toowoomba—13
Ipswich—5
North Coast Region, Districts—40 total
Redcliffe—19
Sunshine Coast—10
Gympie—2
Maryborough—4
Bundaberg—5

Central Region, Districts—18 total
Gladstone—6
Rockhampton—4
Mackay—8
Northern Region, Districts—43 total
Townsville—25
Mt Isa—18
Far Northern Region, Districts—39 total
Cairns—29
Mareeba—10
Other—4 total
Crime Operations Branch—1
Specialist Services Branch—1
Fingerprint Bureau—2
TOTAL—386

927. Ambulance Service, Redcliffe

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/8/97)—

With reference to the provision of ambulance services to the City of Redcliffe—

- (1) On what days is the Redcliffe Ambulance Station rostered with only one crew?
- (2) If there is only one crew rostered on duty, where would the back-up service be based?
- (3) What is the approximate wait time for 000 calls when the Redcliffe ambulance is not available?

Mr Veivers (25/9/97):

- (1) Sunday is the only day of the week Redcliffe Station has only one crew. This is a day shift crew supported by the stations of Deception Bay, Sandgate and any other mobile unit traversing the peninsula.
- (2) It is not relevant to think of ambulance service responses as the sole responsibility of the crew from the local area where the call from assistance is generated. Calls for ambulance service assistance are received, prioritised, appropriate advice given to the caller and a unit dispatched on the basis of the closest available ambulance resource to the case dependent on the critical nature of the case and appropriate transport considerations.
- (3) If the scenario is that the Redcliffe unit is engaged with an urgent case and is unable to be diverted, the Communication Centre will provide advice on the nearest available unit. The response time will vary according to the distance travelled.

928. Public Housing Project, West End

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed construction of a block of public units on vacant land in Boundary Street, West End which has been frozen since February 1996, despite plans being on public display at that time in the West End Library—

- (1) When will these units be constructed in this area of high demand?

- (2) Will the former plans be altered in any way; if so, how?

Dr Watson (25/9/97): I am surprised the Honourable Member is not aware of delays in the project caused by the financial collapse of the original building contractor who was approved by Hon T Mackenroth MLA when he was Minister.

The Project at Boundary Street, West End has a proposed construction commencement date of mid November 1997 and is projected for completion by July 1998.

The basic site plans have not been altered. However, provision has been made for two of the units to be specially modified to accommodate special needs' clients. Design alterations may also be required to keep the project within budget.

929. Public Housing Project, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the letter he forwarded to me dated 1 August in relation to the public housing development located at Seventh Avenue, Sandgate—

- (1) What process was used to decide that the development of public housing in Seventh Avenue should be cut from 19 units of housing to 12 units of housing?
- (2) What is the reason for cutting the number of dwelling units originally planned when waiting lists for public housing in the area is a minimum of two-and-a-half to three years?
- (3) Does the Government intend to discuss this change of plans with the wider community, considering that the original plans were displayed in a local shop front and had the support of many local residents?

Dr Watson (25/9/97):

(1) The department undertook a review of all proposed developments included in the Capital Works Program for public housing. The Seventh Avenue, Flinders Parade development underwent such a review and it was apparent that a significantly improved overall program result could be achieved through sale of the front portion of the land with retention of the remainder of the site for public housing.

(2) The department seeks to provide affordable housing across the State in accordance with relative need.

(3) The department has no plans to redisplay plans for the Seventh Avenue site at this time.

930. ARCO Coal; Curragh Mine

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (26/8/97)—

With reference to information provided to me which suggests that, if possible, it is the intent of ARCO Coal to remove itself as a coal producer from all coal

mining operations in Queensland by the close of the 1997 calendar year—

- (1) What is the future of the Curragh Mine and the mines owned and operated by ARCO Coal in Queensland?
- (2) What are the contract obligations in so far as the maintenance of supply of coal to the Stanwell Power Station from the Curragh Mine?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97):

(1) ARCO have publicly stated that the company is seeking buyers for its interests in coal operations in Central Queensland. The company has an interest and is the operator of the Curragh open cut and Gordonstone underground mines. It is currently in the process of reviewing its operations at these two mines with a view to reducing employee numbers.

At Curragh, Arco and Stanwell Corporation are currently in dispute on issues relating to the amount of reserves and the price of coal. The Curragh Co Venturers however are committed to fulfilling its contractual obligations to Stanwell Corporation. I understand however that the long term future of coking coal production is in doubt unless alternative resources or arrangements are found. To this end I believe that since April 1997 ARCO and Stanwell have been working to develop a solution to the issues that are under arbitration.

With regard to Gordonstone operations ARCO announced on 28 July 1997 an intention to implement downsizing that will see one longwall unit and one development unit on a five day roster in comparison to two operating longwalls and up to four development units that had been operating.

While there has been considerable industrial unrest at both mines, it is hoped that the recent return to work will lend to fruitful negotiations between the parties to resolve outstanding issues.

(2) The details of the contractual arrangements between the then Queensland Electricity Generating Board (now Stanwell Corporation) and the Curragh Joint Venturers are a confidential matter for those two parties.

931. Connect-Ed Project; Northgate State School

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (26/8/97)—

With reference to the Connect-Ed Program where schools will be connected to the Internet, and his commitment that some small schools will be given priority under this program, and given the financial and practical difficulties faced by Northgate State School in connecting to the Internet—

Will he ensure that this school is given the necessary assistance to enable it to be connected before the end of the current school year?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): Education Queensland has released a Request for Offer for equipment and telecommunications services to connect all state schools to the Internet. This RFO has only recently closed.

The Connect-Ed project will connect all 104 Leading Schools to the Internet by the end of this year.

Education Queensland is cognisant of the difficulties faced by some small schools in connecting to the Internet. In recognition of this we will have connected a number of small and remotely located schools to the Internet by 31 December 1997. Selection of these schools was approved by the Director-General of Education, after consultation with Regions.

Until the RFO offers are evaluated and an implementation plan developed, we do not have a specific timetable for individual schools to be connected to the departmental network and the Internet.

932. Issue of Permits, Hinchinbrook Region

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (26/8/97)—

With reference to the moratorium on the issue of further permits in the Hinchinbrook region—

- (1) Is this moratorium to be maintained until the finalisation of the Hinchinbrook Regional Coastal Management Plan?
- (2) What categories of permits are covered by this moratorium?
- (3) Has he sought the agreement of Federal Environment Minister Hill to grant exemptions to the moratorium; if so, for whose benefit?
- (4) Has he sought such a special exemption for Keith Williams' Port Hinchinbrook development; if so, for what purpose and on what grounds?
- (5) Has Mr Williams or Cardwell Properties applied for any permits or development approvals for additional leasehold or freehold properties south of Stoney Creek near Cardwell?
- (6) Will an EIS be required for any such further or additional development proposals; if not, why not?

Mr Littleproud (22/9/97):

1. A moratorium on new permits in the marine park and adjacent coastal national parks in the Hinchinbrook region was declared by the State and Commonwealth on 7 May 1997.

2. The moratorium applies to all new permits required under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, the Queensland Marine Park Act and the Nature Conservation Act except:

programs for the taking of animals or plants which pose a threat to human life or safety, and or to marine or island ecosystems;

research, including manipulative research;

education programs;

camping permits required under the Central Section Zoning Plan;

private camping permits on national parks;

traditional fishing and traditional hunting and gathering;

the operation of a landing area or facility for aircraft except for the installation of a new facility;

the operation of a structure including for the discharge of waste except for the installation of a new structure

line fishing using more than 6 hooks per line;

commercial pole and line tuna fishing;

collecting;

if the purpose is merely for uninterrupted passage through the planning area by the most direct and expeditious route

for the purposes of management of the marine park consistent with the objective of the zone;

for the purposes of management of national parks and;

small scale commercial photography, without structures in national parks.

3. & 4. Cardwell properties has approached both Department of Environment and the Federal department for likely concessionaires at Oyster Point to be granted permits for their activities so they can place orders for necessary equipment sure in the knowledge their activities will be approved. Cardwell Properties claims a long delay on deliveries of such equipment makes it necessary to place orders well in advance of the opening of the Oyster Point development. The request has not been granted.

5. I am advised that the Department of Local Government and Planning has received a request from Buckley Vann Town Planning (consultants for Mr Williams) to waive the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed developments on properties south of Stoney Creek which are within the Port Hinchinbrook site. The proposed development is for waterfront industry associated with boating and marina activities at an adjacent site; ancillary resort uses; and additional resort accommodation for up to 300 people.

6. Such a decision is up to the Department of Local Government and Planning.

933. Rosalie Customer Service Centre

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to recent concerns, particularly by driving schools, that the Rosalie Branch of Queensland Transport's customer service centre will be closed during the next twelve months—

Will he unequivocally confirm that the Rosalie centre will not be closed?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): When considering the future of the Rosalie Customer Service Centre, a number of issues are being taken into account:

The demand for transport services in the Rosalie area has significantly reduced, this is demonstrated by the steady decline in the number of business transactions conducted at the centre over the past few years. This decline is apparent across the full range of services provided at the centre.

The Rosalie centre now conducts the lowest number of business transactions in the Region, even when compared to the transaction levels of centres which provide a similar range of services.

Due to the age and configuration of the facility at Rosalie a considerable level of capital funds would need to be expended to upgrade the centre to meet corporate standards of service amenity. Given the steady decline in business being transacted at the centre such a level of expenditure of public funds cannot be justified.

It is necessary for transport services to be provided to the public in such a way that maximises their quality and accessibility, while at the same time delivering best value for money. The current centre at Rosalie does not meet these criteria.

Because of these reasons the Rosalie Customer Service Centre will be relocated to address the considerable growth in demand for transport services in the Indooroopilly/Taringa area. The relocation will take place within the next twelve months when a suitable site has been identified for the centre in or around Indooroopilly/Taringa

The relocation of the Rosalie Customer Service Centre will result in an increase in the quality and accessibility of transport services to a vast number of Queensland Transport's customers.

934. Emergency Accommodation Services, Pine Rivers Area

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (26/8/97)—

What emergency accommodation services are available to young people in crisis in the Pine Rivers Shire?

Mr Lingard (8/9/97): My Department funds a number of services for homeless young people in the Pine Rivers Shire and surrounding areas, for example, Youthcare Pine Rivers, Orana Youth Service located at Bald Hills, Tandarra House at Redcliffe and North-West Boarding in the northern suburbs of Brisbane.

935. One Nation Party Rally at Mount Gravatt Showgrounds

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the One Nation Party rally held at the Mount Gravatt showgrounds on the night of 24 August—

- (1) Were police officers directed to record names, addresses and occupations of protesters who attended the rally; if so, by whom?
- (2) If no such direction was given, why did police require protesters to supply their names, addresses and occupations when asked, and for what purpose?
- (3) Why was a police photographer present at this rally and who did he take photographs of?

- (4) Where is the information and photographs gathered by police at this rally now located?
- (5) Who requested that the police attend the rally at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

- (1) No such direction was given.
- (2) I am advised that protesters were not required to supply these particulars.
- (3) It is the usual procedure for police photographers to be present at police operations. Photographs can be used for evidential and intelligence gathering purposes.
- (4) Information is held at both the South Brisbane District Office and the Public Safety Response Group Office. The photographs are stored at the Photographic Section, Police Headquarters.
- (5) No specific request was made for police to attend this rally. It is standard procedure for police to attend this type of incident to ensure that no breaches of the peace or criminal activities occur.

936. One Nation Party Rally at Mount Gravatt Showgrounds

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the One Nation Party rally held at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on the night of 24 August—

- (1) What was the purpose of police recording the names and addresses and photographing protesters who attended the One Nation Party rally?
- (2) Do the protesters concerned have the right to inspect the information gathered at this rally to ensure its accuracy and relevance?
- (3) When protesters were unable to satisfy police as to the information provided when asked to supply their names, addresses and occupations, why then were they requested to be interviewed by the officer in charge at the rally?
- (4) Is this the usual operation mounted by police at such rallies and do police currently have the right and power to request such information from citizens who attend protests at One Nation gatherings or other rallies?
- (5) Why did police refuse a member of the Mt. Gravatt Showground Trust access to the One Nation Rally and under what authority was this decision made?
- (6) How many crimes against the person and property were reported in the South Brisbane Region to police on 24 August?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

- (1) Police did not record the names and addresses of protesters at this rally. Photographs were taken for evidential and intelligence gathering purposes.
- (2) Any person can request access to this information.

(3) No protester was requested to be interviewed by the officer in charge at the rally. Only one male person was interviewed by the officer in charge. He was not a demonstrator. His unusual behaviour resulted in him being questioned by police. He was seen behind police lines conversing with a person who had been amongst the demonstrators. He claimed to be a member of the Mt. Gravatt Showgrounds Trust and was there as an observer on behalf of the Trust. His behaviour raised doubts about his claim. The officer in charge took his particulars and confirmed that he was a member of the Trust.

(4) This will be the usual operation mounted by police at these rallies until the actions of demonstrators dictates otherwise.

Generally, police may ask any person for their personal details in the same way as any person may ask another for those same details. However, if police reasonably suspect any person of committing or intending to commit an offence, they are empowered to demand name, address, or any other relevant information as defined by the statute appropriate to the unlawful activity.

(5) This person was not refused access to this rally. He could have entered the hall or joined the demonstrators or remained in the general area as an observer.

(6) A total of 28 crimes against the person and property were reported to police in the South Brisbane District on 24 August 1997.

937. One Nation Party Rally at Mount Gravatt Showgrounds

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the One Nation Party rally held at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on the night of 24 August—

- (1) How many police were in attendance at this rally?
- (2) How many of these police officers, who were directed to attend this rally, were ordinarily rostered on duty on the night of 24 August and what stations were they drawn from?
- (3) How many police officers were recalled to duty on overtime to attend the rally at Mount Gravatt on the night of 24 August and what stations were they usually rostered at?
- (4) What was the total overtime bill paid to police officers who attended the One Nation Party rally on 24 August?
- (5) How many police vehicles were used at the One Nation Rally at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on 24 August?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) Thirty-six police officers were available for attendance at this rally. However, a maximum of approximately twenty-two police would have been present at any one given time.

(2) The twelve members of the Public Safety Response Team who attended are ordinarily rostered to attend these meetings.

Other police officers who were rostered on duty on this night were:

- South Brisbane District Traffic Branch—11
- South Brisbane District Inquiry Office—2
- Upper Mount Gravatt Station—2
- Dutton Park Criminal Investigation Branch—2
- South Brisbane District Scenes of Crime—2

Not all of these officers were present at any one given time as some were on normal duties and remained "on call".

(3) No officers were recalled to duty on overtime.

(4) No overtime was incurred by any police officer who performed duty at this rally.

(5) Five police vehicles were used at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds, namely: two prison vans, two Public Safety Response Group station sedans and one sedan as the command vehicle. Other police vehicles were used to transport police to and from the Showgrounds.

938. Tree-clearing Permits

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (26/8/97)—

With reference to proposals being considered by the State Trees Group and MRMAC to give the tree clearing permits perpetual status and make them compensatory—

- (1) Has he received recommendations on these matters from either or both of these groups yet and what were the recommendations?
- (2) How does he see such a scheme for tree clearing permits operating?
- (3) What is wrong with the present scheme that warrants this change and where is the pressure for such change coming from?
- (4) What decision has he made regarding scrapping of the tree clearing permit system in favour of vegetation management plans and when are we likely to see this change made?
- (5) Does he believe these changes continue to take him towards "world's best practice tree clearing"?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

(1-3) There has been no recommendation to me from either group to give tree clearing permits perpetual status. The State Trees Group has analysed proposals relating to the concept of Tree/Vegetation Management Plans and recommended to my Ministerial Resource Management Advisory Council that the concept be further assessed. While the results of these investigations will not be available for some time, the concept will be explored in full and open consultation with the appropriate stakeholders.

I make it clear that the tree clearing guidelines are not perpetual.

(4) No decision has been made to replace tree clearing permits with tree management plans. My Ministerial Resource Management Advisory Council has merely asked for the concept of tree/vegetation management planning to be explored to determine whether we can improve on the already impressive results being achieved as a result of the process applied to date.

(5) The Coalition Government does not have a closed mind to new ways of improving management of our natural resources. A "planning" approach has been widely accepted by both industry and responsible conservation interests as the best means of achieving sustainability for our forest and water resources. It is important that we explore this approach for tree management so that Queensland can continue to set the standard with regard to sustainable use of our natural resources.

939. Women's Historical Sites

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Environment (26/8/97)—

With reference to the 28 women's historical sites identified by his department in the last 14 months—

- (1) Will he detail the exact location of these sites and their significance as women's historical sites?
- (2) Will he explain how the general public is being made aware of these sites?
- (3) What plans does his department have for the future identification of women's historical sites?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

(1) The response to this part of the question is shown on the attached schedule.

(2) The Queensland Women's Heritage Inventory has been established as a data base, and the Department is liaising with the owners of the places that have been identified as being associated with women.

Following the completion of this consultation process, the Department plans to produce material focusing attention on women's heritage places for International Women's Day, 6 March 1998. This publication will also include the places identified prior to the past 14 months.

(3) Part of the work of the Department involves identifying and assessing places of cultural heritage significance.

Identification of places associated with women is one of the historical themes of this ongoing program. Places are identified by various strategies including:

- Regional heritage studies
- Thematic heritage studies
- Nomination to the Heritage Register
- Places reported to the Department.

Answer (1) The following table lists the women's historical sites identified during the past 14 months.

PLACE—LOCATION—SIGNIFICANCE

Queensland Country Women's Association—Atherton Road, Yungaburra—Important for its association with the Country Womens' Association.

Former Lady Bowen Lying-In Hospital—Wickham Terrace, Brisbane—Built in 1889 and became the most well-known of the charitable lying-in hospitals for women.

Bedford Playground (former Spring Hill Playground)—Love Street, Spring Hill—Important for its association with the Playground Association by providing recreation for women and children.

Neal Macrossan Playground (known as Paddington Playground)—Caroline Street, Paddington—Important for its association with the Playground Association by providing recreation for women and children.

Fortitude Valley Child Health Centre—112 Alfred Street, Fortitude Valley—First purpose-built maternal and child welfare clinic in Queensland after the introduction of the Maternity Act 1922.

Paddington Child Health Centre—Given Terrace, Paddington—Important as one of the clinics built to improve health facilities for women and children.

Rockhampton Oral Health Building (former Rockhampton Baby Clinic)—Fitzroy and Denison Streets, Rockhampton—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Maryborough Child Health Centre—445 Kent Street, Maryborough—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

The child health centre within Charters Towers Hospital—Gill Street, Charters Towers—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Bundaberg Child Health Centre—5 Maryborough Street, Bundaberg—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Warwick Health Services Centre (former Warwick Baby Clinic)—70 Percy Street, Warwick—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Ipswich Child Health Centre—16 Wharf Street, Ipswich—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Child health Mackay—55-57 Gregory Street, Mackay—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Mt Isa Child Health Centre—Isa Street, Mt Isa—Important as one of the clinics built to improve health facilities for women and children.

Nurses' Quarters—Louise Street, Atherton—Important as the type of quarters built for nurses as a result of the Nurses Award 1921.

Edith Cavell Block, Royal Brisbane Hospital—Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane—Important as the type of quarters built for nurses as a result of the Nurses Award 1921.

Staff Quarters (former Nurses' Quarters), Barcaldine Hospital—Oak Street, Barcaldine—Important for its association with nursing in central west Queensland.

Staff Quarters (former Nurses' Quarters), Babinda Hospital—126-130 Munro Street, Babinda—Important for its association with nursing in north Queensland.

Staff Quarters (former Nurses' Quarters), Bundaberg Hospital—Bourbong Street, Bundaberg—Important as the type of quarters built for nurses as a result of the Nurses Award 1921.

Freshney House Toowoomba, Toowoomba General Hospital—Pechey Street, Toowoomba—Important as the type of quarters built for nurses in the early twentieth century.

(1) Blood Bank (former Nurses' Quarters), Rockhampton Hospital and (2) RMO Club, Rockhampton Hospital—Canning Street, Rockhampton—(1) Important as an unusual example of quarters built for night nurses. (2) Important as an unusual example of a building constructed as sisters' quarters.

Maternity Wing, Aramac Hospital—Lodge Street, Aramac—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Director of Nursing Residence, (former maternity ward), Isisford Hospital—St Agnes Street, Isisford—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Former Maternity block, Ingham Hospital—McIlwraith Street, Ingham—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Community Services Building, (former maternity ward), Mundubbera Hospital—Leichhardt Street, Mundubbera—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Former maternity ward, Gin Gin Hospital—Elliott Street, Gin Gin—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Millaa Millaa Community Health Centre (former Millaa Millaa Maternity Hospital)—Palm Avenue, Millaa Millaa—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Main Block Royal Women's Hospital—Bowen Bridge Road, Herston—The largest and most prominent building constructed as a result of the Maternity Act 1922, designed to improve facilities for mothers and babies in the state.

940. Mr G. Maskill; Gang Killings

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the murder of Gavin Maskill in my electorate on the night of 22 August, as this homicide bears all the marks of a Chicago-style gang killing and as it is a phenomenon that is becoming all too common—

What special efforts are being implemented by the police to take community and preventive measures to deal with this phenomenon?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97): The murder of Gavin Maskill is currently under full investigation by Logan Detectives with the assistance of the Homicide Squad, State Crime Operations Command. To say that this incident has the hallmarks of a Chicago-style gang killing is very presumptuous at this stage of the investigation.

Since 1993 there have been three murders which may be loosely interpreted as being gang oriented in that each incident involved members of motor cycle gangs. It is not considered that these types of murders are a prevalent or common phenomenon in the Logan Police District. The majority of murders being committed in the Logan Police District would be considered as being crimes of passion and assaults on persons where excessive force has caused the unlawful killing of a person.

Police in Logan are working with the community by providing education and public awareness with regard to personal safety. Crime Prevention initiatives are of great assistance in this regard. The Queensland Police Service is committed to and heavily involved in the Government's Firearm Buyback scheme in an endeavour to reduce the number of illegal firearms within the community which should make the commission of this type of crime more difficult.

Safety issues are also addressed through the Local Media outlets, Neighbourhood Watch meetings, Community Consultative meetings and other public forums.

The Logan District Intelligence Office collates information concerning criminal activity within the District and is in a position to offer advice on any perceived threat.

941. Rural and Regional Airports

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

- (1) When does he expect to receive a report on the state of the infrastructure at Queensland's rural and regional airports?
- (2) Will any State Government monies be expended upgrading rural and regional airports in 1997-98; if so, will he provide details?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

- (1) A major infrastructure review of airports was carried out last year for the Queensland Commission of Audit. This review recommended an evaluation of the ownership of all airports in the context of a State wide aviation infrastructure and services plan. Queensland Transport is due to release a discussion paper this week towards the Queensland Aviation Infrastructure and Services Plan (QAISP). This plan will provide the overarching policy and planning framework for Queensland government responsibilities with regard to the provision of aviation infrastructure and services for the next 10 to 15 years. QAISP should be developed by the end of 1997.

(2) As part of its accelerated capital works program, the Queensland government approved expenditure for the following:

Longreach—\$600,000

Windorah—\$200,000 (completed in June 1997)

Bedourie—\$200,000 (completed in June 1997)

In 1997/98, a further \$800,000 will be spent by the State government (\$600,000 by Queensland Transport) on an upgrade of the Cloncurry airstrip. Over \$1.3 million will be expended in 1997/98 on aviation facilities in the Torres Strait at Darnley Island and Yorke Island, plus \$400,000 for maintenance at other airstrips in the outer islands.

942. Proposed Bruce Highway/Kerr Road Interchange

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to a public meeting held in Kallangur during the week ending 23 August seeking the opinion of residents regarding the proposed Bruce Highway/Kerr Road Interchange, at which the majority of people in attendance voted overwhelmingly not to support such a proposal—

Will he give an undertaking to the residents of Kallangur that the Department of Transport and Main Roads will reconsider the proposed interchange?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): At Mango Hill, Lend Lease has plans for the development of a community of some 25,000 people and also incorporating a large retail and employment centre. The Government has agreed to the construction of a new interchange on the Bruce Highway in the vicinity of Kerr Road, at the developers cost.

The approval for the interchange, however, is subject to certain conditions being met by the developer. The Government will continue to ensure that appropriate levels of public consultation are undertaken to ensure all issues are properly managed.

943. Construction of Prisons

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to fulfil the pre-election guarantee 'that the Coalition will not be constructing any prison buildings closer to our suburbs than currently exist' and to resite SEQ1 and SEQW approximately two kilometres from residents' homes—

- (1) What was the cost of plan preparation, site preparation, drainage works, etc. on the original site chosen by the Coalition Government for the two prisons?
- (2) What was the total amount budgeted for the two prisons to be constructed on the original site?
- (3) What is the total amount budgeted for the two prisons to be constructed on the new site?

(4) Is the land on which the prisons are now to be constructed presently owned by the Health Department?

(5) What is the purchase price of the land?

(6) What additional costs are associated with the resiting of the prison facilities?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) The cost of plan preparation and sewer diversion work on the QCSC owned prison site for the two prisons was \$2,351,785. Any future development constructed on this land would require the sewer diversion work. This figure includes \$499,000 for the sewer diversion work. The remaining sum is the cost of the Stage I and Stage II tender process and is a tendered management fee cost that would apply regardless of the changed site.

(2) Prior to going to the construction industry an initial project budget of \$81.5 M was set in 1996. The total amount budgeted for the two prisons to be constructed on the original site, which was set after advice was received from the construction industry, was \$107.68 M.

(3) The total amount budgeted for the two prisons to be constructed on the new site is \$107.68 M.

(4) The land on which the prisons are now to be constructed is presently under the control of Queensland Health.

(5) A purchase price has yet to be determined.

(6) Additional costs associated with the resiting of the prison facilities are those costs associated with industry related rise and fall costs, some re-documentation costs, some earthworks costs and some costs associated with services to the new site. These total costs have been absorbed into the original project budget and have had a nil impact on the budget which remains at \$107.68M.

944. Environmental Code of Practice for Agriculture

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (26/8/97)—

With reference to a Code of Practice for Agriculture—

- (1) At what stage of preparation is this code?
- (2) When will it be finalised?
- (3) What legal standing will it have and will it be enforceable?
- (4) If it is not legally enforceable by the Department of Environment, what subordinate legislation will apply to farmers under the Environmental Protection Act and when will this come into force?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

(1) The Environmental Code of Practice for Agriculture (the Code) has been drafted by the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF), in conjunction with its commodity specific industry groups. The QFF has submitted the Code for approval under section 219 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act).

(2) As Minister I may approve the Code when satisfied that the Code meets the requirements under section 219 of the EP Act.

In addition to finalisation of the Code, the QFF has agreed that the commodity specific groups should prepare separate Codes for ratification under the EP Act. The QFF has also agreed that the Code should be reviewed after a period of two years.

(3) Section 219 of the EP Act states that the Minister may, by written notice, approve codes of practice stating ways of achieving compliance with the general environmental duty for any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm. The notice is subordinate legislation.

The Code provides a defence to a charge of unlawfully causing environmental harm if the defendant proves (amongst other matters) compliance with the Code.

(4) The Environmental Protection Act 1994 has applied to all Queenslanders (including farmers) from 1 March 1995. Subordinate legislation including regulations and the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy which commenced on 1 July 1997, also applies.

945. Used Motor Vehicles, Odometer Readings

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

When second-hand vehicles are registered with his departments, what checks are carried out within his departments when vehicles are sold to ascertain whether the kilometres shown on the forms are more or less than originally stated in order to prevent wind-backs of odometers; if nothing, what measures will he put in place to protect consumers against fraudulent wind-backs?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): Queensland Transport has been recording the odometer reading of motor vehicles on application for registration and transfer of registration since 1992. This information is mainly obtained from the Roadworthiness Certificate and is used to assist investigations into reported cases of possible wind-backs of odometers.

Legislation is already in place under the Auctioneers and Agents Act which outlaws the practice of winding back odometers. If any consumer has a complaint regarding the winding back of odometers, then they should contact the Office of Consumer Affairs to have the matter investigated. Queensland Transport assists the Office of Consumer Affairs by providing vehicle particulars and information such as odometer readings from the department's vehicle registration database.

I would encourage, as does my department, prospective purchasers of used vehicles to obtain independent advice about the vehicle before they purchase. While a Roadworthiness Certificate can attest that the vehicle meets basic safety requirements, an independent check by a qualified mechanic can assess the overall condition of the vehicle and provide advice on whether or not the odometer matches the vehicle's general condition.

Queensland Transport is also looking at providing the motoring public and motor vehicle industry with greater access to details of registered vehicles, including the odometer reading, within the next 12 months. For example, the department is looking at using the Internet for this purpose. With appropriate safeguards, easy access to this type of information would be of benefit to buyers of used vehicles.

946. Speed Cameras

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to media reports that eight speed cameras are raising \$1.2m per week in fines, with police unable to keep up with the paperwork, and as thirty speed cameras will be available by the end of the year and those thirty speed cameras will be capable of raising \$4.5m per week—

- (1) How does this increased revenue relate to the budget prediction of just over \$90m for all fines and forfeitures?
- (2) Doesn't this demonstrate that the Police Service is being used as a major revenue raiser to such a degree that they can't keep up with the paperwork?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) It was originally estimated that revenue from speed camera fines for their first year of operation would be in the vicinity of \$30 million. However, speed camera detection rates are considerably lower than was first expected. The following is a break down of results for the 3 month period May to July:

Month: Tickets issued—Cameras in operation

May: 2,712—3

June: 5,904—3 cameras operating until 23/6 and then 8 cameras for the remainder of the month

July: 10,851—8

With fines averaging \$100 per infringement notice, the amount of revenue being generated by speed cameras is far less than the figure suggested by the media.

It must also be remembered that Section 44T.(1) of the Traffic Act 1949 deals with use of penalties collected for camera detected offences. It states:

44T.(1) All money collected for penalties imposed for camera detected offences in excess of the administrative costs of collection must be used for the following purposes—

- (a) road safety education and awareness programs;
- (b) road accident injury rehabilitation programs; and
- (c) road funding to improve the safety of the section of State controlled roads where accidents most frequently happen.

(2) No. Queensland Transport has undertaken a media campaign widely promoting the presence of speed cameras which included an education and awareness program. The Government also, at the

commencement of the program, approved of a moratorium where advertising and publicity was heavily relied upon to inform motorists of the introduction of speed cameras. Consequently the detection rate has dropped from 10% in April to 2.44% at present. The Queensland Government has been successful in changing the attitude of motorists towards speeding and with continued publicity and education it is proposed to further reduce casualty accidents. The Queensland Police Service, in conjunction with Redflex Pty Ltd, a Melbourne company, is currently developing a new computer processing system which will expedite the operations of the Traffic Camera Office.

947. Youth Suicide, Wide Bay Region

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (26/8/97)—

With reference to the above average rate of youth suicide in Wide Bay, which is 30 percent higher than the State average, and in view of his statements to form Community Support Networks—

- (1) Will he make it a priority for Bundaberg to significantly increase funding (a) for adolescent and youth mental health services that are virtually non-existent in the Bundaberg district, (b) for alcohol and drug services for adolescents which is currently understaffed and (c) referral services and skilled counsellors for youth?
- (2) Will he make urgent representations to the Family Services Minister to provide further funding for greater youth crisis and supported housing options programs and counselling for children suffering physical and sexual abuse which is seriously underfunded?
- (3) Will he make urgent representations to the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations to provide priority training for Bundaberg, which has a youth unemployment level of double the State average, so that a real effort is being made by the Government to reduce youth suicide in our region?

Mr Horan (24/9/97):

(1) I thank the Member for Bundaberg for drawing my attention to the obvious fact that youth suicide cannot be tackled as a problem in isolation. The Coalition Government has produced a comprehensive State Strategic Plan and a Youth Affairs statement as well as a Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. Each document knits with the others to provide a comprehensive response to the expectations and major concerns of the citizens of Queensland.

Youth Suicide is but the tip of the iceberg of what has been termed "the wider malaise affecting today's youth". The Strategy is designed to stem the rising rate of suicide, attempted suicide, and serious self-harming behaviour among teenagers and young adults.

(2) The Coalition Governments Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy's focus is on a holistic response to the causes and effects of the problem.

Various youth support programs and projects have already been launched by government agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs).

The Statement on Youth Affairs makes it clear that valuing youth, employing youth, supporting them in their health and well being, and involving them in community life are key issues for Queenslanders.

(3) Refer to (2) above.

948. Highway Upgrade, Cloncurry-Mount Isa

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to the increase in heavy transport vehicles from Cloncurry to Mount Isa—

- (1) What plans does he have to improve the highway?
- (2) What action, if any, does he propose to take to ensure that the Federal Government makes its fair contribution, as previously promised?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) Work is currently under way to upgrade a 13.2 kilometre section of the Barkly Highway between Cloncurry and Mt Isa east of the Corella River to provide a sealed 9 metre formation, including provision of two overtaking lanes. The estimated final cost of the project is \$6.1 million and is anticipated to be completed in early 1998.

In terms of addressing the remaining narrow bitumen sections on this road and provision of additional passing lane opportunities, Main Roads is seeking a firm funding commitment in future years from the Federal Government for works to be accelerated to allow as-of-right use by Type 2 road trains earlier than otherwise would be possible within current road funding constraints.

(2) As the Barkly Highway is a National Highway, the full cost of upgrade works would be met by the Federal Government. As indicated above, action is being taken to obtain Federal agreement to accelerate funding so that required works can be undertaken as soon as possible.

949. School Grants

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (26/8/97)—

- (1) Will he provide a detailed list of funds which are provided to schools via school grants and the formulae which are used for each element?
- (2) What additional financial responsibilities have been devolved to schools over the period 1990s-1997?
- (3) How will the school grant formulae which apply to leading schools differ from those which apply to other schools?
- (4) Will the additional amounts of funding made available to pilot leading schools be available to other schools as they become leading schools?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1) Funds provided via school grants are as follows:

General component
 Resource Centre Maintenance component
 Grounds Care component
 Swimming Pools—Chemicals and Cleaning components
 Tractor/ride-on Replacement component
 Learning support staff grants
 School Improvement Assistance Scheme grants
 Administrative Assistance Enhancement Program

The formulas used to calculate the above grant components are detailed in the Resource Allocation Queensland State Schools booklet. This booklet has been updated and distributed to State Schools for the last four years.

(2) The School Grant was introduced in 1989 replacing a number of individual grants and allocations and increasing the flexibility of schools to direct funds towards local needs.

The total government allocation to all the grants and allowances included in the School grant in the year prior to its introduction was some \$20 million. Since that time there have been significant changes to the levels of funds provided. There have also been changes in the scope of the grant.

The most significant changes in the scope of the School Grant include:

schools have assumed responsibility for professional development, carpet cleaning, pest control, piano tuning, filling and rental of gas cylinders, registration of tractors, replacement of janitor/groundspersons equipment, secondary consumables, payment of travel related to banking and mailing, washing towels

Sun Smart funding, tractor/ride-on mower replacement funding, school based routine works and school improvement assistance scheme funding has been devolved to schools.

Pilot Leading Schools have received teacher relief scheme funding and a facilities grant for routine maintenance and minor works.

(3) Leading Schools will continue to receive the normal range of recurrent grants to which they are entitled.

(4) All future Leading Schools will receive the same level of grant funding as the pilot schools.

950. Primary Industries Department, Scientists and Extension Staff

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (26/8/97)—

With reference to the number of scientists and extension officers employed in his department—

How many of each of these employees were employed in (a) 1989-90, (b) 1990s-91, (c) 1991-92, (d) 1992-93, (e) 1993-94, (f) 1994-95, (g) 1995-96, (h) 1996-97 and (i) 1997-98?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. Before giving detail on the number of staff employed it is necessary to explain what these figures represent. The Honourable Member has asked for numbers of scientists and extension staff. This requires some definition, for example scientific support staff, experimentalists, laboratory technicians and scientists in managerial positions may or may not be included. Detail on numbers for any group is usually collated from position titles as stored on the staff data base. This can also create problems when the position title does not fully reflect the actual nature of the work involved as per a broad definition.

2. In addition to this there is the impact of major organisational restructuring. This commenced with the merging of the old DPI, Water Resources and Forestry to form the new DPI in 1990s, continued with significant internal restructuring, the absorption and subsequent loss of the Office of Racing and ended with the transfer of 1800 staff to establish the Department of Natural Resources in 1996. Because of this a simple year to year comparison can be very misleading.

3. The question also required that staff be grouped as scientists and extension staff. This assumes that there is a distinct divide between the two. In many cases this distinction is blurred, with scientists involved in extension and extension staff involved in research. In many projects research and extension components are completely integrated.

4. In view of this some judgments need to be made about who and what should be counted. In order to give a proper reflection of the number of scientists and extension staff employed by the department I have concentrated on what I would term core scientific and extension positions servicing primary industries as per position titles. This excludes Forestry staff, Water Resources staff, other functions that were eventually transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, regulatory staff, management staff, and scientific and technical support staff. This has been done in order to eliminate the fluctuations in staffing levels that have been caused by the factors I have previously mentioned and allows some degree of comparison over the period in question.

5. These details are:

Year	Scientist	Extension	Total
1989-90	498	155	653
1990s-91	471	147	618
1991-92	526	155	681
1992-93	510	141	651
1993-94	487	113	600
1994-95	461	108	569
1995-96	445	124	569
Current	551	200	751

951. WorkCover

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/97)—

With reference to master-servant personal injuries claims and their administration by WorkCover—

- (1) Is it true that in all cases (with the exception of motor vehicle accidents, the excess period and certain employer misconduct) WorkCover Queensland is responsible for payment of the entirety of any personal injuries award to an injured employee?
- (2) As such, to what extent does WorkCover seek instructions from the insured employer in the course of particular common law proceedings?
- (3) Does the policy with respect to seeking instructions from insured employers vary between different employers or are all afforded the same level of input?
- (4) Is it the case that if there is any conflict between the wishes of an insured employer and the advice that WorkCover Queensland receives from its retained solicitors and barristers for a particular claim, that it will adopt the views expressed by the insured employer?
- (5) Are there any occasions where offers of settlement made by an injured plaintiff have been recommended for acceptance by the solicitors and barristers engaged by WorkCover Queensland but have been subsequently rejected by WorkCover Queensland after the insured employer has expressed a contrary view?
- (6) On how many occasions referred to in question (5) above (where WorkCover has rejected its lawyers advice) has a court judgment subsequently been delivered for an amount greater than offered by the plaintiff by way of settlement and how much is the total of such excess?

Mr Santoro (25/9/97):

- (1) No. Where WorkCover is joined in a common law action, recovery of amounts from another responsible party or parties is sought by WorkCover.
- (2) WorkCover does not take instructions from employers.
- (3) WorkCover does not take instructions from employers.
- (4) No. WorkCover will consider employer input regarding the case, however, the final decision on a common law proceeding remains with WorkCover.
- (5) No. WorkCover's decision on negotiation offers is not made on the basis of the employer's views.
- (6) This information is not readily available.

(N.B. Original Question on Notice No. 951 was ruled out of order by the Speaker on 27 August 1997, p. 3277. Mr Lucas was subsequently given permission to submit an amended question on notice No. 951.)

952. High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed HOV transit lanes on the South East Freeway and major concerns being shown by the Logan City Council in regard to management of these laws—

- (1) Where will the HOV lanes be located—on the shoulder side of the carriageway or the median side?
- (2) Will he consider running the HOV lanes into the city, as all research shows that running HOV lanes into congested general purpose lanes does not work and the HOV lane will fail?
- (3) Will he confirm what number of passengers HOV lane vehicles will be allowed to carry, as this will be critical to the success of the HOV lanes as studies have shown?
- (4) As policing abuse of the HOV lanes by non-eligible drivers will be critical to the success of HOV lanes, will he inform the House how that will be done?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

- (1) The high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, now referred to as transit lanes, will be located on the median side of the carriageways, but will be separated from the median by a three (3) metre wide shoulder.
- (2) The South East Transit Project will provide transit lanes that extend from Loganholme to Upper Mt Gravatt. There is no current proposal to extend the transit lanes into the city. The main focus will be on the busway and bus services for commuters to the CBD.
- (3) To use the transit lanes vehicles will be required to have three or more people in the vehicle.
- (4) Enforcement and policing of transit lanes will be done by the most efficient means available. Initially it is likely to be done by police stationed in the enforcement bays which will be located at intervals along the corridor. The strategy will have an appropriate emphasis on random enforcement to support compliance by transit lane users. Police will observe vehicle occupancy and non-eligible drivers will be fined by mail. In the longer term the enforcement process may be done by remote detection means, if appropriate technology emerges.

There will also be a community education program developed to assist the motoring public in the use and management of transit lanes, as well as the busway, prior to operation. Based on experience with transit lanes in Brisbane and overseas, we believe an appropriate mix of education and random enforcement will achieve a very high compliance rate by motorists using the corridor.

953. Police Staffing Model

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the issue of police staffing and his comments in the Parliament on 30 April, where he said "The member opposite has got his mitts on some new staffing model which is free for anyone to have a look at and which maps out where the service is going to allocate the additional police manpower"—

- (1) In light of his comments, will he provide a copy of the current police staffing model showing model, allocated and actual police numbers for

every police station, district and region, as well as any additional information available such as target numbers for coming months?

- (2) Will he provide the information in the same format as the document to which he refers in his above comments?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) A copy of the current Regional Allocation Model at 1 September 1997 is attached. The Regional Allocation Model sets out the initial model staffing distribution (column E). This distribution is then subject to adjustment (within the overall number of positions available) by Region and District management to reflect local priorities and needs as identified by them (column F). This adjustment to the model distribution becomes the "authorised strength" (Column G). The actual strength is indicated in column H.

The current model distributes some 5453 positions of which 61 are civilian support officer positions (communications room operators).

The funded police strength of the Service for the 1997/98 financial year will be increased by 252 police officers.

The number of additional police positions to be allocated to each Region/District for the 1997/98 financial year has yet to be determined by the Commissioner of Police. [The distribution of positions to regions takes into account (amongst other factors) population statistics for the State. These statistics are provided by the Government Statistician. Advice received is that updated population statistics will not become available until late November.]

The number of unsworn (civilian) positions will increase by 200 positions during the 1997/98 financial year. (Civilianisation—communication Rooms x 68, other civilianisation x 83, and general growth x 49). The creation and filling of the 151 civilianisation positions will enable the release of 151 police officers to perform direct service operational duties.

- (2) Yes.

954. Roadworks, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to the construction of an underpass at the Pappas Way intersection and an overpass at the Nerang-Broadbeach Road intersection on the Pacific Highway at Nerang—

Will he provide details on progress of both these projects, including estimated dates of completion?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): The upgrading of the Pacific Highway through Nerang is being built as two distinct projects.

Gold Coast City Council is project managing the construction of the Pappas Way underpass and associated roadworks to allow removal of traffic signals at Pappas Way. Work has already commenced on site and it is expected to be completed by March 1998.

The Pacific Motorway project team recently completed detailed design for the Nerang River to Pappas Way section including replacement of the traffic signals at the Nerang-Broadbeach Road and Grenfell Street. Tenders were invited for the works on 3 September 1997. Main Roads expects to award a tender for the works in November 1997, with the section opened to traffic by Christmas 1998 and completed by March 1999.

The contract provides for substantial monetary incentives for early completion of the works; likewise the contract contains substantial penalties to discourage late completion.

955. National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (26/8/97)—

With reference to her election promise to support the National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts (NIIPA) in Queensland and to her failure to honour that promise—

- (1) What steps has she taken in recent months to support the establishment of NIIPA in Queensland?
- (2) Will she publicly condemn the Federal Government for its disgraceful withdrawal of support for NIIPA?

Mrs Sheldon (25/9/97):

(1) Over the past nine months, discussions have been held with key stakeholders regarding the establishment of a dedicated Aboriginal Performing Arts training institution in Queensland. The State Government has recently approved funds to undertake further planning of this significant cultural project.

(2) The Aboriginal Community has remained vocal about the need for such an institution in Queensland since funding for the National Institute for Indigenous Performing Arts (NIIPA), proposed in Brisbane, was withdrawn by the Federal Government and the National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) was relocated within Sydney.

956. Indian Myna

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Environment (26/8/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that Indian Mynas are rapidly colonising the southern suburbs of Brisbane, with colonies of up to one hundred birds occupying individual trees?
- (2) Is he aware that these birds are aggressively displacing many native species from their natural breeding sites and are annoying many residents with the noise they create, so much so that I have heard suggestions that approaches should be made to the Member for Oxley for action?
- (3) Will he consider this matter to see if any action is available to him?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97):

(1) I am aware that the Indian Myna has been introduced into Australia and is now spread widely along Australia's east coast. It is now found in large numbers in the vicinity of Melbourne, Cairns to Townsville, southeast Queensland, and central coastal New South Wales.

(2) It is possible that the Indian Myna is having adverse impacts on native species and I am aware that many members of the community are concerned about its introduction.

(3) The problem of eradicating this species has been assessed in other states where the species has established in the wild. I am advised that in practice it would be impossible to eradicate such a widely spread species with such obvious reproductive capacities and ability to spread into new areas.

957. Police Resources, Deception Bay

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

- (1) How many police officers are appointed to the Deception Bay Police Station?
- (2) What is the police/population ratio in Deception Bay?
- (3) What is the current police/population ratio in Queensland generally?

Mr Cooper (25/9/97):

(1) The authorised strength of the Deception Bay Police Station at 1/9/97 was 19 police officers. Currently there is the full complement of 19 uniform officers at Deception Bay, plus 4 JAB and 5 CIB officers stationed at the Deception Bay Police Station—giving a total of 28 police.

(2) The general duties police/population ratio for Deception Bay Division is estimated to be approximately 1:1647. However this ratio is calculated on the basis of general duties officers only, giving an unreliable indicator of total policing services provided to the Deception Bay community as Deception Bay general duties police are supplemented by officers fulfilling district functions in Deception Bay.

That is, the general duties police strength at Deception Bay is augmented by the policing services and duties performed by officers attached to district functions—eg. District Traffic Branch, Juvenile Aid Branch and Criminal Investigations Branch. Officers attached to all district functions perform operational duties throughout the Redcliffe Police District which includes Deception Bay Police Division.

The police/population ratio for the Redcliffe Police District as at 30 June 1997 was 1:828.

This compares with a police to population ratio for the Redcliffe District inherited during the last full year of the previous Labor regime of 1:916 (at 30/6/95). This figure was brought back to 1:878 at 30/6/96 under the Coalition Government and subsequently to 1:828.

(3) The current total police/population ratio in Queensland is 1:524—which includes every sworn police officer in the State.

958. School Capital Works Projects, Ipswich

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Building Better Schools program in the following Ipswich schools (a) Blair State School, (b) Bremer State High School, (c) Bundamba State School, (d) Claremont State School, (e) Ipswich Central State School, (f) Ipswich East State School, (g) Ipswich Special School, (h) Ipswich West State School, (i) Ipswich West Special School, (j) Raceview State School and (k) Silkstone State School—

- (1) What has been the cost of works completed to date, and the description of those works?
- (2) What works are currently in progress, and the value of those works?
- (3) What works are to be undertaken, and the estimated cost of those works?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): (1), (2) & (3) Please refer to the attached table.

959. Illegal squatters on Government Land, Moreton Island

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to the "Squatters Camp" on former Federal Government owned lighthouse land on Moreton Island, which is about to be taken over by the State Government—

- (1) Will this area of land be declared national park?
- (2) Will he remove the illegal squatters?
- (3) Is he being lobbied by a prominent Liberal Party Solicitor to lease back the squatters' area for the benefit of the illegal squatters?
- (4) Will he honour the promise of the former Minister for the Environment to establish this area as a camping site for the benefit of all users of Moreton Island?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

(1) Yes, with a small area possibly declared as conservation park to facilitate development of appropriate camping and day-use facilities.

(2) and (3) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to a submission received from an association based in his electorate of Redcliffe. The association did make an application for lease and management rights over an area of land within the reserve taken over by the State Government. I advised that the application could not be supported for several reasons including the policy on unauthorised occupation of State land, provisions both of protected area legislation and of the

agreement between the Commonwealth and the State for handover of the land.

(4) The North Point area is regarded by the Department of Environment as a potential site for camping and day use facilities for the use of all visitors to Moreton Island. This option is being closely considered in the Department's planning for the transferred land.

960. Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Community Noticeboard section of the Courier-Mail, which recently carried a departmental notification that the Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme had ceased as of 8 August—

- (1) Why did he allow this very positive initiative in promoting alternative energy to lapse?
- (2) How many applications were received during the course of this scheme, and what was the total amount paid out by way of subsidy under the scheme?
- (3) What does he intend to replace the scheme with; if nothing, should we assume the Coalition Government has no interest in the promotion of alternative energy use for household purposes?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

	EstExp 97/98	Ant tender acceptance	Ant physical completion
Runcorn State High School			
Hearing Impaired Replacement Building	944,262	15/4/97	Nov 97
Sports Complex contribution	160,000	commence 16/2/96	Nov 97
Sunnybank Hills State School			
Relocatable Classroom Building (2 space)	94,198	7/7/97	Aug 97
Special Education Unit by Remodel & Glhb	505,226	18/7/97	Oct 97
Sunnybank State High School			
Replacement Manual Arts block	768,264	29/8/97	Dec 97
Warrigal Road State School		ant commence	
Modular Building by Transfer	80,000	1/9/97	Oct 97

962. Fish Habitat, Murray Darling System

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (27/8/97)—

With reference to a New South Wales Fisheries Department report which found that almost 50 per cent of the native fish species that should exist in the Murray Darling system could not presently be located—

- (1) As many of Queensland's freshwater rivers drain into this system, and these streams are upstream of where the New South Wales study was undertaken, could it be possible a similar situation exists in these waterways?
- (2) What studies has his department done in Queensland's inland waterways to determine their native fish diversity, distribution and abundance, and what were the results?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97):

(1) The current scheme introduced in 1996-97 provided \$1.8 million for subsidies to householders who purchased a solar hot water system. These funds have now been fully used.

(2) There were 7,972 rebates provided at a cost of \$3.3 million since the rebate scheme was first introduced in 1995-96.

(3) Whilst no specific scheme has been agreed to at this time, the Government is committed to increased energy efficiency and use of renewables and as part of its ongoing energy policy development, both in context of Queensland Greenhouse Strategy and the possible establishment of a renewable energy research and development fund, such specific initiatives will be seriously considered.

961. School Capital Works Projects, Sunnybank Electorate

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Education (27/8/97)—

What is the nature and cost of capital works projects at each school in the Sunnybank electorate for 1997-98, when will each of the projects commence, and when is it proposed they will be completed?

- (3) Is he aware that the once plentiful Murray cod and catfish have disappeared from the Murray Darling system covered by this report?
- (4) What parts of Queensland's inland waterways are off limits to anglers in an attempt to give these native fish species some form of sanctuary?
- (5) Does he believe Queensland's extensive network of inland national parks could provide such sanctuaries?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. I am aware of the results of the New South Wales Rivers Survey undertaken by the New South Wales Fisheries Department. The results of this survey have indicated that fish are in severe decline particularly in the Murray River region, which has no connection with Queensland rivers. The results also indicate that

the Darling region, which connects with Queensland rivers such as the Condamine, Balonne and Paroo Rivers, produced almost ten times as many native fishes.

Whilst there are areas of concern in the Queensland portion of the Darling River, in relation to habitat degradation and the presence of pest species such as carp, the situation is not the same as New South Wales. The abundance and diversity of native fishes is generally higher with some species such as the eel-tailed catfish being present in much higher numbers.

There is clearly an opportunity to learn from the mistakes made in other States and ensure the long-term sustainability of our native fish stocks in Queensland.

2. My Department has undertaken a number of surveys in inland waters to determine the abundance, distribution and diversity of native fishes. These have largely been project related including surveys of river systems related to proposed water infrastructure development. The only systematic survey of inland waters in Queensland was of the rivers and wetlands of the Cape York region undertaken as part of the Cape York Land Use Planning Study. The results of this survey indicated a high abundance of native fishes with several new species being recorded.

To date there have been no state-wide surveys similar to the New South Wales Rivers Survey undertaken in Queensland. In relation to the Murray Darling system I am aware that the Department of Natural Resources is currently undertaking systematic surveys of fish species, large invertebrates and habitat conditions in the Queensland portion of the Darling system. I would refer you to my colleague, the Honourable H W T Hobbs, MLA, Minister for Natural Resources for more information on the results of these surveys.

3. Yes I am aware that Murray Cod and eel-tailed catfish were not captured in the Murray region over the two year period of the New South Wales Rivers Survey. I am also aware that Murray Cod are still present, if not abundant, in Queensland and that eel-tailed catfish are relatively abundant in some sections of the Darling River system in Queensland. Officers from my Department are members of a team together with officers from New South Wales and Victoria, working at action required to ensure the long term sustainability of both eel-tailed catfish and silver perch, another species which has shown a dramatic decline in the Murray-Darling system. Clearly with populations of both these species occurring in Queensland we have a key role to play in the recovery process.

As part of the development of a Management Plan for Freshwater Fisheries, the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority is considering changes to size limits and bag limits for recreational angling for Murray Cod to better protect the species. It should be noted that unlike New South Wales there is no commercial fishing for this species in Queensland.

4. At present the main areas closed to fishing under the fisheries legislation in Queensland's inland waterways relate to areas upstream and downstream

of various dams and weirs where fish are known to congregate and hence are susceptible to angling pressure. There are currently nineteen of these and they are reviewed regularly. There are also three small sections of rivers, the Condamine River, the Severn River and the Barron River which are closed to fishing. In general, fishing closures have only been implemented where fish are particularly susceptible to fishing pressure as habitat degradation is considered to be a greater threat.

Fishing pressure can generally be controlled by the implementation of bag and size limits and seasonal fishing closures, e.g., for spawning if necessary.

5. There is a need to provide a system of protected areas across the State that encompass representative fish communities. Some National Parks could contribute to this protected area network. However it must be remembered that the issue is much larger than the provision of protected areas. There is a need to implement measures across the State to protect fish communities and their habitats. The Fisheries Group of my Department is actively working with other agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environment, and the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks across the State.

963. Children's Commission

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (27/8/97)—

With reference to the provisions of the Childrens Commissioner and Children Services Appeals Tribunals Act which provide for the establishment of an appeals tribunal and the appointment of official visitors to institutions and care providers—

- (1) What progress has been made on either of these initiatives?
- (2) When does he anticipate the finalisation of these initiatives?
- (3) How many staff are employed by the Children's Commission and at what levels are these staff employed?
- (4) How many, if any, positions are vacant in this Commission at the present time?

Mr Lingard (8/9/97):

(1 & 2) A panel of members has been appointed from which three person Appeals Tribunals will be selected to hear appeals of decisions under the Children's Services Act 1965, the Child Care Act 1991 and the Adoption of Children Act 1964. Guidelines for the appeals and review processes are being developed and the first appeal under the Act is being progressed.

The appointment of Official Visitors has not been progressed as yet but will be undertaken as soon as several imminent appointments are concluded.

(3 & 4) The Children's Commission has an approved establishment of 14 which includes the Children's Commissioner.

Establishment Position—Current Position

Executive Director (Appeals Review) SES2—Position Advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Short listing of applicants pending.

Director Corporate and Strategic Planning SO2—Appointment made.

Manager, Review Unit AO8—Position advertised. Applications closed 25/8/97. Short listing of applicants pending.

Senior Review Officer AO6—Position Vacant.

Review Officer AO4—Position Advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Interviews planned for week commencing 8/9/97. Temporary officer acting in position.

Manager, Research Unit AO8—Position advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Short listing of applications pending. Acting manager in place.

Senior Research Officer AO6—Temporary Officer acting in position.

Research Officer AO4—Casual officer acting in position two days per week.

Senior Appeals Officer AO6 —Position advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Short listing of applicants pending. Seconded officer in place.

Senior Policy and Legislation Officer —Position Vacant.

Executive Assistant AO4—Temporary officer in place.

Administration Officer AO3—Position advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Interviews planned for the week commencing 16/9/97. Temporary officer in place.

Administrative Officer AO2—Two casual officers job sharing in this position.

964. Air Quality in Brisbane

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to Brisbane's periodically appalling air quality—

- (1) Is he aware of growing emissions from various point sources in the inner city area; if so, what are the sources of these emissions?
- (2) What are the sources and nature of the emissions from (a) BP House, (b) National Australia Bank, George Street, (c) Police Headquarters and (d) Forbes House, respectively?
- (3) Does he consider these emissions acceptable in light of the growing residential population of the inner city?
- (4) Why has he failed to act on these concerns despite having his attention drawn to them by inner city residents as long ago as October 1996?

(5) What is the status of the long-promised South East Queensland regional air quality strategy?

(6) Why, despite repeated promises by him that the EPP for air would be issued "within a few weeks", does the Air EPP continue to languish in a black hole in his department?

(7) When will the air quality strategy and Air EPP be finally issued?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97): Firstly, it is irresponsible to say air quality is "periodically appalling". Occasionally the level of pollution is "medium" and on rare occasions "high", usually because of factors such as forest fires and the winter-time inversion effect.

(1) I am unaware of any increase in emissions from point sources in the inner city area.

(2) Large commercial buildings of the size and type of those named usually have internal environmental management systems which control heating and cooling and these will result in the emission of steam during cold weather. As well, they are usually equipped with standby power generation equipment. This equipment is used in the case of electricity supply failure and for periodic test running only.

(3) As the emissions from standby generators are either subject to limits set on the basis of preventing environmental harm or have a fuel burning capacity below the threshold limit for licensing, there would seem to be no basis for regarding them as unacceptable.

(4) The Department of Environment has not recorded any complaints from residents of the inner city about emissions from the named or other city buildings in recent times.

(5) The South East Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy (SEQRAQS) is being developed in consultation with all stakeholders. An issues and options paper has been released prior to preparation of a draft strategy. The Honourable Member would be welcome to make a response along with other Members, departments, local authorities, landholders, industry, interested groups and members of the public generally.

(6) The EPP for Air is in the process of finalisation and submission to Cabinet for approval, following an extensive period of consultation with key stakeholders—much more consultation than undertaken by the Goss Government which began this policy.

(7) The issuing of both the Regional Air Quality Strategy and the EPP for Air depend on a decision of the Government.

965. Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Riversdale-Murray Valley Water Management Scheme and the wholesale clearing of lowland forest habitat and flood plains around Euramo, south of Tully—

- (1) Have mapping projects shown that only 25 per cent of this area's natural vegetation remains intact; if not, what amount of natural vegetation does remain?
- (2) What environmental impact assessment of this scheme has been undertaken and what impacts have been identified?
- (3) Will these impacts include a heightened risk of pesticide and nutrient run-off, erosion and siltation of river estuaries?
- (4) Is he aware of a study revealing the presence of potential acid sulphate soils up to 20 kilometres inland; if so, what will be the impacts of the leaching of acid sulphate soils on fish habitat and populations when soil substrates are disturbed by drainage earthworks?
- (5) What consultations have been held with commercial and recreational fishing organisations in relation to these impacts and what are the attitudes of such organisations?
- (6) Did any environmental impact assessment include an economic cost benefit analysis; if so, did the cost benefit analysis include an assessment of downstream impacts?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

(1) Information related to vegetation mapping associated with natural habitat preservation can be most comprehensively accessed through the Department of Environment.

However, a total of 70% of the Tully Murray catchment is in its natural state, and protected by the declaration of a World Heritage Area.

(2/3) A draft Impact Assessment Statement (IAS) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been completed for the scheme.

Ongoing issues primarily relate to the demonstration of environmental sustainability of cane land expansion and the means to ensure protection of key conservation/environmental values of areas affected by the scheme.

The following impacts have been identified

- (i) the extent and pattern of development of new cane land on remaining natural vegetation and habitat;
- (ii) exports from the catchment e.g. sediment, nutrient, herbicides, on downstream ecosystems: and
- (iii) economic impacts of cane land development on other values associated with the floodplain, such as recreational and commercial fishing and tourism.

Issues relating to the draft IAS and EMP are currently being addressed in a supplementary report to the IAS and EMP. Advisory bodies will provide comment on the supplementary report when it is completed.

(4) Areas of potential acid sulfate soils have been identified as part of the Impact Assessment Statement (IAS), and addressed as part of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The impacts on fish habitat will be addressed in the supplementary report to the IAS and EMP.

Areas of potential acid sulfate soils within the scheme will be subject to detailed testing to determine the potential problem, before any scheme works are carried out. Where possible, scheme works will be relocated to avoid problems. Any scheme works which cannot be relocated will be subject to the requirements of the Environmental Management Plan. The ongoing monitoring program will identify any future problems which may arise. Furthermore, any remedial action required will be undertaken as part of the requirements of the Environmental Management Plan

(5) Consultations have been held at a local and regional level with a range of organisations. Subsequent to these consultations it has recently been agreed by the relevant interest groups that the Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme should go ahead providing the concerns of the fishing organisations and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority were adequately addressed in the supplementary report.

(6) An economic cost benefit analysis was carried out as part of the Impact Assessment Statement. This is currently being reviewed to include downstream effects.

966. Maryborough Regional Office of Education

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Education (27/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed splitting of the Maryborough Regional Office of Education—

- (1) What is the cost to the taxpayer going to be to set up another office of education?
- (2) If that office is to be at Hervey Bay, what will be the extra costs incurred by the taxpayers for the additional fuel and travel expenses?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1) The establishment and fitout costs of all district offices will not be a cost to the taxpayer but will be met from the sale of assets across the State which are surplus to requirements. Even after all district office establishment costs have been met, it is anticipated that there will be a substantial surplus from asset sales.

(2) There will not be a District Office of Education Queensland in Hervey Bay.

967. Expo 2002 Site, Coomera; Mr F. Maybury

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (27/8/97)—

With reference to plans to stage an Expo in 2002 in the Coomera area—

- (1) Does a Mr Fred Maybury, or a company with which he is associated, own land either on or adjacent to the proposed Expo site; if so, (a) what area of land is involved, (b) what is its real property description and (c) when did Mr Maybury or his company acquire this land?
- (2) Is this the same Fred Maybury who was a leading light with the Queensland Events Corporation and the Indy Grand Prix under the National Party Government in the late 1980s,

and is presently in charge of the Dreamworld Theme Park situated close to the proposed Expo site?

- (3) Is he satisfied that Mr Maybury's land dealings in this area are above board and he is in no way benefiting from "inside knowledge" to profit personally from post Expo development of this site?

Mr Borbidge (26/9/97):

(1) Dreamworld Pty Ltd, a company of which Mr Fred Maybury is a Director and the Chief Executive Officer, owns land immediately to the south of the proposed Expo 2002 site.

- (a) The area of the land is approximately 89.3ha.
 (b) The real property description of the land is:
 Lot 4 on RP 816959
 Lots 2 and 3 on RP 138841
 Lots 1 and 2 on RP 186505
 Lot 12 on RP 864318
 Lot 1 on RP 816960
 Lot 1 on RP 816958
 Lot 3 on RP 816959

all of the Parish of Coomera, County of Ward.

- (c) Dreamworld Pty Ltd, formerly known as Janola Dale Pty Ltd, purchased the land from Dreamworld Productions Pty Ltd (Receivers and Managers Appointed) by Contract of Sale dated 13 November 1995 and took possession of the land on 15 January 1996. The formal transfer was registered in the Land Registry on 11 April 1996.
- (2) Mr Fred Maybury was a Director of the Queensland Events Corporation from February 1989 to April 1990s and the General Manager of the Gold Coast Motor Events Company, trading as Gold Coast Indy Car Grand Prix, from June 1990s to December 1990s.
- (3) Yes.

968. ARCO Coal; Stanwell Power Station

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (27/8/97)—

With reference to Stanwell Power Station coal which demands are currently met through contractual arrangements with Arco Coal's Curragh Mine, and as Arco Coal has signalled its intent to remove itself as a coal producer from all Arco operated coal mines in Queensland by the end of 1997—

What mining company is being considered as the alternative supplier of coal to Stanwell Power Station and is it true that AUSTA Electric is negotiating with Arco Coal for a coal mine power station joint venture?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97): Curragh coal mine is currently contracted to supply approximately 3 million tonnes of coal per annum to Stanwell Corporation Limited (SCL). Some 2 million tonnes of this is delivered to Stanwell Power Station and the remainder is on-sold to Gladstone Power Station.

This in effect provides for approximately 50% of Stanwell's coal requirements.

ARCO Australia have advised SCL that Curragh mine is not among the assets they are currently considering for disposal.

SCL is not negotiating with ARCO to joint venture Curragh coal mine and Stanwell Power Station.

969. National Competition Policy, Federal Payments to Queensland

Mr ARDILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (27/8/97)—

What are the total funds which will be paid to Queensland by the Federal Government in 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 solely as a direct result of the National Competition Agreement with Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon (26/9/97): Queensland expects to receive National Competition Policy Payments of \$39M, \$41M and \$84M in 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-00 respectively. Because the actual payments are determined on the basis of movements in the Consumer Price Index, the final receipts may vary from the current estimates.

970. Refundable Deposit System on Bottles and Cans

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Gold Coast Bulletin report on 18 July that the annual conference of the State National Party endorsed a policy to introduce a refundable deposit system on bottles and cans—

- (1) When will this system be introduced?
- (2) What will be the amount of the levy?
- (3) Will it apply equally to both recyclable and non-recyclable containers?
- (4) Will the system be based on the South Australian model or some other model?
- (5) How would the levy be enforced in the light of the recent High Court decision striking down State franchise fees?
- (6) Does the Government intend to waste the same amount of taxpayers' funds promoting this new scheme as it wasted on promoting the oil and tyre taxes?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): As far as I am aware, the government has no plan to introduce such a scheme.

971. Land Valuations; Commercial Tenants

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/97)—

With reference to land valuations and the rights of commercial tenants, many of whom are small business people struggling to meet ends in today's economic environment—

- (1) How many (or what proportion of) commercially and industrially zoned properties in Queensland

- are not actually occupied by the landlord (i.e. they are leased to a tenant)?
- (2) Does he acknowledge that in almost all leases of commercial property, the terms of the lease make the tenant responsible for payment of local authority rates assessed against the property in question?
 - (3) Given the local authorities use the unimproved land valuation as the basis for calculating their rates, does he acknowledge that tenants have a legitimate commercial interest in decisions made about the unimproved valuation of the property which they are renting?
 - (4) Will he undertake to amend the Valuation of Land Act to (a) require notification of valuations to be forwarded to tenants of commercial properties and (b) allow tenants of commercial properties the right to object to the proposed valuation?

Mr Hobbs (10/9/97):

- (1) While leases on individual titles may be registered in the Land Registry freehold lease registration is not compulsory. There is no search facility to allow statistics to be calculated for leases over commercial and industrial zoned lands.
- (2) The leasing agreement between landlords and tenants is a private commercial arrangement. Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 the owner is liable to pay the rates levied by a local government.
- (3) The quantum of rates would be one of many outgoing considerations in the private commercial arrangements between a landlord and a tenant. However, as previously mentioned the owner of the land is ultimately responsible for the payment of rates.
- (4) No. Only registered owners receive valuation notices and can object to a valuation because it is the registered owner who is responsible under statute for the payment of rates. Lessees are already able to obtain valuation details by searching the valuation roll.

972. Sale of Access and Camping Permits by Barge Operators, Fraser Island

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to allow Fraser Island barge operators to sell access and camping permits to visitors to the island—

- (1) What prompted this decision, and what contact did he or his office staff have with the barge operators Syd Melsham and Angela Burger in relation to this decision?
- (2) As these people are being paid a 15 per cent commission for selling these permits when the shop at River Heads is only receiving 10 per cent commission, is he aware of the disastrous financial effect this decision will have on this River Heads small business, and what consultation has occurred with this company?

- (3) Is any departmental office ceasing to sell these permits; if so, why and which one?
- (4) As the barge operators are not prepared to guarantee full compliance with permit possession by visitors, what level of additional compliance has been negotiated, and does he regard this as acceptable?
- (5) What will be the reduction in departmental revenue from Fraser Island permits as a result of this move and can he guarantee that the supposed additional compliance achieved will match or exceed this loss; if not, how does he intend to convince Treasury of the wisdom of this move?
- (6) Does he still believe the regional director "took a long time to resolve this matter"?
- (7) As the barge operators initially refused to sell the permits unless they gained a monopoly over all permit sales (including those by the department), can he give a guarantee that they will genuinely attempt to increase compliance, and what was offered to the operators to get them to shift from their original intransigent position?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): It is worth noting that the Honourable Member sat on his hands and held his tongue during the term of the Labor Government when the Great Sandy area was so badly mismanaged and millions of dollars mis-spent and wrongly allocated in an immoral vote buying exercise. Since the Coalition Government came to power he has been continually negative and critical in cheap political point-scoring, while the Government gets on with the job. I am advised:

- (1) The Department of Environment believes there will be greater convenience to visitors and increased visitor compliance with purchases of the required access permits if those permits were to be sold on the barges, with associated compliance checks. The arrangements were discussed and developed between regional officers of the Department and the barge operators.
- (2) The commission arrangements agreed are based on those already in place between the Department and barge operators accessing Moreton Island. Permits are sold from a number of other non-Departmental outlets, as well as the River Heads Store, which remains very well situated to attract Fraser Island visitors before they reach River Heads. The proprietor of the River Heads Store was advised at the time he was acquiring his business that the possibility of selling permits from barges was a continuing possibility.
- (3) No
- (4) The barge operators have agreed to check all motor vehicles on their barges to ensure that they are displaying valid windscreen permits, and to advise Departmental rangers on the island immediately, per telephone from the barge, if a vehicle has not complied.
- (5) It has long been evident from ranger patrols and a continuing series of concerns expressed by a number of tourism operators and constituents of the

Hervey Bay electorate that numbers of visitors do avoid obtaining the required permits. This is not surprising considering the size of the island, the many destinations, and the thousands of kilometres of roads on the island.

All permit revenue is returned direct to recreation management of Fraser Island, so the lost revenue by permit avoidance disadvantages all visitors.

The Department would not have pursued these arrangements if it was not confident of net benefits.

An arrangement whereby private industry conducts compliance checks is undoubtedly far more efficient and in the public interest rather than for example diverting rangers to formal check points at each barge landing location, 7 days per week, for all hours of barge operations.

(6) In relation to an extension of permit sales, I have been briefed on the extended discussions between Departmental officers and the barge operators, and am well satisfied regarding their conduct.

(7) Regional officers of the Department discussed potential arrangements with the barge operators over a period of several months, maintaining the consistent lines that no monopolies would be contemplated, and that compliance checks were an essential component of any potential agreement.

973. Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Riversdale-Murray Valley Water Management Scheme and the wholesale clearing of lowland forest habitat and flood plains around Euramo, south of Tully—

- (1) What is the total amount of taxpayer subsidy being contributed to this scheme and other projects associated with sugar cane farm expansion in this region?
- (2) What advice has the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority provided in relation to the potential impacts of this land clearing and drainage program on the ecological sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef?
- (3) Is he aware of the environmental audit of the Queensland Cane Growing Industry commissioned by the Cane Growers' Association; if so, does he acknowledge that report states that draining of wetlands and modification of the natural course of creeks should be banned in cane growing areas?
- (4) Is he aware that 36 per cent of farms in the region have modified natural water courses?
- (5) How are the current proposals for clearing and drainage consistent with the advice of the environmental audit, and what features of these proposals contribute to ecologically sustainable development?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

1. The Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme is part of the Sugar Industry Infrastructure

Package approved by the former State and Commonwealth Labor Governments in 1993. The Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package is an industry restructuring package which made available State and Federal funding in return for tariff reductions and other changes. Projects under this Package are generally funded 33.33% from each of Commonwealth, State and local contributions. Of the local contributions, an equal share is being contributed by the Cardwell Shire Council, Tully Canegrowers, Tully Sugar Mill and land holders in the scheme area.

The total cost of the Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management scheme is estimated at \$5.65 million with contribution from the two Governments amounting to around \$3.77 million.

2. The Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme is not a land clearing and drainage program. It is a Water Management Scheme.

It provides an opportunity for sensible development in line with ecologically sustainable development principles.

If not implemented, the development of agricultural land will continue, with no requirement for development to take downstream impacts into account.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has provided a wide range of information on the project, and particular concerns are being addressed in the design of the Scheme. The Authority is on record as supporting the scheme provided there is satisfactory resolution of the Impact Assessment (IA) process and the concerns they raised being adequately addressed in the supplementary report.

3. Yes. I am aware of the audit which was commissioned by the proponents, namely the Queensland Canegrowers. Details of this report should most appropriately originate from the Queensland Canegrowers Association.

4. Development on the Tully Murray floodplain has been happening for more than 100 years.

The Government, through the Riversdale Murray Water Management Scheme is determined to ensure ongoing development will occur in line with ecologically sustainable development principles. One of the primary objectives shared by the scheme and ecologically sustainable principles which apply in this regard, is to restrict ad hoc modifications of natural water courses which have occurred in the past. This will help ensure continued agricultural development in the area is more ecologically sustainable.

5. The environmental aspects of the project are being addressed via the IAS process which requires the approval of the Department of Environment and Environment Australia at the Commonwealth level. The primary objectives of the scheme are all derived from a desire to apply ecologically sustainable development principles to this agricultural area.

974. Proceeds from Sales by Naturally Queensland Outlets

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to the trust fund the department operates to receive monies raised from the sale of posters, postcards, books etc., from its Naturally Queensland outlets, and some national parks—

- (1) Was a sum of \$150,000 recently drawn from this trust fund and transferred to Treasury; if so, why and when was this done?
- (2) Isn't the department supposed to retain these funds to fund the production of further similar items for sale, and to support some research projects?
- (3) How and when does he intend to make up the shortfall in this fund?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): (1) There is no such trust fund. No funds derived from the sale of posters, postcards, books, etc, have been transferred to Treasury in my term as Minister.

975. Brochures Regarding Changes to Juvenile Justice Act, Penalties and Sentences Act and Criminal Code

Mrs ROSE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (27/8/97)—

With reference to a memorandum to electorate officers from Paul Edwards, Senior Media Adviser to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, advising that a maximum of 500 brochures relating to recent changes to the Juvenile Justice Act, the Penalties and Sentences Act and the Criminal Code will be made available to each electorate office—

- (1) What is the total number of brochures to be distributed?
- (2) What is the cost of each brochure?
- (3) What is the total cost of production, printing and distribution for all the brochures?
- (4) Has any electorate office received more than 500 brochures?
- (5) Have copies of this brochure been distributed in any manner other than through electorate offices?
- (6) Is there any electorate in Queensland that has had more than 500 brochures distributed or available to residents?
- (7) Can Members of Parliament purchase additional brochures?
- (8) Have all electorate offices now received the allocation of 500 brochures?

Mr Beanland (23/9/97):

- (1) 50,000 copies of the brochures have been distributed.
- (2) Each brochure cost 19 cents to produce.
- (3) Total cost of production, printing and distribution of the brochures was \$9,639 plus normal postage and handling.
- (4) The following electorate offices received more than 500 brochures—Burleigh (530), Mansfield (1800), Springwood (600) and Toowoomba North (600).

(5) Yes. Brochures are being distributed throughout the courts system and through the Queensland Police Service. Brochures were also distributed at the 1997 RNA Government Pavilion in August. A total of 2,000 were distributed to Ministerial Offices.

(6) See (4).

(7) Yes.

(8) No. Not every office asked for 500 copies.

976. Youth Suicide

Mr FOURAS asked the Premier (27/8/97)—

With reference to his Youth Suicide Initiative which will result in 100 community networks across Queensland specifically to provide access, advice, education services, and better coordination—

- (1) Does he not realise that this will be ineffective unless he accepts (a) Government responsibility to provide youth employment support programs, a responsibility his Government abrogated by completely shutting the YES program, (b) that there is a serious lack of drug and alcohol detoxification centres and rehabilitation programs, (c) that there is a severe shortage of resources in the youth mental health, family support and child protection areas and (d) that the establishment of a common youth allowance will place an unnecessary burden on families and lead to an increase of dysfunctional relationships?
- (2) If he does not intend to address these issues, is he not in fact dumping the youth suicide problem onto the community to solve without attacking these serious structural problems which are leading our youth to a sense of alienation and hopelessness and, unfortunately, a sinister preoccupation with suicide?

Mr Borbidge (26/9/97):

(1)(a) The State and Commonwealth Commissions of Audit clearly identified that the provision of employment programs was a Commonwealth responsibility. The decision to withdraw from provision of employment programs represented a refocusing of the Government's activities to Vocational Education and Training and allowed the Government to make additional training places available for young Queenslanders, 16,000 in 1996/97 and a further 14,000 in this financial year. The Queensland Government's responsibilities are to contribute to the creation of circumstances which foster growth and development and to make sure that industry can access the skills it needs to grow.

Changes to the Industrial Relations System introduced earlier this year and changes currently occurring to the Training System will make the work place more flexible and responsive to Industry's needs.

The additional training places, the Government's Capital Works Program and other initiatives announced in the State Budget by the Treasurer further enhance prospects for employment growth.

The former Labour Market Programs worked from the basis that the needs of an individual could be shaped

to fit within one of a number of defined programs. In many instances what an individual ended up with was a short term job with no training and no future.

International and Australian research has shown that a one-to-one approach is more appreciated by job seekers than that just described. It is also more effective assistance because the real and enduring problems can be addressed.

The intensive employment assistance program introduced by the Commonwealth Government takes an approach which assesses the holistic employment and training needs of each individual and then designs a program of activities to meet those individual needs.

The Government in turn is meeting its responsibilities by providing safe, fair workplaces and creating an environment that is conducive to growth. The combination of our efforts will help unemployed people into sustainable jobs.

The Government will ensure that vocational education and training is of the highest quality, is flexible and adaptable, is more cost effective and is pivotal to a strong training culture in industry.

The Government has responded to the problems facing young people with a Whole of Government Youth Development Initiative. As part of this initiative the Department of Training and Industrial Relations will deliver a "Work Skills for Youth" program.

This program will build on the successes of the Young Offenders Program and provide training linked to real labour market opportunities to 250 young people aged 15-24. The Young Offenders Program has demonstrated that, if given vocational training that leads to real jobs, many young people who have previously been in trouble with the law change their way.

As a general rule, young people in real jobs with a future are less likely to get involved in criminal and other anti-social activities.

The theme for the Workskills For Youth program is for young people to achieve employment through training. It is an example of how this Government works with communities to resolve community problems.

(b & c) This Government, wherever possible, will work in partnership with families and communities, to support families as the primary and best source of support for children and adolescents. Enhancements in this area during the term of this Government have included:

The Queensland Government is the first government in Australia to establish an office of the Children's Commissioner. The independent Children's Commissioner:

- monitors and reviews the provision of children's services and makes recommendations for improving their quality, adequacy and effectiveness;

- deals with complaints from children, young people and adults and will assist them by seeking to remedy their grievances and promote their interests; and

- is responsible for establishing Appeals Tribunals to hear appeals of reviewable decisions specified in children services legislation.

The Family Support Services initiative is a component of the Family Care and Support Program (FACSP) and was established in 1996/97. The aim of this initiative is to strengthen families by providing assistance and support before problems become insurmountable. Family Support Services will complement the statewide Parentline and the services provided through departmental offices. The main target group is parents and care providers with children under 17 years of age.

\$3.1 million has been allocated over 3 years to establish the Family Support Services initiative. Funding is available under this initiative for approved community agencies to employ Family Support Workers. Thirty five services have been funded during the 1996/97 financial year and a comprehensive network of services is now being established across Queensland.

Funds from this initiative have allowed Family Support Workers (FSWs) to be employed and located in existing community organisations and therefore able to respond to particular issues concerning parents and families within that community.

Funding was provided in 1996/97 under the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) to 19 services. This included funds of \$304,800 for Boystown National Community Projects to operate Parentline, a statewide, toll-free telephone counselling service established to assist parents.

The 1996/97 State Budget provided for increased allowances of up to 40% for care providers and other approved persons for the care of children placed with them. This initiative included increases in the basic allowance for care providers as well as the introduction of additional allowances for care providers caring for children with high support needs.

The Government has developed a range of responses to young people who have complex care and support needs including those with multiple disabilities, who are exhibiting severe behavioural difficulties, and are either at imminent risk of admission to care; or have been subject to multiple placement breakdowns, or are particularly difficult to place. These responses include individualised care packages which provide accommodation and 24 hour support and the establishment of five Assessment Services across the State.

Parent support programs have recently been funded to target young parents in particular. \$0.16 million was allocated to a pilot project based at Anglicare's St Mary's, Toowong, to support young women who are parents, and their children.

Funds of \$25,000 have also been made available to assist with a Queensland conference to be run by Lifeline and held in November 1997 on Suicide and Families which will explore the issues which lead to high levels of stress on families, children and young people in an effort to identify effective measures in assisting families to cope.

The 1996/97 State Budget designated \$1.07 million over three years for Out of School Hours Care programs for adolescents aged 13 to 15 years. This is over and above the \$4.3 million also announced in the 1996-97 State Budget as a three year commitment to upgrading outside school hours care facilities.

Two new initiatives, the Youth Support Coordinators and the Rural Youth Workers programs were announced under the Youth Services Development Grant in the 1996-97 budget:

\$834,000 was allocated to fund 22 Rural Youth Worker positions for each of three financial years;

\$750,000 was allocated to fund 13 Youth Support Coordinator positions for each of three financial years.

These positions provide invaluable youth support infrastructure both in rural and urban areas and enable the identification and support of at risk young people and their families.

To underpin the above a community information system has been developed to enable the public to gain access to information on disability, child care, youth, Seniors Card services and other departmental services through the Internet. Information on local services is available to all inquirers throughout the State. Development of this system has involved expenditure of \$120,000.

(d) In regard to the Common Youth Allowance, it is my understanding that the Commonwealth is seeking to streamline a number of allowances for young people into a one common allowance. This may simplify the process for those seeking allowances and assist young people and their families to access appropriate allowances.

(2) It is an obvious fact that youth suicide cannot be tackled as a problem in isolation. The Government has produced a comprehensive State Strategic Plan, Economic Development Strategy and a Youth Affairs statement as well as a Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. Each document knits with the others to provide a comprehensive response to the expectations and major concerns of the citizens of Queensland and confronts the major structural problems which give rise to youth suicide.

Youth Suicide is but the tip of the iceberg and a manifestation of what has been termed "the wider malaise affecting today's youth". The Strategy is designed to stem the rising rate of suicide, attempted suicide, and serious self-harming behaviour among teenagers and young adults.

Various youth support programs and projects have already been launched by government agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs), but it is obvious that these cannot succeed in isolation. We need community networks to tackle the problem in a coordinated way across a wide front. These networks will form their "real life" views on what needs to be done by the community as a whole through parents, peer groups, NGOs, and government agencies working together. This is not a problem that is going to be solved by a few more publicly funded youth workers or an enhancement of institutional services. This is the whole point of having the Strategy with its focus on a holistic response to the causes and effects of the problem.

The Statement on Youth Affairs makes it clear that valuing youth, employing youth, supporting them in their health and well being, and involving them in community life are key issues for Queenslanders. The problem is not simple and it is not solved by the time-honoured method of funding a few more youth workers.

977. Public Housing, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (27/8/97)—

Will he advise (a) the number of public dwellings and units, by classification built in Bundaberg in 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and budgeted for in 1997-98, (b) the number of public dwellings and units purchased in Bundaberg for these years and (c) the resulting stock of public dwellings and units by classification in Bundaberg as at 30 June 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997?

Dr Watson (26/9/97): The table attached lists the public housing stock by classification for each year June 1994 to June 1997 which reflects construction completions, purchases, sales and demolition changes in Bundaberg.

978. Sunday Trading by Large Retailers

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Premier's statement that the Government will side with small business by opposing Sunday trading by large retailers—

- (1) What has he done to ensure that the Government puts forward the strongest case possible to the Industrial Relations Commission to ensure that large retailers will not be able to trade on Sundays?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking that small business will be protected and that large retailers will not be permitted to trade on Sundays?

Mr Santoro (25/9/97):

- (1) The Government has made it clear that it considers that small business is "doing it tough" and that extension of trading hours for large business is not in the interest of small business. Small business is an integral part of the Queensland economy and the position taken by the Government is important for the continuing viability of small business in

Queensland. The words of support have been supported by application to the Industrial Registrar for leave to be a party to the proceedings before the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, which has the legislative responsibility to determine trading hours.

Leave to appear has been granted.

The Government is committed to continued involvement throughout the hearing process and will consult with small business representatives during the course of proceedings and make submissions opposing the application which will affect small business not only in the area directly affected by the application, but also those areas adjacent to it.

I do not intend prejudicing the Crown's case by making details of it public before the hearing.

(2) Both the Premier and I have consistently said that the Commission is the appropriate body to determine trading hours and that this Government will abide by the umpire's decision.

979. Natural Heritage Trust Fund

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Natural Heritage Trust Fund—

- (1) Is he setting up an advisory group to determine which projects gain funding from this trust fund?
- (2) What State Government departments are involved in this group and what environmental groups are involved?
- (3) What are the terms of reference for this advisory group?
- (4) Why wasn't the much vaunted EPCQ capable of handling this task?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97):

(1) Advice to Government on Natural Heritage Trust funding applications in Queensland is provided by a State Assessment Panel which in turn receives advice from five Regional Assessment Panels. These panels were originally established in 1991 to process applications for the Commonwealth's National Landcare Program. All have majority community membership and an independent chair.

(2) The membership and terms of reference of the panels are currently the subject of review following extensive public consultation which commenced in April of this year. The 1997 State Assessment Panel included representatives of the Queensland Conservation Council, Greening Australia (Queensland) Inc., the Queensland Landcare Council, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Queensland Farmers Federation, the Department of Environment, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and Forestry, the Department of Local Government and Planning and the chairs of the Regional Assessment Panels.

(3) The terms of reference for the 1997 State and Regional Assessment Panels were as follows:

Provide advice on eligibility and priority of projects by:

giving priority to projects producing the best natural resource management, nature conservation, biodiversity and sustainable production outcomes;

reviewing progress and endorsing funding of eligible continuing projects which are making satisfactory progress;

ensuring all new projects which are recommended meet NHT guidelines;

advising on funding priorities within and between regional scale projects;

using a systematic, equitable, documented selection process which includes consideration of relevant expert and technical advice.

Encourage opportunities for projects to link positively with goals and activities of all NHT funded programs and other programs dealing with natural resource management, nature conservation, biodiversity management and sustainable production.

(4) The Natural Heritage Trust is directed at projects which integrate a broad range of environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resource management outcomes. The Environment Protection Council of Queensland (EPCQ) has terms of reference specifically directed at activities within the Environment portfolio and has a particularly heavy workload to deliver advice in this area. To ensure that detailed attention could be given to the 797 project applications received this year covering the range and breadth of programs under the Natural Heritage Trust, specially constituted State and Regional Assessment Panels were considered to be more appropriate. The EPCQ, established by the Coalition Government, has been a most successful initiative. However, the Member is showing a lack of understanding of the role of this body in suggesting it should handle such a task.

980. Construction of Prisons

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to fulfil the pre-election guarantee 'that the Coalition will not be constructing any prison buildings closer to our suburbs than currently exist' and to resite SEQ1 and SEQW approximately two kilometres from resident's homes—

- (1) What will be the future use of the land on which SEQ1 and SEQW were to be sited prior to his capitulating to demands from local residents to resite the prisons?
- (2) Is it the intention that the land continue to be owned by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission?
- (3) Will he give a guarantee that no prison will now ever be constructed on the land which was initially intended for SEQ1 and SEQW?

Mr Cooper (17/9/97):

- (1) No decision on the final use of the Moreton A Correctional Centre land has been taken.
- (2) No decision on the future ownership of the QCSC land at Wacol has been taken.
- (3) It is not my intention to construct a Correctional Centre on the originally proposed site.

981. Construction of Prisons

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to fulfil the pre-election guarantee 'that the Coalition will not be constructing any prison buildings closer to our suburbs than currently exist' and to resite SEQ1 and SEQW approximately two kilometres from residents' homes and to his commitment to River Hills residents that the existing Moreton A and Moreton B prisons are to be demolished within a twelve month period—

- (1) Will he reiterate that commitment to demolish Moreton A and Moreton B within one year?
- (2) Will he give a commitment that no further prisons will be built in their place on the site on which Moreton A and Moreton B are presently located?

Mr Cooper (17/9/97):

(1) The original commitment to demolish Moreton A and Moreton B Correctional Centres was given on the proviso that the replacement prisons (SEQ1 and SEQW) were to be built on the Wacol Prison Reserve. That is no longer the case. However, the demolition of existing accommodation and some other infrastructure associated with Moreton A will proceed within a year of the 1999 completion of SEQ1 and SEQW. Moreton B is still a serviceable public asset. It has potential to be used as either the WORC headquarters or as a replacement for the West Brisbane Community Corrections facility. Following completion of SEQ1 secure prisoners will no longer be held at Moreton B.

(2) This is the last correctional centre to be built in the metropolitan area in the foreseeable future. Plans are under way for the construction of another male prison (SEQ2) and the Government will be considering expressions of interest from local authorities who have expressed an interest in having a correctional centre in their region.

982. Aboriginal Welfare Fund

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Aboriginal Welfare Fund and especially to a significant amount of work done by officers of his department in recent years to identify people who may have a legitimate claim on the fund—

- (1) How much money is currently held in the Aboriginal Welfare Fund and how is it administered?

- (2) How much, if any, of the fund has been expended in the calendar years 1996 and 1997 and what has this money been used for?
- (3) What efforts are currently under way to return money to those people who have a legitimate claim on the fund?
- (4) What does the Government intend to do with any balance in the fund, when will a decision be made and how will funds be disbursed and to whom?

Mr Lingard (8/9/97):

(1) As at 2 September 1997, the balance of the Aborigines Welfare Fund is \$6.9M.

The Aborigines Welfare Fund ("The Fund") forms part of the Public Accounts Central Ledger at Queensland Treasury where it is recognised officially as a fund of the Public Accounts under s.10 the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977.

(2) No monies have been expended from the Fund during the calendar years 1996 and 1997.

(3) In order for the Department to respond to an individual claim on the Fund or the Accounts, specific details should be forwarded to the Department. For example,

The amount being claimed and the reasons why this is owed;

Documented details regarding the claim such as employment details including dates of employment and amounts paid, and savings bank balances;

Any other relevant information that might verify the amount of money an individual believes is owed to them by the Department.

To assist individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons to provide the Department with this information, an Aborigines Welfare Fund Records/Research Room has been established so that an individual or their representative may access and research records that may be relevant to their claim and which are held by the Department. Staff of the Aborigines Welfare Fund Branch will assist individuals or their representatives to access these records. Research assistance is not provided.

The Department has prepared a Location Guide, which outlines where records are located, and a Records Guide, which is a guide to Department records.

Records may also be held by a number of other agencies, including the Queensland State Archives and on various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities.

(4) Before the Government is in a position to consider the future management of the Aborigines Welfare Fund the Department currently is researching the history of the Fund and the Accounts.

983. Police Resources, Boondall and Clayfield Police Divisions

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Boondall and Clayfield Police Divisions respectively—

- (1) How many operational police officers are/were based in these divisions in 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (2) What is/was the police:population ratio in each division for 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (3) What is/was the police:population ratio for Queensland for this same period?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) The Metropolitan North Region has been trialling the concept of Divisional Policing over these years and as such the organisational structure has undergone substantial changes. The organisational structure of the Boondall and Clayfield Divisions is such that all police officers attached to the divisions in the Metropolitan North Region are classed as operational police officers.

	Boondall	Clayfield
1994-95	76 (est)	80 (est)
1995-96	75	80
1996-97	82	94
1997-98 *	not yet determined	not yet determined

Based on actual police strengths at 30 June of each year.

*1997-98 staff allocations have not yet been determined by the Commissioner of Police. The Service is awaiting statistical information from the Government Statistician.

(2) The Metropolitan North Region has been trialling the concept of Divisional Policing over these years and as such the organisational structure has undergone substantial changes. The ratios have been calculated on the basis of actual police officers attached to the Boondall and Clayfield Divisions only. When considering policing services provided to the Divisions within Metropolitan North Region (including Boondall and Clayfield), the duties performed by officers attached to the Metropolitan North Support Functions and Regions Functions should be taken into account. Officers attached to all these functions perform operational duties throughout all divisions. In 1994-95 year it is estimated that some 113 officers were attached to the Metropolitan North Support and Region Functions. In 1995-96 year 132 officers were attached to Support and Region Functions. In 1996-97 year 80 officers were attached to Support and Region Functions.

The police:population ratio is as follows:

	Boondall	Clayfield	Region
1994-95	1:1126 (est)	1:875 (est)	1:579
1995-96	1:1183	1:883	1:584
1996-97	1:1121	1:759	1:583
1997-98 *	not yet determined		

(3) Police:Population Ratio for Queensland.

1994-95	1:521
1995-96	1:524
1996-97	1:524

1997-98 1:516 (estimated).

984. Police Beat Shopfront, Moorvale Shopping Centre

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/8/97)—

With reference to the proposal for a Police Beat Shopfront at Moorvale Shopping Centre at Moorooka—

- (1) What steps are currently being taken to progress this proposal as an important initiative in community policing?
- (2) Will he ensure that there is a full complement of police at the Moorooka Police Station so as to enable police to carry out their community policing responsibilities, including regular attendance at Neighbourhood Watch meetings?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) Forward planning, in relation to the need to establish new police stations and police beat shopfronts as well as upgrade existing police stations, is continually undertaken as a matter of Police Service process.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Metropolitan South Region, is presently conducting a strategic resource evaluation for the entire Metropolitan South Region. This evaluation is to include the future locations of police stations and police beat shopfronts within this Region. When this evaluation has been finalised, he will arrange a meeting with all Members of Parliament, who have electorates within the Region, to discuss any proposals arising from it. No decisions have been taken contrary to the advice provided to the Member in response to his question on this issue of 9 May 1997.

(2) Twenty-one (21) police officers are presently allocated to the Moorooka Police Station. Presently, there are four (4) vacancies, however two (2) surplus police officers are also presently allocated to this police station.

All police officers throughout the Metropolitan South Region are encouraged to attend to community policing functions, such as Neighbourhood Watch. Participation of police officers in Neighbourhood Watch is seen as an integral part of implementing the Commissioner's vision statement for the Police Service, i.e. "A Service dedicated to excellence and committed to working in partnership with the people of Queensland".

Whilst every effort is made to keep staffing numbers at Moorooka Police Station as near as possible to a full complement, leave, transfers, and promotions affect the maintenance of such a quota.

985. Construction of Dam, Seven Mile Lagoon Area

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Water Infrastructure Task Force report and, in particular, to plans for dams in the Lockyer Valley—

- (1) What plans does he have for a dam in the Seven Mile lagoon area between Lowood and Gatton?
- (2) When is work on this dam likely to start, and what funding has been set aside for the work?
- (3) What consultation has occurred with local residents, particularly those whose properties will be inundated, in recent times?
- (4) Was planning for this dam abandoned at some stage and then reactivated; if so, why?

Mr Hobbs (16/9/97):

(1-2) The Water Infrastructure Task Force received two submissions proposing the construction of an off-stream storage at Seven Mile Lagoon: one from the Atkinson Buaraba Catchment Landcare Group Inc; and one from the Department of Natural Resources. I understand that local consultation occurred during the preparation of these submissions which were based on preliminary technical assessments by consulting engineers.

The Task Force considered these submissions as part of its Statewide assessment of development opportunities. However, based on the estimated costs and returns for the proposal, compared with other proposals around the State, it was not accorded a priority for development within the next 15 years.

3. The proposal was not included in the Water Infrastructure Planning and Development Implementation Plan—1997/98 to 2001/02 which was endorsed by Government in June. Consequently, my Department has no plans to proceed with the construction of a storage at Seven Mile Lagoon. The Atkinson Buaraba Catchment Landcare Group Inc. have been advised accordingly.

4. The only planning and investigative work undertaken in relation to the Seven Mile Lagoon off-stream storage by the Department of Natural Resources was to develop a submission for consideration by the Water Infrastructure Task Force during 1996.

The assessment by the Task Force that the proposal submitted was not a priority for development by the Government within the next 15 years was the outcome of this process. That is, the planning process was advanced to a point where a decision about the future of the project could be made. No furtherance of the project was deemed necessary because of the decision by the Taskforce not to recommend this project for prioritisation over the next fifteen years.

It is understood that a group of local landholders may be seeking to develop a further proposal for development of an off-stream storage in the Seven Mile Lagoon area. However, the Department has not been involved with this group or its proposal at this stage.

986. South East Transit Project

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/8/97)—

- (1) What will be the impact on vehicle movements at interchanges at Mains Road, Marshall Road, Cornwall Street and Stanley Street on the South East Freeway when the eight lane Pacific Motorway project and the additional lanes provided by the South East Transit Project are fully operational?
- (2) In particular, what will be the impact on access at these interchanges during peak hours?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) The operation of the interchanges nominated by the Honourable Member are under increasing pressure from the growth of traffic using this important corridor. This does not usually present any problems off-peak but the growth of traffic in peak hours and the spreading of these peaks will continue to present problems for these intersections, with or without the South East Transit Project. However, the South East Transit Project aims at combating the trend for increasing single occupant vehicle travel and declining public transport patronage by mode share and hence will provide a relative improvement to conditions at these intersections in the longer term compared with current trends.

(2) The South East Transit Project will not provide any instantaneous changes to the operations of the interchange in peak hours but, in the longer term, will provide relative improvements compared with the existing trend. Because of the South East Transit Project's emphasis on the movement of people, not just vehicles, the people moving capacity of the system will be greatly increased and the sustainability of the corridor will be substantially enhanced.

987. Upgrading of Bruce Highway between Boundary and Uhlmann Roads, Burpengary

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/8/97)—

With reference to the identification in 1995 by the Department of Transport of a need to upgrade the Bruce Highway between Boundary Road, Dakabin and Uhlmann Road, Burpengary to at least six lanes by the year 2000, and as significant local congestion around the highway's service roads in this area means that some of the present exits and entries to the highway are potentially unsafe, in particular the Deception Bay Road, Station Road and Uhlmann Road points—

Will he advise what the current plans and time-frame are for the upgrading of the main highway, intersections and associated roads in this vicinity?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): Concept Planning was carried out by consulting engineers Maunsell Pty Ltd in 1995 on the future six-lane upgrading of the Bruce Highway between Boundary and Uhlmann Roads. As the Bruce Highway forms part of the National Highway Network, funding is generally provided by the Federal Government. The Federal Minister for Transport has given his approval for the planning and necessary land acquisitions for the Bruce Highway between the Gateway Interchange and Caboolture. This activity has a total approved allocation of \$5 million over the period to 1999-2000. This planning

activity will identify in greater detail the extent of future upgrading necessary in this area. This will enable Main Roads to be in a position to take advantage of any construction funding that is made available by the Federal Government.

988. Funding of Criminal Justice Commission

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (27/8/97)—

- (1) Is it correct that financing arrangements to the CJC have been altered such that all, or most, of the CJC funds are being allocated on a month-by-month basis?
- (2) What difficulties is this posing the CJC with respect to cash-flow and the CJC's ability to pay wages and accounts?
- (3) What other Government agencies have been changed to a month-by-month funding basis, or is this another example of the Government's political revenge against the CJC for daring to investigate the secret Memorandum of Understanding she made with the Police Union?

Mrs Sheldon (26/9/97):

- (1) & (2) The timing of grant payments is a matter for the Department responsible for providing the grants.
- (3) Government agencies and non-government organisations receive their funding on various bases—monthly, quarterly, in advance, in arrears, depending on the appropriateness of the timing of payments for the particular circumstances.

989. Promotion of State Schools

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Education (27/8/97)—

- (1) Has he seen the Courier-Mail supplements advertising and promoting private schools to parents of prospective students?
- (2) Why is the Education Department not promoting public schools in the same way?
- (3) Would he agree that there are many State schools of similar excellence?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Education Queensland is sponsoring presently the Out in Front media campaign which seeks to promote teaching in state schools as a rewarding profession. This promotion is supported by a dedicated information hotline which provides an information and referral service directly to the public. To date, there has been a strong and positive public response to this campaign.

Education Week, which is usually held in May each year, is another means by which Education Queensland seeks to promote the excellent work being done in state schools. Promotion for this event was achieved through statewide media coverage, including a high-profile feature in the Sunday Mail, and a range of public events such as shopping centre displays.

State schools are also encouraged to promote themselves wherever possible. The Leading Schools initiative will ensure that schools have the potential to compete on a level playing field with private schools, by ensuring the promotion of the many excellent educational opportunities available in state schools.

- (3) Absolutely.

990. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Removal of "Dressers"

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (27/8/97)—

With reference to many elderly males who have atonal bladders following surgery for prostate and/or bladder problems and as these bladders need (a) emptying by catheter several times per day and (b) maintenance by dilation at regular intervals to keep clear of obstruction—

- (1) How many extra day surgery procedures have been created by the removal of "dressers" at the Princess Alexandra Hospital who used to perform this procedure (balloon catheter dilation) as a simple out-patient procedure without delay?
- (2) What is the waiting time for these procedures?
- (3) How many dressers and which hospitals have been affected?
- (4) Is he aware of the increased pain incurred during insertion of the catheter during these unnecessary delays?

Mr Horan (24/9/97):

(1) No patients have been added to the day theatre lists by the removal of 'dressers'. The proposal is to cease an out patients clinic which has previously been run by the dressers. Most patients will be dealt with in their own homes or nursing homes by the transitional care team. Only those who have difficult procedures will be done in the procedure room of the day surgery by a registered nurse.

(2) There is no waiting for these procedures as they will be done on a regular appointment or needs basis. The scheduling of the procedure room allows for this.

(3) Very few hospitals in Queensland have ever employed dressers. These functions are a recognised nursing core skill and the work is performed by registered nursing staff in the majority of Queensland Hospitals.

- (4) Refer to (2) above.

991. Speed Cameras

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to reports that the introduction of speed cameras is resulting in Queenslanders paying up to \$1.2m per week in speeding fines—

- (1) Is all of this \$1.2m attributable just to the 8 speed cameras currently in use?

- (2) To what will this unexpected cash bonanza be diverted?
- (3) How much are the extra shifts and additional temporary staff that have had to be put on to clear the backlog of speed camera fines costing the Police Service per week?
- (4) Does he still maintain that the introduction of speed cameras to Queensland is not just a revenue raising exercise, or can he point to an equally impressive drop in road fatalities or accident incidence as a result of this introduction?
- (5) Doesn't this enormous cash windfall prove that speed cameras are not acting as a deterrent to speeding drivers?
- (6) Are senior police astonished by this cash windfall?
- (7) Does he stand by his praise of speed cameras when they showed less than 2 per cent of drivers exceeded speed limits?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97): It is extremely disappointing that the tenor of these questions indicates a grossly irresponsible attitude towards road safety in general and a callous indifference to the suffering caused to innocent victims by reckless drivers.

However the answers to these facile questions are as follows:

- (1) It was originally estimated that revenue from speed camera fines for their first year of operations would be in the vicinity of \$30 million. However, speed camera detection rates are considerably lower than was first expected. The following is a breakdown of results for the three month period May to August:

Month: Tickets Issued—Cameras in Operation

May: 2,712—3

June: 5,904—3 cameras operating until 23/6 and then 8 cameras for the remainder of the month

July: 10,851—8

August: Detections for the month of August are still being processed—8 cameras operating until 18/8 and then 10 for the remainder of the month

With fines averaging \$100 per infringement notice, the amount of revenue being generated by speed cameras is far less than the figure suggested by the media.

It must also be remembered that Section 44T(1) of the Traffic Act 1949 deals with the use of penalties collected for camera detected offences. It states:

All money collected for penalties imposed for camera detected offences in excess of the administrative costs of collection must be used for the following purposes:

- (a) road safety education and awareness programs;
- (b) road accident injury rehabilitation programs; and
- (c) road funding to improve the safety of the section of State controlled roads where accidents most frequently happen.

- (2) See above.

- (3) The average weekly overtime cost over a period of eight weeks is \$2419.14. Part of the management and budgetary process of speed cameras was the introduction of additional staff and resources as further cameras were introduced. This course of action is consistent with the original implementation process.

The employment of staff and resources is an administrative cost and as such this expense is met from the penalties imposed for camera detected offences.

- (4) It is anticipated that speed cameras will have a significant impact on reducing injury accidents and road fatalities. To date Queensland Transport have not released any statistics on the impact of speed cameras due to the short time frame cameras have been in use.

In addition, since the very unfortunate death of Constable Gill whilst working radar on the Bruce Highway near Caloundra, the use of slant radar by police on dual carriageways where the speed limit is in excess of 90 kph has been stopped. This policy was effective as from 10 January 1997. In accordance with workplace health and safety issues, this Government has a 'duty of care' and the introduction of speed cameras has allowed police to effectively police dual carriageways in a safe working environment.

With the detection rate of speeding drivers passing speed camera sites at 2.44 percent for the first three months of operation, the speed camera program is achieving this Government's objective to change the attitude of motorists towards speeding.

- (5) As previously stated in the response to question (1), the amount of fines being generated from speed cameras is far less than reported in the media. The low incidence of motorists being detected is very encouraging and is testimony to the fact that the speed cameras are deterring many motorists from speeding. The detection rate has dropped from 10% during the moratorium to its present rate of approximately 2.44%.

- (6) I am advised that senior police are extremely pleased with the results of the speed camera program to date. Relatively low detection rates and anecdotal evidence suggests that motorists have slowed their driving which will surely have an impact on reducing injury accidents and carnage on our roads.

- (7) Approximately 2.44% of vehicles checked by speed cameras are travelling at a speed which would result in an infringement notice. This is evidence that speed cameras are achieving an effect of reducing the travel speed of many drivers. The use of speed camera enforcement, coupled with appropriate education and publicity, is producing positive results in deterring drivers from speeding. It is too early yet to determine the net effect of speed cameras on the road toll. Queensland Transport will undertake extensive research and analysis in due course to gauge the effect of the speed camera program on serious and injury accidents on our roads.

992. Public Housing, Redcliffe

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/8/97)—

- (1) What is the total number of units of public housing in the Redcliffe Electorate?
- (2) How many units of public housing have been commenced and completed in the Redcliffe Electorate since 1 March 1996?
- (3) How many units of housing in the Redcliffe Electorate have been purchased by the department since 1 March 1996?

Dr Watson (29/9/97):

- (1) As at 30 June 1997, there were 950 units of public housing in the Redcliffe Electorate.
- (2) In relation to public housing construction commencements and completions, from 1 March 1996 there were 17 construction commencements in the Redcliffe Electorate, of which 1 dwelling was completed before June 30, with the remainder to be completed in the 1997-98 financial year.
- (3) My department purchased 4 public rental dwellings in Redcliffe Electorate from 1 March 1996 to 30 June 1997.

993. North Ipswich Railway Workshops

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/8/97)—

With reference to plans to establish a Rail Heritage and Technology Museum on the site of the North Ipswich Railway Workshops—

- (1) When will the last of the workshop operations be moved to Redbank?
- (2) How many Queensland Rail employees are to remain at North Ipswich in order to maintain the site for the museum project?
- (3) What funds and other resources are being made available by QR for the museum project?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of the project?
- (5) What other financial support will be made available through the Queensland Government to establish this important heritage project?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97):

- (1) Air Brake and Refrigeration Shops will be transferred in October 1997 completing the transfer of operations to Redbank.
- (2) It is anticipated that between 40-60 employees will remain at Ipswich supporting the 'Steam Train' upgrade, blacksmith work and a few miscellaneous elements which will not be transferred to Redbank.
- (3) Queensland Rail has allocated funding to appoint a consultant to seek expressions of interest from the market towards the redevelopment of the North Ipswich yards including the Australian Rail Technology Centre.

Funding has also been committed towards the preparation of a land use study for the development of the entire North Ipswich site.

The amount of future funding by QR towards the project will be decided after more detailed analysis of

the outcomes of the land use and marketing studies have been completed.

(4) Preliminary estimates indicate a minimum cost of \$15 million is required to proceed with the Australian Rail Technology Centre. A clearer estimate will be known after preferred design for the centre and surrounding areas has been agreed.

(5) Financial support for this project will be determined after consultation with the people of Ipswich, the Council, QR and the Government.

994. TAFE Queensland, VERS

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (28/8/97)—

With reference to redundancies being offered to TAFE staff—

- (1) Who is being targeted by the department to receive redundancies under the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme (VERS)?
- (2) What criteria is being used to determine who is eligible to receive VERS?

Mr Santoro (29/9/97):

(1) TAFE Queensland is offering VERS to teachers, wages and public service staff as it reassesses its business focus requiring TAFE to review its current staffing levels and mix.

VERS are being applied where surplus positions have been identified and expressions of interest called or where individual employees have become surplus to requirements through their position being redundant.

(2) The criteria under which TAFE Queensland employees are offered a VER are built on a business case and made in accordance with the Public Sector Management Standard for Organisational Change.

The VERS being offered in relation to teaching, wages and public service positions are as a result of the duties and functions of these positions being identified as no longer needed in the current form, and hence redundant. Other avenues, including redeployment and/or retraining, are explored together with the offering of VERS.

995. QEII Hospital, Staff Resignations

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health (28/8/97)—

With reference to press reports that key medical staff have resigned from QE II Hospital—

Will he reassure Parliament and the residents of the region that all possible steps will be taken to replace staff who leave as a matter of urgency to keep up patient care, and that inquiries will be made to ensure that dissatisfaction does not play a part in staff leaving QE II Hospital?

Mr Horan (24/9/97): Three doctors have decided to move from QE II Hospital for the purposes of career advancement, not staff dissatisfaction. Queensland Health would not consider hindering these doctors' personal career decisions. The important role these doctors played during the redevelopment of the QE II Hospital is

very much appreciated and they are wished every success in their future careers.

The change over of medical staff has not compromised patient care and the following actions have been taken in relation to the filling of these positions:

Interviews for the Medical Superintendent position were held on Friday 22 August 1997 and an announcement regarding the new appointee is expected before the end of September 1997. In the interim, there has been an Acting Medical Superintendent.

Following the departure of the Director of the Emergency Department, QE II Hospital has restructured the position and from 13 October, 1997 will have a Director of Critical Care Services, in charge of the Level one Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department and the observation beds.

Interviews for the Director of Medicine will be conducted in mid-September 1997. The current Director of Medicine initially came to QE II Hospital for 12 months but is remaining longer, approximately 16 months, to work with senior District staff, including the District Manager, to ensure a suitable replacement is found.

Also, it is important to note the Coalition's numerous improvements, made at the QE II Hospital since coming to power in March 1996.

These achievements include:

A \$11 million capital works allocation to refurbish the hospital, including redevelopment work to upgrade outpatients, allied health areas, refurbish hospital foyer and day surgery. This extensive redevelopment program also includes increasing the number of operating theatres from four (4) to six (6), refurbishment of the CSSD, establishment of a preadmission clinic, upgrading of the rehabilitation treatment area and establishment of a new 30 bed medical ward. About \$1 million of this capital works allocation was provided for the relocation of the aged care services unit, and improvements to community health and breast screening facilities.

A \$9.5 million recurrent funding increase in the Coalition's 1996/97 State Budget.

A \$6.103 million recurrent funding increase in the Coalition's recently announced 1997/98 State Budget.

A recent announcement of \$450,000 of new money specifically earmarked to assist the hospital in reducing elective surgery waiting lists.

Opened an acute 30 bed medical ward, providing 24 hour, 7 day-a-week service with appropriate medical officer support.

Opened a new 24 bed short Stay Ward.

Opened a new Day Therapy Centre.

Opened the upgraded five (5) bed Intensive Care Unit with the ability to ventilate patients for short periods and treating many patients

who would previously have been transferred to another Brisbane tertiary hospital.

Opened the upgraded Emergency Department, with now accepts major injuries, acute cardiac conditions, serious fractures, workplace injuries and drug and alcohol related conditions

Addition of another rehabilitation unit to complement the existing neurological rehabilitation unit.

Re-equipped the Radiology Unit.

Opened the new state-of-the-art Urology Services Unit.

QE II Hospital staff numbers have increased by 164 full-time equivalents, including an increase to 54 full-time equivalent doctors and specialists and 193 full-time equivalent nurses. This has included the employment of 33 additional full-time equivalent doctors and over 102 full-time equivalent nurses.

Staff increases in a number of key specialities since September 1996 include:

Division of Surgery

Nurses: increased by 38 full time equivalents

Doctors: increased by 17 full time equivalents

Division of Medicine

Nurses: increased by 64 full time equivalents

Doctors: increased by 16 full time equivalents

Division of Allied Health

Physiotherapists: increased by 3 full time equivalents

Speech Pathologist: increased by 1 full time equivalent

Occupational Therapists: increased by 1.5 full time equivalents

Occupational Therapy Assistant: increased by 1.5 full time equivalents

Other support staff increases since September 1996 included an additional 17 full time administrative officers and 3 full time executive staff officers

Appointed a Director of Surgery

Commenced a new ophthalmology service.

The new specialist services offered by the hospital since the redevelopment include intensive care, gastroenterology, cardiology, respiratory and ophthalmology.

QE II Hospital now has 161 beds available for use at the hospital, with the number of admissions at the hospital increasing by three (3) times within 12 months. At one stage during 1995 under the previous State Labor Government QE II Hospital had only nine (9) beds occupied.

In January 1997 QE II Hospital had a total of 443 admissions with 1,526 occupied bed days.

By June this year (1997) this number had increased to 823, an increase of 380 admissions, with 3,186 occupied bed days.

I believe, that the Coalition Government's commitment to the QE II Hospital now stands for the entire community to see and the numerous improvements we have made at this hospital are now very much on the public record. QE II Hospital is now back in business, staff morale has returned and the community is now once again proud of this wonderful hospital.

996. Wahrenonga

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/8/97)—

With reference to the plan to build 16 new pensioner units to replace the 54 units and cottages at Wahrenonga—

- (1) Will the residents have their new units cleaned and have three meals a day provided, as is currently the case?
- (2) Will he confirm that the new accommodation will be free to residents as he stated in the Maryborough Chronicle on 13 August, and I quote, "You will have bigger, better accommodation and it will not cost you anything"?
- (3) Will he confirm that additional units to the 16 new units will also have services and conditions as currently provided to elderly residents such as meals, cleaning and emergency alarm?

Dr Watson (29/9/97): It is disappointing that the Member appears to be trying to alarm residents at the centre by suggesting that they will lose services or have to pay more, particularly when he conspicuously failed to have the Labor government of which he was a member do anything about the sub-standard condition of the accommodation of his constituents at Wahrenonga.

- (1) The Department of Health currently supplies these services to the existing tenants in the existing senior unit cottages, not the Department of Public Works and Housing. The Department of Public Works and Housing will supply the standard public sector senior unit accommodation with respect to the new 16 units.
- (2) The current tenants in the existing cottage accommodation pay a weekly rent to the Department of Health for the accommodation, services and care they receive. When the residents move to the new accommodation, they will not pay any more than the current rental they pay and this will be paid to the Department of Health.
- (3) This issue falls within the responsibility of the Minister for Health.

997. QEII Hospital, Surgical Procedures

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (28/8/97)—

- (1) What are the numbers of surgical operations and, separately, day surgery procedures

performed at the QE II Hospital on a monthly basis for the year ending June 1997 and for July 1997?

- (2) What are the relevant categories of surgery for the total procedures ie. orthopaedic, ENT, gynaecological and so on?

Mr Horan (24/9/97):

- (1) The breakdown of these activity statistics can be found in the attached table.

It is important to note the Coalition's numerous improvements, made at the QE II Hospital since coming to power in March 1996.

These achievements include:

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(2) Refer to (1) above.

998. Mt Archer National and Environmental Parks

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment (28/8/97)—

With reference to the Mt Archer National and Environmental Parks and general Berserker Mountains area—

- (1) What portion of Mt Archer is currently gazetted as national park?
- (2) What portion is gazetted as environmental park?
- (3) What areas are reserved as forestry leases?
- (4) Are there any plans to have these relinquished?
- (5) Does he intend to have the entire Mt Archer area gazetted as a national park; if so, when?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

- (1) There are two protected areas in the Mt Archer area. These are:

Mt Archer National Park of 3 610 ha; and

Mt Archer Resources Reserve of 638 ha.

- (2) There is no longer an environmental park at Mt Archer. The previous Mt Archer Environmental Park was regazetted as Mt Archer National Park in 1994. An additional area that was previously part of Timber Reserve 46 was added to Mt Archer National Park in 1996.

- (3) Timber Reserve 46 now covers an area of approximately 1 921 ha of the Berserker Range.

- (4) This Department has no current proposals to have any leases or permits relinquished.

- (5) There is no certainty about future gazettals in this area and no dates have been set. In addition, the type of protected area that may be gazetted will depend on resolving the issues of native title and mining.

999. WorkCover

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (28/8/97)—

With reference to master-servant personal injuries claims and their administration by WorkCover—

- (1) Where a Court judgment is obtained by a plaintiff in excess of the amount of the plaintiff's offer to settle (and where WorkCovers' lawyers have previously recommended acceptance and the insured employer recommended rejection) is the additional contribution being recovered from the insured employer; if not, why not?
- (2) Without the necessity of providing identifying information, for each master-servant common law claim that went to trial in the District Court in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Ipswich and Rockhampton in the last year (a) what was the amount of damages ordered to be paid by the defendant to the plaintiff exclusive of costs, (b) what was the final offer to settle by the plaintiff, (c) was this offer recommended for acceptance or rejection by the legal representatives of WorkCover and (d) what was the final offer to settle made by WorkCover on behalf of the defendant?

- (3) What methods has WorkCover employed to insure that (a) its retained legal representatives and (b) insured employers in cases where they are allowed to decide on the acceptance or rejection of any offer are held responsible to WorkCover for any increased charges/payouts that WorkCover incurs as a result of inappropriate recommendations on the making, acceptance, or rejection of settlement offers?

Mr Santoro (29/9/97):

(1) WorkCover is responsible for the final decision regarding common law proceedings. Employers may provide advice regarding the matter however WorkCover retains conduct of the matter. No monies are recovered from the employer in this situation, because a workers' compensation policy provides full indemnity to an employer.

(2) This information is not readily available.

(3) WorkCover retains and monitors solicitors in those areas where writs are served. Employers are not given the final decision making powers regarding common law proceedings. Again, as I have stated earlier, WorkCover has conduct over these matters and has, as prescribed by the WorkCover Queensland Act 1996, the final decision on common law proceedings.

1000. Police Beat Shopfront, Strathpine

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to community safety in Kurwongbah—

Will he explain why the offer by Westfield to provide shop space rent free for the establishment of a Police Beat Shopfront at Strathpine has been rejected?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97): In July 1997 a proposal for the establishment of a Police Beat Shopfront was forwarded by the State Leasing Manager, Westfield Shopping Centre Management, to the State Co-ordinator, Police Beat Shopfronts for consideration.

Westfield Shopping Centre Management's proposal centred around the establishment of a temporary Police Beat Shopfront in the former St George Bank branch. These premises were to be utilised for a period of approximately eighteen (18) months, after which time it would be relocated to yet to be identified new premises at the completion of planned extension works at the Shopping Centre.

The proposal was for the cost of the initial fit out of the temporary Police Beat Shopfront and subsequent relocation and fit out to the proposed new Police Beat Shopfront to be met by the Queensland Police Service. The cost of each Police Beat Shopfront fit out is substantial and varies depending on the dimensions of each location.

The Police Beat Shopfront budget for the financial year 1997/98 is \$1.4 million. Taking into account recurrent costs for the existing 25 Police Beat Shopfronts, a surplus of approximately \$300,000 remains for the development of new Police Beat

Shopfronts and upgrading of existing facilities throughout the State.

The Queensland Police Service is in the process of developing a priority list, according to need and demand, for 1997/98 in relation to future Police Beat Shopfront development. A final decision on the future placement of Police Beat Shopfronts is dependent on the finalisation of this priority list. The actual number of shopfronts established will, in turn, be dependent on set up costs and availability of residual funding.

It is with these factors in mind that the Queensland Police Service has decided to hold determination of the proposed Police Beat Shopfront at Westfield, Strathpine, in abeyance pending the identification of a suitable permanent location.

1001. Government Apprenticeships Department

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (28/8/97)—

With reference to all Government departments and Statutory Authorities (including Government owned corporations and Government business enterprises) respectively—

(1) How many new apprentices were engaged or commenced during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

(2) How many new apprentices are to be engaged or commenced for 1997-98?

Mr Santoro (29/9/97):

(1) During the period 1995-1996, 399 apprentices and 499 trainees commenced training with Government departments and Statutory authorities. In 1996-1997, 233 apprentices and 514 trainees commenced training with Government departments and Statutory authorities.

(2) As a major employer, the State Government accepts its responsibility to train its workforce. This is both an economic and social responsibility. Within this context I have requested my Ministerial colleagues to ensure that previous apprenticeship and traineeship commencements are maintained.

1002. Police Resources, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

(1) What are the staffing levels for the Bundaberg Police District for commissioned and non-commissioned officers at 30 June 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997, including all positions and vacant positions as at those dates?

(2) How many police staff members were on sick leave as at those dates?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) As at 30 June each year:

YEAR	*INSP	S/SGT	SGT	S/CON	CONST	TOTAL
1994	1	2	25	35	30	93
1995	1	2	25	31	31	90
1996	1	2	24	28	28	83
1997	1	2	23	29	36	91

*plus an additional Inspector as R.D.O.

As at 30 June each year:

VACANCIES—NUMBER

1994—9

1995—11

1996—12

1997—6

- (2) 1994—1 member on sick leave.
 1995—5 members on sick leave, including 1 on alternate duties.
 1996—2 members on sick leave, including 1 on alternate duties and 1 on long term sick leave.
 1997—6 members on sick leave, including 1 on alternate duties and 3 on long term sick leave.

1003. Land Clearing, Tully Region

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (28/8/97)—

With reference to the wholesale clearing of lowland forest habitat and flood plains around Euramo, south of Tully—

- (1) How much land clearing, and at what rate is clearing occurring in the delta of the Hull, Tully and Murray Rivers?
- (2) Is this part of the so-called Riversdale-Murray Valley Water Management Scheme?
- (3) Will this involve lowering the water table on some 3,400 hectares of existing cane fields, and allowing for a further expansion of 3,600 hectares of existing cane field, and allowing for a further expansion of 3,600 hectares?
- (4) Is the cane industry, State-wide, devouring 20,000 hectares a year for expansion; if not, at what rate is expansion occurring?
- (5) Why is expansion being allowed in the lowlands south of Tully, which include remaining patches of mahogany glider habitat and habitat for endangered cassowary?
- (6) Does he acknowledge that even Barretts Lagoon area, the site of the rediscovery of the mahogany glider in 1989, will become part of the drainage network provided by the scheme?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

(1) Currently there are no tree clearing permits that have been issued for leasehold land in that area. The majority of land included in the area is freehold. I have recently approved Local Tree Clearing Guidelines which will cover leasehold land in this area when and if application for clearing is made. I understand the Department of Environment in the past has undertaken surveys of land clearing and details of this survey are most appropriately dealt with by the Minister for Environment.

(2) The Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme does not involve wholesale clearing of land. It is a water management scheme.

(3) The direction of the question is confused as there is no clear delineation as to what the Honourable member is referring to—be it tree clearing activity or the scheme itself. However I presume the

Honourable Member is referring to the proposed management scheme. The proposed Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme will limit drain depths to a maximum of one metre to avert the possibility of lowering the water table.

Without the proposed scheme there would be no control on the depth of private farm drains, as has been the case in the past.

(4) Expansion of the sugar industry is managed under the Sugar Industry Act 1991, which the previous State Labor Government introduced. It was then and still is administered by the Minister for Primary Industries to whom this question is subsequently best referred.

(5) Questions regarding the Mahogany Glider and the Cassowary are best referred to the Minister for Environment.

(6) Barretts Lagoon and the surrounding area are part of the natural hydrological network of the floodplain and will remain so. This lagoon is at the downstream end of the Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme.

Barretts Lagoon is recognised for its aquatic values and for its hydrological effects within the floodplain system. The Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme will provide a mechanism for protecting those values. It is concentrated on water management rather than drainage. The scheme includes the restoration of a previous flow path, with resultant benefits to fish migration and habitat.

1004. Class Size Statistics

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (28/8/97)—

- (1) Will he provide class size statistics (State-wide and by region) for 1996 and 1997 as follows (a) pupil/teacher ratio and number of oversized classes for years 1-3, (b) pupil/teacher ratio and number of oversized classes for years 4-7, (c) pupil/teacher ratio and number of oversized classes for years 8-10 and (d) pupil/teacher ratio and number of oversized classes for years 11-12?
- (2) Will he provide these statistics for (a) primary single teacher, single level classes, (b) primary single teacher, composite classes, (c) primary multiple teacher, single level classes, (d) primary multiple teacher, composite classes, (e) secondary English classes and (f) all single teacher, single subject secondary classes?

Mr Quinn (3/10/97):

- (1)
- (a) July 1996—23.3
February 1997—23.4
- (b) July 1996—26.9
February 1997—27.2
- (c) 1996—23.2
- (d) 1996—18.3

Please note:

Regional information in relation to these queries is being compiled and is not yet complete.

An analysis of the primary classes above target size for February 1996 shows that 2.6% were above target size for reasons other than school choice.

An analysis of secondary classes above target size for February 1995 shows that 0.7% were above target size for reasons other than school choice.

To reduce the administrative burden on schools, schools have been spared the task of identifying the reasons for classes above target size. Advice from regions is that the staffing situation is similar to previous years.

The secondary class size statistics for February 1997 are not yet available due to a change in collection methodology. As for primary schools, advice from regional offices is that the secondary class size situation is similar to February 1996.

(2)

- (a) The average class-size for primary single teacher, single level classes is 25.4.
- (b) The average class-size for primary single teacher, composite classes is 21.8.
- (c) The average class-size for primary multiple teacher, single level classes is 19.6.
- (d) The average class-size for primary multiple teacher, composite classes is 21.
- (e) The average class-size for secondary english classes in 1996 was 23.5.
- (f) The average class-size for all single teacher, single subject secondary classes in 1996 was 21.6.

1005. Shelters for the Homeless

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (28/8/97)—

With reference to his assurances early in 1996 that he would clean up the streets of Cairns, and to his announcement in June 1996 that \$200,000 would be made available for the establishment of a night shelter, and to his statement in November 1996 that the shelter was to open soon, and the subsequent claim by his Parliamentary Secretary that there was now a "light at the end of the tunnel", and as the only tangible change in the situation in relation to homeless persons in Cairns in the 20 months of this Government has been the closure of the Bama Diversionary Centre—

Will he advise when the light will become a reality?

Mr Lingard (25/9/97): My commitment of \$200,000 recurrent funding for a night shelter in Cairns remains absolute. Design work for a shelter in Quigley Street is complete and construction is expected to begin shortly. Construction costs will be met by Department of Public Works and Housing through the Crisis Accommodation Program. The new shelter will commence operation in February or March 1998. It is envisaged that a Cairns Diversionary Centre will be operational again in mid October 1997.

1006. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (28/8/97)—

As at the date that this question is answered, and since the motion of no confidence in him, how many times has he exercised the functions of First Law Officer in respect of (a) granting indemnities, (b) being consulted by the DPP regarding the commencement of prosecutions or the granting of a nolle prosequi, (c) applications for a fiat, (d) making a determination in respect of a charitable trust and (e) any other First Law Officer function in respect of which he cannot by convention be directed by Cabinet?

Mr Beanland (23/9/97): From 20 August 1997 to 22 September 1997 I have granted two indemnities and initiated six appeals. No other decisions of the type referred to have been taken.

1007. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (28/8/97)—

With reference to the coal-loading terminal at Dalrymple Bay—

- (1) Is he aware of dust and noise nuisance caused by the terminal to neighbouring Hay Point residents?
- (2) How much has the Ports Corporation of Queensland spent on (a) dust and noise monitoring, (b) purchasing land and houses at Louisa Creek and (c) building unsightly bund walls?
- (3) Does he consider that the Parliamentary Public Works Committee made any relevant recommendations in this regard in its inquiry into the stage 3 expansion of the coal terminal; if so, which of the recommendations does he intend to act upon?
- (4) What benefits will this have for the residents of Hay Point and Louisa Creek, in particular?
- (5) Instead of spending money on efforts to "prove" that the nuisance does not exist, would it not be better to spend money on enclosing all conveyor belts, surge bins and other operational areas and wetting down coal stockpiles?
- (6) What technology now exists to reduce motor noise on conveyor motors and idlers?
- (7) What sensible reason is there for not insisting that the state of the art noise reducing technologies be applied?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97):

- (1) I am aware that a number of people who live close to the coal loading facilities at Hay Point have complained of dust and noise. These complaints have been thoroughly investigated by the Department of Environment and the operators of the facilities.

(2) Your questions regarding expenditure by the Ports Corporation of Queensland would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

(3) The two terminal operators have recently been issued with licences under the Environmental Protection Act by the Department of Environment. These licences contain conditions designed to, among other things, embrace the recommendations of the Parliamentary Public Works Committee.

(4) Each licence requires an Integrated Environmental Management System which will provide a solid basis for the management of impacts from the terminals. This improved management and technology will have obvious benefits over time for affected residents of Hay Point and Louisa Creek.

(5) It was necessary to carry out investigations into the causes of the environmental nuisances so that appropriate technology could be applied. I am informed that through the Integrated Environmental Management Systems, best environmental management practice is being applied at the terminals. This will allow progressive management of noise, water and air quality impacts and result in continuous improvement of the local environment.

(6) Low noise idlers and conveyor motor shrouding can assist to reduce conveyor operational noise. These technologies are being progressively installed at both terminals to assist in reducing the noise levels that are currently causing offence.

(7) I am informed that the current actions are using so called state-of-the-art noise reducing technology. This technology is being applied in a responsible way to these operations over time. Monitoring and reporting programs are in place to allow priorities in this area to be periodically assessed and any changes necessary to protect impacted communities will be adopted, also in a reasonable way.

1008. Southedge Road; Mr G. Quaid

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/8/97)—

With reference to moves by Mr George Quaid to have his infamous Quaid Road opened for public use—

- (1) What contact has he, his office or his department had with Mr Quaid over this road and what was the nature of Mr Quaid's representations?
- (2) What undertakings have been given to Mr Quaid by him, his office, or his department with regard to this road?
- (3) Does he believe Mr Quaid is correct in his belief that, because of the wording in his original agreement with the National Party, he can claim the \$25m costs involved in the road's original construction and maintenance since; if not, why not?
- (4) Does he believe that opening the Quaid Road would put a major traffic load on the section of the Cook Highway between Wangetti and Buchan Point, with implications for road safety

and access to Douglas Shire to the north; if not, why not?

- (5) Does he personally support the opening of this road to the public; if so, why?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97):

(1) Mr Quaid has approached departmental staff on a number of occasions over several years to discuss Southedge Road. The main outcomes sought by Mr Quaid were to ensure that departmental staff were aware of his long-term development proposals for the Southedge property and of the current condition and status of this road.

(2) No undertakings have been given to Mr Quaid with respect to this road other than to indicate that any consideration of the future of Southedge Road should take place within the framework of the Far North Queensland 2010 regional planning activities.

(3) Cabinet decision of 24 August 1987 authorised the construction of a road through State Forrest 1229 and Timber Reserve 315 to link the Peninsula Developmental Road and the Captain Cook Highway, north of Cairns.

There was an Agreement with the Conservator of Forests (representing the State) and Southedge Daintree Pastoral Company Pty Ltd for construction of the road. This Agreement provided, amongst other things, that the company would meet all construction and maintenance costs; that neither party would oppose the opening of the constructed road for public use; and that the Agreement would cease if the road was dedicated to public use.

(4) A detailed study would need to be undertaken to assess the impacts on the Captain Cook Highway of opening this road for public use.

(5) As indicated in my response to Question on Notice 1291 of 27 November 1996, raised by Member for Cook, Mr Bredhauer, I do not support the opening of Southedge Road for public use at the present time.

I have also made my position very clear in a recent media announcement.

1009. Dredging, Noosa River

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (28/8/97)—

With reference to proposed dredging of the Noosa River estuary—

- (1) Has any application been received by the Government for dredging of the Noosa River; if so, what is the nature of the application, and what is the purpose of the dredging?
- (2) How much and how often is it proposed that sand be dredged?
- (3) What studies have been carried out by the Government, or any other person, regarding the likely effects or environmental impacts of proposed dredging?
- (4) What options has the Government considered to minimise estuarine damage, should dredging occur?

- (5) Has the option of pumping from Laguna Bay been considered; if not, why not?
- (6) Has the Government approved any application for dredging; if not, does it intend to?
- (7) What are his answers to questions 1 and 4 above, in respect of any similar situation affecting the Maroochy River estuary?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

- (1) Yes. To supply sand for replenishment of the southern beach area of Noosa Spit.
- (2) A maximum 100,000 cubic metres, permits remaining in force until 14 July 1999.
- (3) Computer modelling has been carried out by the Beach Protection Authority.
- (4) Monitoring will be carried out. Reference was made to a study undertaken in south-east Queensland in determining licence details, as well as ANZECC Guidelines. Limitations have also been placed on the permits with regard to fisheries resources.
- (5) A previous trial with regard to this option proved unsuccessful.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) The Maroochy Shire Council has received a consultant's report on the option of dredging, but I am advised no decision has been reached by the Council.

1010. Excise

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (28/8/97)—

With reference to an article in the Bulletin magazine on 2 September by Laurie Oakes in which the \$5 billion excise tax problem was discussed—

- (1) Was there only ever one plan put in place in anticipation of the High Court decision and was this plan put in place in Federal/State discussions well in advance of the High Court decision?
- (2) Was this plan not changed in even the slightest detail after the Premier's discussion with the Prime Minister?
- (3) Is it also true that as Mr Oakes claims "the Premier misunderstood the scheme"?
- (4) Is it also true that, as Mr Oakes claims, all the Prime Minister did in the phone conversation "was explain to an apparently slow-on-the-uptake Borbidge how the scheme worked"?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97): (1) to (4) Given the financial implications to State Budgets arising from an adverse decision in *Ha and Lim -v- NSW and Walter Hammond and Associates Pty Limited -v- NSW*, the States and Territories entered into discussions with the Commonwealth in the period prior to the decision on 5 August 1997 on appropriate mechanisms that may apply after the decision. These discussions canvassed a number of options for safety net arrangements.

Subsequent to the High Court decision, further extensive negotiations have been undertaken with

the Commonwealth Government and with industry to refine the safety net arrangements.

In these discussions, the Queensland Government has always sought an outcome that was in the best interests of all Queenslanders.

There will be no need for price increases in liquor or petroleum products in Queensland, with minimal price impacts for tobacco products, as a result of the implementation of the safety net arrangements. Importantly, Queenslanders will continue to benefit from the "no State fuel tax policy" of this Government.

1011. Water Supply, Gayndah

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (28/8/97)—

With reference to the water supply for the township of Gayndah—

- (1) Is a new water purification plant being installed to serve the water supply needs of Gayndah?
- (2) What is the cost of this plant and what proportion of the cost is being paid by the Government (Queensland taxpayers)?
- (3) Is this plant being installed because of threats to the town water supply from pesticide runoff from surrounding farm lands?
- (4) What water quality inspection has been undertaken on the town water supply and what are the results of such testing?
- (5) Are tests being undertaken specifically to assess the extent of pesticide contamination of the town water supply; if not, why not and when will such tests be undertaken?
- (6) What capacity does the Burnett River have to support any additional fruit farming expansion in the region?
- (7) Have environmental flows of the river already been seriously depleted, and does he concede the environmental integrity of the river will be destroyed within five years unless there is a dramatic change in the current water use practices in this area?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97): (1) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of my colleague, the Honourable Howard Hobbs MLA, Minister for Natural Resources, to whom this question should be directed.

1012. State Crime Commission

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to his comments on the ABC's Anna Reynolds program on 26 August, where he said, "just as I did with the police powers, the public will be very heavily involved in discussion as far as the State Crime Commission is concerned"—

- (1) Do his comments mean that he will be holding a series of public forums in major Queensland centres throughout Queensland in the same

format as those which he held in relation to the police powers legislation?

- (2) Where will public forums be held?
- (3) On what dates will he be holding public forums?
- (4) Will Bob Bottom be accompanying him?
- (5) Will the Opposition be invited to participate in public consultation?

Mr Cooper (25/9/97):

(1) A series of public forums will be held in major centres throughout Queensland in a similar format to those held for police powers.

(2) and (3) Please refer to attached.

(4) No.

(5) Public consultation is an open invitation to all members of the community to contribute.

1013. Regional Libraries

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (28/8/97)—

With reference to the pre-election promise of the then Opposition Leader Rob Borbidge of an extra \$5m for Queensland regional libraries—

- (1) Why has she failed to honour this promise?
- (2) What steps has she taken to ameliorate the damage to regional library services caused by the cuts in the 1996-97 budget?
- (3) Does she intend to honour this pre-election promise during the term of this Government; if so, when and in what way?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97):

(1) I am delighted to report that this Government has delivered the best funding outcome for public libraries in a decade. The Coalition Government has committed \$1.7 million each year for the next three years to public library grants, resulting in an overall increase in the funding quantum of \$5.1 million by the year 2000. The Premier's pre-election promise has indeed been honoured.

(2) Regional library services have received increased assistance in several ways. There will be a major drive to connect public libraries to the Internet, totalling \$2.3 million in funding over the next three years, and the State Library has been funded to run Internet training courses in regional Queensland. The Coalition Government has also committed \$300,000 in recurrent funds to develop and deliver innovative library and information literacy programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in far north Queensland. I am pleased to announce that indigenous Australians will be employed as a result of this initiative, which has received widespread, enthusiastic recognition.

The Library Board will be introducing a new system of innovation grants to encourage public libraries to adopt new technologies and to facilitate the development of library services for geographically, socially and economically disadvantaged Queenslanders. For the first time, public librarians have access to relatively untied funds for innovation

and upgrading of services. In a separate advance, the Government has allocated a further \$1 million towards the replacement of the State Library's computer mainframe, benefiting both library users and the 94 libraries using the QUOLLS library management system.

(3) Our state is gaining in stature in the Australian library profession. All Queenslanders will benefit from our very substantial injection of funding to the State Library, honouring our pre-election promises.

1014. Electronic Navigation Charts

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/8/97)—

With reference to the requirement of the Federal Government that mariners purchase software from private companies before purchasing CD-ROMS for marine charts—

What action is his department taking with the Federal Government to ensure that software is user-friendly and able to be used by Queensland mariners in the interest of sea safety?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97): The Maritime Division of Queensland Transport has been following the development of electronic charts and specifically the progress made by the Federal Government—namely the Royal Australian Navy's Hydrographic Office (RAN).

The RAN initially began investigation into an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) in response to its international obligations to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for safe navigation. Compilation of Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs) for ECDIS to international standards is the RAN's goal and it has embarked on a major project to fast-track this initiative. However, to satisfy the growing demand for electronic charts in the short term, the RAN released a raster chart series called "Seafarer", which is a digital reproduction of the paper chart on CD-ROM. When combined with appropriate "user-friendly" navigation software, Seafarer provides an inexpensive, real-time navigation capability.

To ensure that the Seafarer data is used correctly, the RAN set minimum display standards for the chart data and is licensing compliant companies. As the RAN's data is encrypted and relates specifically to the mariner's system, they must first purchase their navigation software before obtaining their permits for Seafarer charts.

Seafarer charts are available for all of Australia and can be purchased singularly or in packs.

Maritime Division has been approached by local companies to include the Queensland Boating Safety Chart series on a local CD-Rom. Private enterprise should undertake the hardware and software development and under licence from Queensland Transport would also be required to meet hardware and software standards for "user-friendliness". The standards would also include safeguards, such as encryption, so that the scanned charts cannot be tampered with and rendered unsafe.

In liaison with the RAN, Queensland Transport will formulate standards for scanning the Queensland Boating Safety Chart series. Indeed, with both the RAN CD-Rom charts and, at a later date, Queensland Transport's CD-ROMS charts all available on different hardware and software platforms which meet the required standards, the safety of Queensland mariners will be greatly enhanced.

1015. Turnbull Fox Phillips

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/8/97)—

- (1) Did his department recently award a public relations contract to consultants, Turnbull Fox Phillips?
- (2) Is this the same consultancy which was also recently awarded a public relations contract by the Government's communications division, CITEC, which also falls under his control?
- (3) Were these contracts awarded following public tenders?
- (4) What were the winning tender prices?
- (5) What are the activities being undertaken?
- (6) Is this the same consultancy which was sacked by the Treasurer in 1996 for non-performance in relation to the Suncorp-Metway merger at a time when he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer?

Dr Watson (29/9/97):

- (1) My department awarded a contract for a Communications Plan for the Housing Program to Turnbull Fox Phillips on 18 June 1997.
- (2) CITEC, a business unit of my department, has awarded two contracts to Turnbull Fox Phillips in the 1997 calendar year.
- (3) In all cases, the requirements of the State Purchasing Policy were adhered to. In two cases, offers were sought from three firms.

The other case was less than \$10,000 and only one bid was sought.

(4) Housing Program—\$17,525 (Stage 1); \$23,460 (Stage 2)

CITEC—\$22,667

CITEC—\$2,981

(5) Activities being undertaken were:

Housing Program—Draft communication program, portfolio of communication tools, presentation kits, etc.

CITEC—Promotion of CITEC's SAP Bureau Service

CITEC—Media release for CITEC's teaming agreement with MINCOM

(6) This falls within the portfolio of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts.

1016. TAFE Queensland

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (28/8/97)—

With reference to his support, on the night of 27 August, for an amendment which acknowledged the extreme unrest amongst TAFE staff caused by his incompetent handling of the portfolio and his support for immediate action to "address the uncertainty in TAFE Colleges across the State (caused) by the direct funding cutbacks and re-allocations" as he imposed the cutbacks and re-allocations on TAFE—

What immediate action will he be taking to solve the problems that he has now admitted to creating?

Mr Santoro (29/9/97): (1) Contrary to the claims of the honourable member for Chermide, this Government has not created any alleged problems concerning TAFE Queensland. In fact, when the Coalition took over the reins of Government in March 1996, it was well recognised that TAFE Queensland was seeking direction, support and leadership. TAFE Queensland has achieved significant progress under this Government but unfortunately the Opposition has yet again chosen to ignore these successes and refused to give credit where credit is due.

The issue of extreme unrest amongst TAFE staff does not accurately reflect the views of the many dedicated TAFE staff who are keenly responding to the rapidly expanding and changing vocational education and training market.

TAFE Queensland recognises that during this period of rapid change, there are staff who are having difficulty adjusting to the new direction. In response to this need, TAFE Queensland is currently allocating 2.5% of its salaries budget to the provision of training programs to enable staff to gain the new skills required to enhance services provided to industry and the community. Claims of so-called vicious funding cut backs are unfounded. In fact, TAFE Queensland greatly exceeded its revenue targets by 18% in 1996-97, generating more than \$121 million through revenue generation activities.

The TAFE Queensland Recurrent Budget is expected to increase. The budget estimates include growth in revenue earned. This is, in fact, the element of the TAFE Queensland budget which will expand further as TAFE becomes more successful in the competitive market. TAFE Queensland is expecting to increase its total revenue by at least 5% per annum.

A feature of the TAFE Queensland budget which is often overlooked, is revenue earned through commercial operations. TAFE Queensland has consistently outperformed budget in Revenue Retention Receipts over the past few years. Actual receipts for 1995-96 were \$11.5 million greater than budget and \$18.8 million greater than budget for 1996-97.

Clearly, then the concerns raised with respect to TAFE Queensland represent an amalgam of misinformation and misunderstanding. TAFE Queensland is a dynamic organisation with a dynamic and committed staff who are working in a rapidly changing training environment to ensure the best training possible for Queenslanders.

1017. Leading Schools

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Education (28/8/97)—

With reference to the leading schools proposal in which there is likely to be an increase in the number of teachers on contract, and as schools will no doubt maintain those teachers in short supply, e.g. maths and science, on their permanent staffs—

- (1) How then can he guarantee that the teaching profession will maintain (a) their professional standing in the community and (b) the security to conduct normal financial transactions, e.g. borrowing for home loans?
- (2) How can he guarantee this contract class will not be predominantly made up of women?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1) & (2) The Leading Schools program will not impact on the number of teachers in short supply, the number of temporary engagements, nor the gender of teachers employed.

Each year the Department has some difficulty in staffing some schools in rural/remote areas, particularly in certain subject areas such as maths/science. However, out of approximately 29,000 teaching positions, the Department would only have difficulty in placing teachers in less than 50 positions.

Temporary engagements are utilised to retain vacancies in the preferred locations, enabling the Department to transfer teachers who have served a number of years in rural/remote locations.

(2) Approximately 68% of the teaching workforce is female. Therefore there can be no guarantee that this gender representation would not occur with temporary engagements.

1018. Construction of Prisons

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to fulfil the pre-election guarantee 'that the Coalition will not be constructing any prison buildings closer to our suburbs than currently exist' and to resite SEQ1 and SEQW approximately two kilometres from residents' homes, and to his promise to residents some months ago that land at the rear of the affected River Hills premises would be landscaped and a bike track and shrubbery provided, and given that the new siting of SEQ1 and SEQW will also be visible from some residences in the River Hills area—

- (1) Will he give a commitment that this landscaping will proceed?
- (2) What form will landscaping take?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) The landscaping for the purposes of buffering will proceed. However, as the correctional centres have moved to a new site the landscaping has also been relocated to achieve the best effect for neighbouring properties.

(2) The landscaping will be in the form of earth berms with tree plantings on the berms.

1019. One Nation Party

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to the presence in Beenleigh on the night of 27 August of more than 30 police equipped with riot equipment to protect a meeting of Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party at which Mrs Hanson was not present nor were any protesters—

- (1) On what basis of threat were so many police allocated to protect this meeting?
- (2) What was the cost of police overtime for this operation?
- (3) What is the Government's policy on allocation of police protection to branch meetings of political parties?
- (4) How many residents of Logan/Beenleigh were waiting for police assistance while police were protecting the One Nation branch meeting?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) Only three (3) police attended the meeting; no extra police in the Logan District were rostered on for the meeting. Rostered police from Beenleigh, Logan, Slacks Creek, Browns Plains and police from Public Safety Response Team attended a briefing at the Beenleigh Police Station at 1800hrs in the event of possible protesters. Protesters had attended similar meetings at Mt Gravatt and Bulimba and public disorder occurred. After the briefing, all police except for the three police who attended the meeting, performed traffic enforcement duties in the Beenleigh Division. At no time were patrols issued with riot equipment for these duties.

(2) No overtime was incurred. All police were directed to return to normal duties at 2000hrs, when it was obvious that no protesters were in attendance.

(3) The Queensland Police Service has an obligation to the community to maintain public order and safety. In order that this obligation is fulfilled, strategies are implemented based on intelligence driven information. The Police Service does not discriminate in relation to the nature of the event and is committed to ensuring public safety.

(4) No resident of Beenleigh/Logan was disadvantaged as a result of the meeting, as all crews had resumed normal duties at 2000hrs.

1020. Mr F. Jackson; Commonwealth/State Relations

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Premier (28/8/97)—

With reference to an article in the Bulletin of 2 September by Laurie Oakes which quotes a letter from his media adviser, Frank Jackson, referring to a dishonest briefing from the Prime Minister's Office—

- (1) How are Queensland's interests being served by describing the Prime Minister's office as being dishonest?
- (2) Did Mr Jackson have his approval to send this letter to Laurie Oakes; if not, will he sack Mr Jackson for unnecessarily damaging relationships between Queensland and the Federal Government?
- (3) Is it permissible for his adviser to use abusive and four letter language in correspondence to journalists?

Mr Borbidge (29/9/97): (1-3) I am advised that the letter in question was intended as a background briefing to Mr Oakes and was not for on the record reporting. I do not believe that relations between the State and the Commonwealth have been affected in any way by the reporting of this matter.

1021. Education Capital Works Program

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Education (28/8/97)—

- (1) What is the nature and cost of (a) maintenance projects and (b) capital works projects carried out or planned at each school in the Everton Electorate?
- (2) What are the starting dates and projected completion dates of each of these maintenance and capital works projects?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): (1) & (2) Maintenance at schools is divided into two types, Planned and Unplanned Maintenance.

Planned Maintenance accommodates projects identified through a condition audit, as well as projects that have to be undertaken at regular intervals. For example the testing of fire hoses etcetera.

Unplanned Maintenance is for unforeseen events that occur at schools throughout the year, (eg. fire, vandalism, break and enter, and small maintenance issues such as broken locks). Due to the very nature of Unplanned Maintenance, identification on a project basis is not possible.

At this stage Planned Maintenance for schools in the Everton Electorate is as listed below, however it does not include the testing of fire hoses, etcetera, as these are undertaken by contracts, each of which covers many schools.

Planned Maintenance at the Albany Creek SS (a Leading School)

The School receives an allocation for its planned maintenance with the projects to be undertaken being at the discretion of the school. Hence information on Planned Maintenance projects at this school are unknown at this time.

Planned Maintenance at the remaining schools

Planned maintenance at these schools is currently the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Housing, with the delivery of the program being through Q-Build.

Completion dates for these projects have not been determined. It should be noted that the listed projects are part of a state-wide program and are subject to change at any time throughout the one year life of the program.

SCHOOLS	BUILDING	DESCRIPTION	EST START	EST COST
Albany Creek SS and Preschool(Leading School)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Currently being determined
Albany Creek SHS	Student Centre (WIC 20974)	External Repaint	15/11/1997	\$10,543
Everton Park SS	Tuckshop (WIC 21185)	Replace Laminated Bench Tops	15/02/1998	\$4,025
Everton Park SS	Tuckshop (WIC 21185)	Internal Repaint	15/04/1998	\$1,035
Everton Park SS	Swimming Pool (WIC 21185)	Maintenance of Pool	Not Known	\$40,882
McDowall Preschool	Unit 1 (WIC 21592)	External Repaint	15/03/1998	\$5,276
Mitchelton Special School	Main Block (WIC 20205)	Replace Carpet to Rooms 1,2,3,4,5,6	01/07/97	\$18,466
Mitchelton Preschool	Unit (WIC 21589)	Repairs to downpipes	01/07/1997	\$977
Mitchelton Preschool	Unit (WIC 21589)	Replace ceiling tiles	01/07/1997	\$678

For details of the capital works program, please refer to the attached schedule.

1022. Exclusion of Domestic Animals from National Parks

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to the Cattlemen's Union Annual Conference in Toowoomba at which their resource management committee chairman said, "locking domestic animals out of fragile pastoral lands was a recipe for ecological disaster"—

- (1) Does he support these comments; if so, why?
- (2) If the potential for wild fires was the basis for these comments, is he satisfied that the current fire management policies and practices of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service are sound and working; if not, what weaknesses has he identified?
- (3) Who conducted the "four years of monitoring at Lakefield National Park" that were referred to in this address, and what were the results?
- (4) Does he agree with the contention made at the conference that this monitoring had resulted in "a living example of the fallacy that all will be well if you remove the domestic animals and the European invaders"; if so, why?
- (5) Is this monitoring at Lakefield part of the argument being used by Stanbroke Pastoral Co. to extend their grazing lease on Diamantina Lakes National Park, and does he support their argument?
- (6) Is he considering allowing grazing on Queensland's national parks; if so, why?

Mr Littleproud (26/9/97): I am not aware of any such comments, particularly of the context in which they were made.

1023. School Capital Works Projects, Rockhampton Electorate

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Education (29/8/97)—

With reference to capital works at schools in the Rockhampton Electorate—

- (1) How much will be spent in 1997-98?
- (2) What projects will be completed in 1997-98?
- (3) What is the cost and completion date of each of these projects?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

- (1) \$537,000
- (2) (i) Multi-purpose Covered Area—Glenmore State High School
- (ii) Additional Storage and Resource Room—Glenmore State School
- (3) (i) The current budget for this project is \$490,000 and the anticipated completion date is 31 March 1998.
- (ii) The current budget for this project is \$50,000 and the capital works programmer component was completed in July 1997.

1024. Recreation Reserve, Mount Molloy

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (29/8/97)—

With reference to the unlawful establishment of a pistol range on the public recreation reserve at Mt Molloy and his instruction some five months ago to the pistol club to remove its improvements from the reserve—

- (1) Why then is the area still fenced off, complete with signs, warning the public not to enter a public reserve?
- (2) What action has been taken to relocate the pistol range?
- (3) Has he been approached to reverse his decision on this matter; if so, on what basis and by whom?
- (4) What action has been taken to identify a management intent for the Mt Molloy reserves, based on the objectives and community expectations put forward in the RPAC regional framework and by reports and studies done by the Department of Environment in Cairns?
- (5) When can the community expect resolution of this issue and the establishment of proper management of the strategically and intrinsically valuable Mt Molloy reserves?

Mr Hobbs (10/9/97): (1-5) The Honourable Member asked the same question in Question on Notice 660 on 5 June 1997 and I refer him to my Answer published in Hansard on 19 August 1997 at page 2818.

Since that time my Department of Natural Resources has written to Mareeba Shire Council and the Pistol Club advising of the Department's leasing requirements for the club's improvements and a safety zone area.

Recently a draft trustee lease covering the club's improvements has been submitted by the Council's solicitors for "in principle" approval and an application has been received from the Pistol Club's solicitors for a Permit to Occupy over the safety zone. These applications are currently being considered by my Department.

1025. Kessels Road and Mt Gravatt/Capalaba Road

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/8/97)—

Will he take the 'Dangerous Goods Status' off Kessels Road and Mt Gravatt/Capalaba Road now that the Southern Bypass is opened; if not, why not?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97): Kessels Road and Mt Gravatt/Capalaba Road will retain the 'Dangerous Goods Status' they have at present. It will continue to be necessary for dangerous goods to be transported on these roads to serve the needs of Rocklea and the surrounding area for both business support and transport logistics reasons.

The opening of the Southern Brisbane Bypass is expected to result in a reduction of the number of heavy transport and dangerous goods carrying vehicles using these roads and further this Dangerous goods traffic will be encouraged to use the Southern Brisbane Bypass where appropriate.

1026. Annual Income, Logan Motorway and Southern Bypass

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/8/97)—

- (1) What is the current annual income from tolls on the Logan Motorway and the Southern Bypass?
- (2) What are the annual volumes of traffic, broken down by vehicle type and by toll booth?
- (3) What are the projections for these figures for five and ten years time?
- (4) When will the debt be paid off on both motorways?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97):

- (1) The Logan Motorway in its new configuration and the Southern Bypass have only been in operation since May 1997, hence annual income is not available.

However, projected revenue for the 12 months to June 1998 is \$18.43 million for both Logan Motorway and Southern Bypass.

- (2) Similarly, annual traffic volumes are not available. However, the most recent weekly figures are:

	Cars	Trucks	Total
Loganlea	78,226	8,172	86,398
Staplyton	89,541	12,035	101,576
Kuraby*	58,184	9,236	67,420
Total	225,951	29,443	255,394

* New toll plaza on Southern Bypass

- (3) Projections for total weekly traffic are as follows:

2002371,231

2007496,790

- (4) Based on predicted traffic growth and interest rates, current financial modelling indicates that the combined debt for Logan Motorway/Southern Brisbane Bypass will be paid off in 2014.

1027. Teachers

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Education (29/8/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that many female teachers who were disadvantaged during their careers by lower wages and discriminatory superannuation provisions are now in dire financial straits?
- (2) How many such female teachers are still employed by the department?
- (3) Will the department prepare a response for those female teachers who have been disadvantaged by the department's policy and are still employed?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

- (1) I am aware that the practices of the past may well have had an adverse impact on the financial situation of particular groups of female teachers who have already retired or who are approaching retirement at this time.

For many years the employment practices for female teachers differed from those for males in relation to: the policies governing recruitment, placement, promotion and remuneration. There appears to be direct linkages between the differing practices and

prevailing societal expectations of the roles played by men and women over the years.

During the period from 1860 to 1967 salaries for female teachers ranged between 75% and 90% of that paid to similarly employed males. The factors that influenced this salary disadvantage, for females included: economic and community expectations of marriage and families as well as the non-recognition of their careers.

Similarly, female access to adequate superannuation was also hampered by the rules which did not allow for patterns of broken service caused by marriage and child rearing responsibilities. These rules tended to affect female teachers much more than male teachers and were considered of little consequence as the prevailing attitude was that most women were dependent on their husbands for financial security.

- (2) An accurate statistical picture of female teachers who were disadvantaged during their careers by lower wages, broken employment conditions and superannuation provisions is difficult to obtain because of the lack of easily accessible data, with an additional problem that personal data is difficult to verify. In some cases there has also been a reluctance by employees to disclose personal information. Female teachers in the over 40 years of age category, in particular, may have been affected by lower wages and/or the prerequisite for continuous service to access full superannuation benefits. A myriad of factors would need to be kept in mind in relation to analysis of any data in relation to those teachers who fall in this category and therefore, again, it is difficult to ascertain exact numbers.

- (3) Over the past 25 years, a number of employment equity initiatives have been introduced to improve the employment condition of female teachers. Since 1969, women have been able to retain their teaching positions upon marriage; equal rates of pay were phased in over a four-year period starting in 1968; equal zonal allowances were brought in; and discriminatory practices in the areas of superannuation entitlements and teacher accommodation were abolished. Since the introduction of the Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Act 1992 (QLD) this Department has ensured that all policies, practices and procedures are equitable and non-discriminatory. Recent Enterprise Bargaining arrangements have brought about improved conditions for workers with family responsibilities, bringing benefits, particularly to women. The introduction in 1996 of paid maternity leave is a clear example of such an improvement.

1028. Police Resources, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/8/97)—

With reference to the long line of promises of more police for Maryborough dating back to prior to the last State election and to the latest promise of 20

new police for the region on 20 May as reported in the Fraser Coast Chronicle—

Will he explain to the citizens of Maryborough where those 20 new police are currently stationed?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97): The Maryborough Police District has received the following new positions since the release of the updated staffing Model in November 1996:

Establishment— Positions
Hervey Bay Water Police—1
Maryborough Prosecution—1
Maryborough Scenes of Crime —1
Maryborough Traffic—1
Maryborough District Community Liaison Officer—1
Maryborough Station—3
Hervey Bay Station—5
Maryborough District—9 First Year Constables

1029. Excise

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/8/97)—

With reference to the result of the Commonwealth increasing excise on fuel, liquor and tobacco and agreeing to hand over this additional revenue to the States as compensation for the loss of State taxing powers arising from a recent High Court decision—

What is the Queensland Government's estimated payment from the Commonwealth in respect of its additional excise on (a) fuel, (b) liquor and (c) tobacco sold in Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97): Before subsidy payments to industry, Commonwealth payments to Queensland, representing the full year effect of increases in excise on fuel and tobacco products, are estimated to be \$486M and \$567M respectively, while the payment representing an increase in the wholesale sales tax on liquor products is expected to be \$177M.

1030. Public Housing, Cook Electorate

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/8/97)—

(1) Will he provide details, including cost, location, housing type, start date and date of occupancy of all units of public housing constructed or approved for funding in the Cook Electorate in 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?

(2) What are the details of subsidy and/or funding for other bodies, including local government and community housing organisations, to provide housing in the Cook Electorate for the same financial years as in (1) above?

Dr Watson (29/9/97):

(1) In response to the Member's question the following information is provided:

Year	Dwelling Type	Dwellings	Total Cost
1993-94	Detached Houses	2	
	Apartments	6	
	Total Dwellings	8	\$1,047,389.00
1994-95	Detached Houses	5	
	Duplex Units	8	
	Senior Units	6	
	Dual Occupancy	2	
	Total Dwellings	21	\$3,255,474.00
1995-96	Detached Houses	6	
	Total Dwellings	6	\$867,399.00
1996-97	Detached Houses	3	
	Apartments	8	
	Duplex Units	2	
	Total Dwellings	13	\$1,364,427.00

(2)

Year	Crisis Accommodation Program	Long Term Community Housing Program	Community Rent Scheme
1993-94	\$11,500.00	\$566,249.00	N/A
1994-95	\$15,498.00	\$70,000.00	\$137,205.00
1995-96	\$14,040.00	\$415,000.00	\$664,915.00
1996-97	\$957,040.00	\$5,857,085.00	\$945,651.00

Final allocations for 1997-98 will not be available until the end of this financial year.

1031. Primary Industries Department Land, Salisbury

Mr FOLEY asked the Premier (29/8/97)—

With reference to Government deliberations concerning the future of Department of Primary Industries forestry land at Evans Road, Salisbury—

- (1) Is he aware of community concern over the possible sale of this land for the construction of a plastics factory and resultant loss of amenity for local residents?
- (2) Is he aware of the role of the forestry site as a buffer zone between local residents and nearby industry?
- (3) What is the estimate of the cost of re-locating the DPI forestry complex to another site?
- (4) Would not such a re-location prejudice the access by DPI forestry staff to university research expertise?
- (5) Will he give an assurance that this land will be retained as a DPI forestry site?

Mr Borbidge (29/9/97): The Government is giving due consideration to an approach by a Queensland owned and Brisbane based international acrylic company EGR, which occupies an adjacent site, to purchase 50 Evans Road Salisbury to allow expansion of its existing operations and to facilitate the introduction of a significant import replacement process.

As a direct result of the introduction of this import replacement process, which will allow the company to continue to compete successfully both within Australia and overseas, EGR plans to significantly add to its current level of 500 employees.

The Government is mindful of the concerns of local residents. It is understood that the Brisbane City Council has negotiated conditions for an acceptable rezoning application directly with EGR which includes a significant buffer zone and retention of the perimeter trees on the site. If a contract is entered with EGR the normal rezoning under the Brisbane City Council would need to be successfully completed.

In the event that negotiations between the Government and EGR result in an acceptable contract of sale, the Government will ensure the continuation of the excellent work undertaken by Forestry Research Facility in support of the timber industry at a nearby site.

The Government does not believe it would be appropriate to stand by and not support a most successful Queensland owned and Brisbane based manufacturing plant, that exports to over 30 countries and claims 80% of the automotive acrylic parts in Australia, in its endeavours to reduce its reliance on imported raw material and to expand and provide jobs for Queenslanders.

I am aware that a petition supported by the Honourable Member has been presented to the Speaker.

Yes.

There has not been a full design and costing for any possible relocation at this stage.

No. Any relocation of the Forestry Research Unit would be considered for a site nearby which would allow the same access by DPI staff to university research expertise.

I refer the Honourable Member to the above statement.

1032. Child Protection Strategy

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (29/8/97)—

With reference to his statement to the Parliament on 28 August regarding initiatives associated with Child Protection Week—

- (1) When will the senior practitioners provided for in the \$8m child protection strategy package allocated in the past two budgets be appointed in area offices to assist in case decisions?

- (2) If these senior practitioners are not to be appointed, how is that part of the budget allocation to be spent?

- (3) How will the total \$8m child protection strategy allocation be spent in 1997-98?

Mr Lingard (25/9/97):

- (1) The role of senior practitioner has been incorporated into Regional Support Teams which are to be established in each region. Funds to establish these positions have been allocated to regions from the \$8m child protection strategy. Positions will be advertised in October 1997 in order to recruit people with the high level of skill and experience in working with children and families that these positions require.

- (2) Refer to answer 1.

- (3) In addition to the establishment of the Regional Support Teams, in 1997-98 the 8m child protection strategy funds will be allocated to meet the recurrent effect of the initiatives in the non-government sector and in area offices which were established during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Funds have been used for statutory child protection service delivery, new information technology for area offices, and a range of parenting assistance and family support services in the non-government sector.

The initiatives include:

Funding for the Parent Helpline, providing 24-hour telephone counselling for parents (\$300,000);

Funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies to enable them to jointly work with area offices to assist indigenous children and families (\$600,000);

Funding to double the capacity of Shared Family Care agencies to provide out-of-home placements for children with protective needs (\$600,000);

Funding for Family Support Services to provide a "curtain of care" for Queensland families who are experiencing difficulty (\$1 million);

The new computerised Child Protection Information System for the storage and retrieval of child protection information was implemented. Expenditure this year will be in system maintenance for Families and Youth Area Offices (\$1 million);.

Funding for 37 permanent direct service delivery positions in area offices to meet increased workload and additional staff to ensure effective implementation of the new information system and other projects (\$3 million);

Upgraded classifications for Managers and Team Leaders to better reflect work value and demands (\$400,000);

Regional Support Teams (\$600,000); and

Area office upgrading and related costs (\$500,000).

1033. Funeral Industry

Mr ELDER asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (29/8/97)—

- (1) When will the amendments to the Cremation Act 1913 and the transfer of provisions into the Coroners Act 1958 contained in the Justices and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1987 commence?
- (2) What consultation took place with industry in relation to these acts and what was the response from industry?
- (3) What consultation is being conducted, and with whom, in relation to the accompanying regulations and associated forms?
- (4) When will the consultation conclude and what has been the response so far?

Mr Beanland (29/9/97):

(1) The consultation on the forms associated with the legislation has highlighted a number of administrative difficulties with the transfer of the provisions of the Cremations Act 1913 into the Coroners Act 1958. For example, the transferred provisions do not contain a transitional commencement clause to deal with the situation that an Application for Permission and Certificate to Cremate may be made prior to the commencement date but the cremation occur following the commencement. These matters remain under consideration and the legislation will commence as soon as possible after these difficulties have been addressed.

(2) Both prior and subsequent to the introduction of the Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1996 discussions were held with members of the funeral industry. Generally speaking, most of the local Queensland owned funeral businesses were supportive of the changes, whilst some crematoria, particularly those controlled by overseas interests, were not supportive. In particular the crematoria were concerned that under the changes, crematoria may not have direct contact with the family of the deceased.

(3) Copies of proposed new forms and a draft regulation have been sent to some 130 participants in the funeral industry throughout Queensland (including crematoria and funeral directors), and to the Service Corporation International Australia Pty Limited, the Australian Cemeteries and Crematoria Association, the Australian Medical Association (Queensland Branch), the Doctors Reform Society and relevant local councils.

(4) Consultation on the forms and regulation concluded on 25 August 1997 although a number of commentators requested, and were granted, an extension of time in which to respond. Broadly, the responses from the consultation process fall into two categories:

- (i) Concerns regarding the policy basis of the amendments; and
- (ii) Concerns regarding the practical difficulties resulting from last year's amendments.

1034. School Guidance Officers

Mr PURCELL asked the Premier (29/8/97)—

With reference to the National/Liberal Coalition Policy for "Quality Education in State Schools" where he promised to "overcome the severe shortage of guidance officers/student counsellors needed to assist with student behaviour and learning problems by doubling the number of these specialists in the first three years of Government"—

- (1) How many guidance officer/student counsellors has his Government employed in their term in office to date?
- (2) How many will his Government employ by the end of their current term in office?

Mr Borbidge (29/9/97):

(1) To date, this Government has employed 21 guidance officers to assist in the management of student behaviour in supportive school environments. In addition to these guidance officers, 45 alternative education officers have been employed to enable regions and clusters to develop effective localised solutions to the issues they are facing in regard to difficult behaviour. The Government has also appointed 132 support staff in direct response to identified school needs. This includes guidance officers, social workers, psychologists, behaviour management teachers and teacher aides. The support staff work with school personnel to assist in identifying behaviour difficulties as early as possible, and in developing methods for managing behaviour that fosters self-discipline.

(2) By the end of this Government's current term in office, it will have employed an extra 59.5 guidance officers, 45 alternative education officers and an extra 200 Full Time Equivalent support staff.

1035. Brisbane International Biennial Festival of Music

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/8/97)—

- (1) Has she received the final figures on whether the Brisbane International Biennial Festival of Music was a financial success; if so, did the festival run at a profit or a loss, and by how much; if not, on what date does she expect to receive a financial report and what efforts has she made to receive it?
- (2) If the festival ran at a loss, what were the main reasons for the loss?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97): (1) & (2) The accounting firm preparing the financial statements on behalf of the Biennial Festival Board has not finalised those accounts. The finalisation has been delayed awaiting the quantification of outstanding liabilities incurred by the Festival.

1036. Sandmining, Byfield National Park

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (29/8/97)—

With reference to his much publicised ban on sandmining at Byfield in Central Queensland—

- (1) Why has no consultation occurred with the mining company holding mining lease applications in the area to determine an appropriate level of compensation owed to them?
- (2) Is the Government level of compensation likely to be paid in the order of \$2m-\$3m as opposed to the \$12m the company believes it is owed?
- (3) Why have letters from the company or its legal representatives not been answered or even acknowledged?
- (4) Why has the lease area not been added to Byfield National Park as promised by him and when will this addition occur?
- (5) What work has been done by the Department of Environment to advance the declaration of the area as national park; if none, why not?

Mr Borbidge (29/9/97):

- (1) The company holding the mining lease application has recently been invited to consult with the Office of the Co-ordinator General on a without prejudice basis with a view to consideration of negotiating a voluntary surrender of the application. The delay in initiating negotiations was largely due to the need to take legal advice to ensure that the company's rights to procedural fairness were observed in the negotiations.
- (2) No figure has been determined by the Government as a compensation amount. The figure of \$12m referred to has not been mentioned to date.
- (3) All correspondence addressed to me by the mining lease applicant has been answered. I am not aware of any correspondence from the company's legal representatives.
- (4) The lease area will be added to Byfield National Park as soon as the mining tenure has been cleared.
- (5) The Department of Environment is involved in discussions within Government prior to clearing the way for declaration of the national park as soon as negotiations with the company are concluded.

1037. Hamilton Cruise Ship Terminal

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (29/8/97)—

With reference to the \$250,000 he has set aside in the last State Budget for work on the Sugar Wharf to enable it to be used as a temporary berthing for South Pacific Cruise Lines—

- (1) About 18 months ago, were tens of thousands of dollars spent on this facility equipping it to handle cruise ship tourists for a Russian Cruise ship; if so, what work was done at that time on this facility?
- (2) What portion of the \$250,000 has been spent so far on providing additional facilities at the Sugar Wharf and on what, and when will the remaining amount be spent?
- (3) Has the \$30,000 contract let to the Sydney firm Taylor Made Marketing for a feasibility study on the suitability of the Sugar Wharf as a cruise ship terminal been completed; if so, what were

its findings and will he table the report resulting from this contract?

- (4) Why was it necessary to conduct a \$30,000 feasibility study into the use of the Sugar Wharf if it is only a temporary measure prior to completion of the Hamilton cruise ship terminal?
- (5) Has he received a request from the developers of the Hamilton cruise ship terminal for financial assistance of the kind he has given to South Pacific Cruise Lines; if so, what amount has been requested for what?

Mr Davidson (29/9/97):

(1) About 24 months ago, money was expended to improve the access to the cruise facility, install a traffic control system and erect fences to allow the facility to be used by cruise ships for stopover calls. The improvements undertaken at the time will be utilised by cruise companies in the period to December 1998. Additional improvements are required to handle base port operations, such as baggage handling, required by embarking and disembarking passengers.

(2) As at 9 September 1997, the only money expended has been \$22 500 for a feasibility study. Additional monies will be spent to meet the needs of cruise line companies in the period to December 1998.

(3) TaylorMade Marketing have completed their component of the feasibility study and a draft report has been received by the Queensland Government. Additional drawings, incorporating passenger flows and traffic logistics, require completion by the marine architects. The final report will be received by 12 September 1997. The broad findings from the draft report are that it is more cost-effective to use flexible demountable structures which can be either purchased or leased. The detailed findings of this report will be tabled in Parliament but the body of the report contains diagrams and costings which will not be made public. These detailed costings will be used to negotiate purchase or lease arrangements, according to appropriate Government purchasing policy.

(4) A feasibility study was required to ensure that, although the facilities are temporary, they should be able to handle passenger movements efficiently. It is important for the future of the Hamilton Quay project that Brisbane handles cruise ships visiting Brisbane as efficiently as possible so that cruise companies are encouraged to return to Brisbane. The feasibility study was also required to ensure that the temporary facilities met the requirements of the Queensland Sugar Corporation and the needs of the shipping agent, stevedores and customs agents.

(5) There has been no request for financial assistance from the developers of the Hamilton cruise ship terminal and no financial assistance has been given to South Pacific Cruise Lines.

1038. Allgas Energy Pipeline

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (29/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed Allgas Energy pipeline through Woombye and the Sunshine Coast areas—

- (1) What is the current status of this proposal?
- (2) Is he aware that the proposal includes directing the pipeline from Winston Road, near Woombye, through a patch of pristine rainforest, set aside and preserved by the owners of Garrads Nursery, through to the Bruce Highway?
- (3) Is he aware of any species classified as vulnerable under the Nature Conservation Act which rely on this rainforest as habitat?
- (4) Has an environmental impact study been undertaken with respect to the route of the pipeline; if not, why not?
- (5) Why is the option of routing the pipeline from Winston Road east to the junction of the Maroochydore Road/Bruce Highway interchange and then along the highway, not being considered?
- (6) Is this yet another example of the Government's routine exemption of major projects from proper environmental impact assessment so that private developers are subsidised by the destruction of community environmental value?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97):

- (1) Allgas is still negotiating with landowners on the proposed gas pipeline route and on the specific easement conditions?
- (2) Yes, but as the member notes in his question this is a proposal only at this time and I am advised that Allgas are continuing direct negotiations with Garrads Nursery over the options available.
- (3) At this stage no. Until such time as a final pipeline route has been identified it is not possible to undertake the required environmental management plan, which would address such matters.
- (4) See answer to three above.
- (5) As noted in answer 2 above, all feasible options are being considered by Allgas. However, at the end of the day, the pipeline route will be determined on the basis of overall economics, technical and safety considerations as well as the outcome of public consultation.
- (6) No.

1039. Aquaculture

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (29/8/97)—

With reference to the plan to produce fish from Bundaberg irrigation channels as outlined in the Newsmail of 29 August—

- (1) What research has been undertaken to allow for aquacultural enterprises such as fish farming in irrigation channels?
- (2) Will he assure the public there will be no negative environmental impacts on water quality?

- (3) Will aquacultural pursuits in irrigation channels affect the provision of irrigation water to farmers?
- (4) Have economic feasibility studies been undertaken on this proposal; if so, what were the results?
- (5) What is the basis for the proposed 1,000 jobs and \$600m capital injection as a result of these projects?
- (6) Will this project interfere with the successful fish stocking undertakings by local fishing groups in the water balancing storage areas?
- (7) How many years does he expect before this project will be an economic reality?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

INTRODUCTION

I have been asked to address questions related to a proposal to stock the Isis/Bundaberg irrigation channel with species of freshwater fish for aquaculture. The proponents propose to invest considerable amounts of money into the project with the aim of producing quality table fish for the export market.

The concept was outlined by Isis Aquaculture Pty Ltd at a meeting in Bundaberg on 22 August 1997. At this stage full details are not available. I believe the proposal is worth investigating further and would like to see a fully integrated pilot study undertaken to investigate the farming concept and its environmental impacts.

Answer:

1. My Department has indicated that considerable research has been conducted with regard to using irrigation channels for aquaculture, particularly in countries like North America and Mexico. In Australia, farming fish in irrigation channels is being trialled in the Goulburn—Murray Irrigation district in Victoria. I am advised that, although final results have not been released for this project, some promising information supporting developments of this kind is being obtained. Of course, the outcomes from the pilot study the proponent of this project has agreed to undertake will assist in the assessment of the proponent's application for an aquaculture authority.
2. Like other applicants wishing to undertake developments of this type, the proponent will have to satisfy the requirements of all relevant authorities and will be subject to normal EIS processes, which can, if necessary, be triggered by state or local authorities. However, I am advised that, at this stage the proponents have only been requested to conduct a pilot trial. I have also been advised that water usage from the irrigation system is largely limited to irrigating sugarcane and other agricultural crops and any increases in the level of nutrients in this water from fish farming will be of benefit to farmers by reducing the amount of fertiliser they will need to apply to their crops. I am also advised that the proponents propose to treat all waters taken from the irrigation system for other uses to the standard of water quality required.
3. My advisers are confident that the use of irrigation water for aquaculture purposes will have no negative

affect on the quality of water supplied to farmers. With regard to affecting channel flows I have been advised that the proponents claim to have given special consideration to the design of screens and cleaning apparatus to ensure that channels remain unblocked. This will be monitored by DNR during the pilot study.

4. It is my understanding that the proponents have made investigations into the economic feasibility of the project. They believe they have a large and secure market capable of absorbing all the product they can produce. There has been no economic feasibility study undertaken by the Queensland Government.

5. The proponent has proposed that the development, at full operational capacity; including ancillary facilities like feed mills, transport networks, processing plants, etc., will directly create 1000 jobs and create substantially more jobs indirectly, causing a significant injection of capital into the local and state economy. However, the pilot study should give an indication of the veracity of claims regarding the jobs and investment created by this project if it proceeds to full development.

6. I have been advised that the proponents have only expressed an interest in using that part of the channel below and down stream from the Isis balancing storage area. They suggest this will minimise, if not eliminate, any potential impact on the storage area. It is hoped that mutually beneficial arrangements might be developed between local stocking interests and the proponents of this proposed development.

7. The proponent has indicated that, at this point in time, they expect the project will take five years before becoming fully operational but anticipate a substantial level of production to be achievable by the third year. The commencement date for the project is subject to the outcomes and timeframe set down for the pilot study. The commencement date for the pilot study has yet to be determined.

1040. Bramble Bay; Boondall Wetlands

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to the Bramble Bay area and reports of an apparently serious decline of macrobenthic invertebrates at Nudgee Beach and adjacent areas to the Boondall Wetlands—

- (1) What is the Queensland Government's level of managerial responsibility for the Ramsar site based at the Boondall Wetlands?
- (2) How often does the department undertake chemical analysis of water and sediments in this region?
- (3) Has the Government informed the Federal Government of the reported problems in Bramble Bay; if so, what has been the response of the Federal Government?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

- (1) Under the Ramsar Convention the Boondall Wetlands and the foreshores of Nudgee Beach are

included within the listing of Moreton Bay as a Wetland of International Significance. The Moreton Bay Marine Park, which was declared in 1993, includes tidal waters and tidal lands, but excludes freehold land. The Marine Park provides a mechanism to conserve and manage areas of high conservation value in accordance with the Australian Government's obligations under the Ramsar Convention.

A Zoning Plan has been developed for Moreton Bay Marine Park and is expected to be approved in the near future. Under the Zoning Plan, the area immediately adjacent to the Boondall Wetlands will be declared Conservation Zone, with sections west of Nudgee Beach becoming Habitat Zone. The purpose of the Conservation Zone is:

- (a) to conserve the zone's cultural and natural resources and amenity values;
- (b) to conserve the zone's natural condition to the greatest possible extent;
- (c) to allow members of the public to enjoy the relatively undisturbed nature of the zone; and
- (d) to ensure use of the zone's natural resources is ecologically sustainable.

To further meet obligations under the Ramsar Convention, the Zoning Plan manages activities throughout the Marine Park which are likely to cause undue disturbance of shorebirds and their habitat.

Freehold areas of the Boondall Wetlands are owned and managed by Brisbane City Council. The Council has declared the area to be a wetland reserve and manages the area with the assistance of the Boondall Wetlands Management Committee.

(2) The Department monitors water quality monthly and undertakes chemical analyses of sediments two or three times a year depending on the location.

(3) The Queensland Government has not informed the Commonwealth Government of the reported problems in Bramble Bay due to the need to firstly substantiate whether or not a problem exists and this requires a thorough investigation of the claims made. Until reliable data are available on the macrobenthic invertebrates of the Nudgee Beach area and their natural variability in space and time, it is not possible to indicate whether the reported decline is the result of natural fluctuations in population numbers or the result of human influences.

1041. Coal Haulage Lines

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to the fact that some coal trains hauling coal to Gladstone from the coal fields west of Rockhampton are causing a significant dust nuisance to the public living adjacent to coal haulage lines—

Is he prepared to ignore the impact on the quality of life caused by this dust problem and will he allow coal from the Curragh Mine near Blackwater to be hauled to Stanwell Power Station without first going through the mines wash plant?

Mr Littleproud (26/9/97): A Gladstone dust study was conducted jointly by Queensland Rail, BHP Transport, the Gladstone Port Authority,

Queensland Alumina, the Gladstone Power Station and the Department of Environment.

Queensland Rail has arranged to meet with the Department of Environment to examine relevant issues and any potential solutions.

The Member may wish to raise this matter further with the Honourable Tom Gilmore MLA, Minister for Mines and Energy or the Honourable Vaughan Johnson MLA, Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

1042. Dugong Protection Areas

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to the recent backdown by Federal and State Ministers over the boundaries of dugong protection areas—

- (1) Does he support the changed boundaries; if so, why did he agree to the boundaries as initially announced?
- (2) What financial and other impacts does he now concede that the original boundaries would have caused commercial fishing operators?
- (3) What financial impact does he consider the revised dugong protection areas will have on commercial fishing operators?
- (4) What protection will be retained for dugong grazing or moving through areas protected under the original boundaries but now excluded from protection under the revised boundaries?
- (5) Will he now confess publicly that he is ashamed and embarrassed by the stinging defeat he has suffered at the hands of the Minister for Primary Industries?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97):

(1) There has been no back down over the boundaries of the dugong protection areas. The boundaries of the protection areas have been agreed in accordance with advice from the Dugong Protection Area Advisory Group, which included representatives from the Commonwealth and State Governments, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Commercial Fisherman's Organisation and eminent scientists.

(2) It has been estimated that up to \$4M will be required to compensate commercial fishers when implementing the dugong protection areas. There have been no other estimates of compensation prepared for Ministerial Council.

(3) The implementation of net closures in dugong protection areas will affect the holders of in excess of 180 commercial fishing licences. Analysis of Queensland Fisheries Management Authority's Fisheries Logbook Program database identified approximately \$2.3m in gross value of production was derived in 1996 from within or directly adjacent to the proposed Dugong Protection Areas.

(4) Outside the protection areas, dugong will be afforded the full protection given under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

(5) There has been no defeat by the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry. In fact, the Honourable Trevor Perrett and I have worked closely together to ensure that the final dugong protection strategy has been developed as an effective and innovative solution in full consultation with all interested parties. Unless the new Member has suddenly developed an interest in this subject, I imagine that she was given this question by the Member for Everton, your party's shadow spokesman on environment. He apparently is shy about coming out with views on dugong in fear of a party-room rebuff from his "comrade", the Member for Rockhampton and opposition spokesman on the issue of fishing.

1043. Commonwealth/State Tax Relations

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/8/97)—

With reference to an article in the 2 September edition of the Bulletin magazine in which the political columnist Laurie Oakes reports on correspondence he received from the Premier's Press Secretary criticising the Federal Treasurer—

- (1) Does she agree with Mr Jackson when he states that "Costello started abysmally with State leaders at the first Premier's Conference with the nature of his plans to lumber them with as much of the inherited Federal deficit as he could"?
- (2) Does she agree with Mr Jackson when he states that "he (Costello) behaved like a bovver boy and got State hackles up at the time"?
- (3) Does she agree with Jackson's description of Costello's plan to resolve the High Court's decision outlawing State taxes on liquor, petrol and tobacco as a "politically Baldrickian plan"?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97): The Queensland Government has consistently and publicly called for a reform of Federal-State tax relations. The Queensland Government has also negotiated with the Commonwealth over ensuring that our state maintains its low tax status following the recent High Court decision on tobacco, fuel and liquor excises. It is our intention to fight for the very best deal for Queensland and Queenslanders, and the Government will not resile from that stance.

1044. School Capital Works Projects, Currumbin Electorate

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Education (29/8/97)—

With reference to capital works programs for Queensland schools in 1997-98—

What are the details of any projects planned for schools in the Currumbin Electorate including commencement and completion dates?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): The following capital works projects are planned for schools within the Currumbin electorate during the 1997-98 financial year:—

School	Project Description	Commencement Date	Completion Date
Palm Beach-Currumbin SHS	replace admin block	18/07/97	15/12/97
Palm Beach-Currumbin SHS	convert old admin to GLAs	15/12/97	30/06/98
Currumbin SS	amenities block (non standard)	12/5/97	17/10/97
Tallebudgera SS	general learning block	28/11/97	30/3/98
Tallebudgera SS	relocate existing modular	12/8/97	1/12/97

1045. Police Resources, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/8/97)—

- (1) What are the police numbers for Sandgate Police Station in the following areas (a) CIB, (b) JAB, (c) Traffic Branch and (d) daily operational police?
- (2) Are there any plans to increase numbers in all or any of these areas?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

- (1) The approved strength of Sandgate is as follows:
 - (a) CIB—1 Sergeant, 1 Senior Constable, 2 Constables: 4
 - (b) JAB—1 Sergeant, 1 Senior Constable, 1 Constable: 3
 - (c) Traffic Branch—2 Sergeants, 2 Senior Constables, 1 Constable: 5
 - (d) General Duties—1 Senior Sergeant, 6 Sergeants, 7 Senior Constables, 16 Constables—30
 - (e) Administration—1 Inspector, 1 Senior Sergeant: 2
 - (f) Surplus to approved strength—1 Detective Senior Constable, 2 Sergeants, 1 Senior Constable, 3 First Year Constables: 7
 - (g) Support Staff—6 Staff Members: 6

Total: 57

(2) In the new year it is intended to provide an additional staff member position for a Property/Rosters Officer. The human resource allocation model will be rerun soon and it is anticipated that some additional police positions will be allocated to Metropolitan North Region. The Inspector, Sandgate, has been asked to bid for extra positions and the Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan North Region, will allocate the additional positions when all bids are considered. Because the number of additional positions are unknown at this stage no estimate of any increases to Divisions in Metropolitan North Region can be given.

1046. Mr F. Jackson; Commonwealth/State Relations

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to an article in the Bulletin of 2 September by journalist, Laurie Oakes—

Does he agree with the Premier's Media Adviser, Frank Jackson, referring to his Federal counterpart Robert Hill as a John Faulkner impersonation in relation to Hinchinbrook; if not, what action is he taking to distance himself from Mr Jackson's comments?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): Labor Members would be well aware of Senator Faulkner's negative attitude to the Hinchinbrook project. They will recall that the Goss Government undertook an advertising campaign to counter his involvement. As far as Senator Hill is concerned, I have a harmonious and positive relationship with him.

1047. Motor Vehicle Registration

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/8/97)—

What proposals is he considering in relation to twice-yearly payments of vehicle registration and will any such proposals involve fee increases or is he simply going to give up on this issue as too hard?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97): I am well aware of the difficulty that some vehicle owners face with paying their registration and view six monthly payments as an option that will provide vehicle owners with substantial assistance.

Officers of Queensland Transport are currently investigating the option of introducing six monthly registration payments for all light vehicles including cars, utilities, motorcycles and small buses.

The investigation is examining the best way to introduce this option so that it meets customer needs and keeps costs to a minimum. Consultation with customers and the Compulsory Third Party insurance industry is currently occurring. Once the investigation is complete, I intend to take a proposal to Cabinet for consideration.

I would not envisage that there would be any increase in annual registration fees if this initiative is introduced.

However, there will obviously be a need to send out additional registration renewal notices, registration certificates, labels and so on if we proceed with the six monthly payment option. Likewise, the CTP insurers will also incur some additional costs. As a result, I would envisage that vehicle owners who take up the six monthly payment option will pay an administration fee to meet the additional costs incurred by offering this option. This is the same approach that is taken in other States/Territories which offer six monthly payments. However, as I have said, I have asked Queensland Transport to keep any fee to a minimum.

I would also point out that Queensland Transport has recently introduced credit card payments by telephone which is already proving to be a very popular option with motorists.

1048. Non-Government Agency Funding, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (29/8/97)—

With reference to funding from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Services to non-Government agencies (NGAs) (29/8/97)—

For those NGAs within the Lytton Electorate (a) what NGAs receive funding and what is the physical location where those funds are allocated to be spent, (b) for each NGA under which program(s) and in what amount are these funds allocated to be spent and (c) what is the nature of the expenditure (e.g., support workers, capital purchases etc.) funded for each program at each NGA?

Mr Lingard (17/9/97):

(1) In the Lytton electorate there are four organisations to provide a total of 11 funded services in the area. These are:

1. Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc.
2. Uniting Church in Australia
3. Qld Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association
4. Silky Oaks Children's Haven

The funds are allocated to be spent primarily in the Wynnum Manly area, however, referrals for these services extend to surrounding suburbs, Redlands Shire and the Bay Islands.

(2) Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)—\$192,273

Family Support Worker Program (FSWP)—\$48,875

Youth Services Development Grant (YSDG)—\$60,000

Uniting Church In Australia

Partners In Parenting

Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program (ACISP)—\$130,750

Family Support Program (FSPF)—\$2,069

Unicare Community Accommodation Network

Disability Funding Program—\$113,927

Qld Police Citizens Welfare Association

Vacation Care Program (VCP)—\$31,200

Silky Oaks Children's Haven

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)—\$134,458

Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program (ACISP)

2 x Residential Cottages—\$225,818

Family Centre—\$233,806

(3) Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

Funds are allocated to employ housing support workers plus operating costs

Family Support Worker Program (FSWP)

Funds are allocated to employ a family support worker (counselling) plus operating costs.

Youth Services Development Grant

Funds are allocated to employ a youth support coordinator to work with all youth services and three schools in the area.

Uniting Church In Australia

Partners In Parenting

Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program (ACISP)

Funds are allocated to employ support workers to provide assistance to families with children between 0-12 years of age where the children have been identified as being 'at risk' or neglect, plus operating costs.

Unicare Community Accommodation Network

Disability Funding Program

Funds are allocated to employ residential care workers and people with a disability, plus operating costs.

Qld Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association

Vacation Care Program (VCP)

Operational funds are allocated to provide vacation care for 120 children x 50 days.

Silky Oaks Children's Haven

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

Funds are allocated to employ housing support workers plus operating costs.

Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program (ACISP)

Funds are allocated to employ residential care workers for two cottages plus operating costs.

Funds are also allocated to employ counselling staff in the Organisation's Family Centre plus operating costs.

1049. National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to a Department of Environment Board of Management meeting on 9 June at which the future use of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service's possum logo was discussed—

- (1) Will the future use of the "Herbie" logo on departmental material be at the discretion of regional directors and executive directors; if so, why?
- (2) Must department signs, brochures and other forms of public information include the Government crest and the words, "Department of Environment"?

- (3) Why has the position of Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service been redesignated Director, National Parks and Wildlife?
- (4) Does he support these moves by his department's board of management; if so, why does he believe this name change is necessary at this time?
- (5) What other changes to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service does he envisage occurring?
- (6) Does this name change now mean that the service has branch status only within the department?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97): (1)-(6) As neither myself nor members of my office attend Departmental Board of Management meetings, may I suggest that you write to the Director-General of the Department of Environment, Mr Tom Tolhurst, regarding this matter.

1050. Rural Fire Service

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/8/97)—

With reference to the new Canter fire appliances currently being provided to the Rural Fire Service—

- (1) Do these new appliances carry only 1,000 litres of water, which is much less than the amount carried by older appliances?
- (2) Has he received representations from Rural Fire Service members concerned about the short hose lengths and the reduced water capacity of the new vehicle?

Mr Veivers (29/9/97):

(1) The medium rural appliance, based upon the Mitsubishi Canter cab chassis, will be produced in two versions this year. There is a 4.5 tonne version which carries 1,000 litres and a 5.5 tonne version carrying 1,500 litres. Previous versions of the medium rural appliance did carry 1,200 litres. Following extensive input from rural fire brigade volunteers as well as from the Rural Fire Brigades Association, modification of the appliance was undertaken to enable a greater equipment carrying capacity. This necessitated a reduction of 200 litres in water carrying capacity.

The capability of a fire appliance goes well beyond the amount of water being carried. This is why the volunteers requested a greater equipment carrying capability.

(2) I am not aware of any representations regarding short hose lengths. The Rural Fire Division provides hose reels capable of carrying 30 metres of hose, which is the Australian Standard.

I have received a small number of representations regarding the water carrying capacity of rural appliances. There are some volunteers who prefer large volumes of water to be available from appliances, or who prefer greater equipment or passenger carrying capacity, but this can only be achieved by producing appliances at a considerably greater expense than the current models.

The 4.5 tonne model, introduced several years ago under the former Government, and the recently upgraded 5.5 tonne model, will remain the backbone of the rural fire brigade fleet in the foreseeable future.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

833. WorkCover Act

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/97)—

- (1) How many PAYE employees are now covered by the new WorkCover Act; the answer to be in actual numbers of employees?
- (2) How many employees were covered at this time last year by the Workers' Compensation Act; the answer to be in actual numbers of employees?

Mr Santoro (18/9/97): Workers' compensation premiums are calculated on the amount of gross wages declared, not the number of workers employed. It is the accuracy of gross wages figures which is important to WorkCover. The actual number of PAYE employees cannot be provided. Employers are requested by WorkCover to provide an average number of all workers for inclusion in the annual Declaration of Wages. The average number of workers is requested for general information purposes and reasonableness checks only. Due to the non-compulsory nature of the provision of this data, its accuracy can not be guaranteed.

834. Sale of Cigarettes to Minors

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to the growing open use of tobacco products by young people, many who are still attending primary school—

- (1) What is the law in regard to the sale of cigarettes to underage children?
- (2) Is this law being enforced; if not, why not?
- (3) Whose responsibility is it to ensure that cigarettes are not being sold to underage children?
- (4) How many shop owners are prosecuted for selling cigarettes to minors?
- (5) If there are not prosecutions for selling cigarettes to minors, why not?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

- (1) The Juvenile Smoking Suppression Act 1905.
- (2) Environmental Health Officers have the ability to enforce the law. I intend to introduce new legislation later this year, the Tobacco Products (Prevention of Supply to Children) Bill, to modernise the Government's approach to this important issue.
- (3) Under the current legislation, retailers, parents and the general community are responsible for ensuring that tobacco products are not sold or supplied to Queensland children.
- (4) I am not aware of any successful prosecutions for selling or supplying tobacco to children in recent years.
- (5) See answer (2).

835. Wahroonga

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/8/97)—

Will the current 54 cottages and units at Wahroonga be demolished; if so, when?

Dr Watson (18/9/97): Of the 54 existing units and cottages at Wahroonga, 24 units are housed in 11 individual duplex cottages and 30 are housed in three barrack-style buildings.

The barrack-style buildings are to be demolished in early October 1997 to make way for the construction of 16 new seniors' units on that site. A decision will be made on the balance of the accommodation at a future time.

It is disappointing that the Member appears to adopt a negative view of the Government's commitment to housing the 15 seniors currently occupying unsatisfactory accommodation at Wahroonga in view of the fact that during six years in Government he appeared disinterested in the plight of the residents.

836. Federal Excise Fees

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/8/97)—

With reference to her promise that there would be no price rises resulting from the Commonwealth's action in imposing additional excise on fuel, tobacco and liquor to replace State licensing and franchise fees—

- (1) What mechanism has been put in place to ensure that the price of (a) fuel, (b) tobacco products and (c) liquor products, does not rise in Queensland?
- (2) As the imposition of the additional Commonwealth excise occurred on 6 August and was payable immediately, will the State Government immediately advance the compensation of the taxation differential to affected wholesalers, so that they do not have to pass on additional costs to retailers and consumers?
- (3) What is the cost of the advancing of compensation payments to wholesalers, as outlined in (2) above?
- (4) Is this cost to be recouped from the Commonwealth, or is it to be recouped from the difference between the revenue raised from the former State licensing fees and the new, but higher, Federal excise charges?

Mrs Sheldon (18/9/97): (1) to (4) I refer Mr Hamill to my Ministerial Statement of 20 August 1997 relating to the High Court decision on Business Franchise Fees.

837. Shanghai Trade and Investment Office; Ms E. Sun

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (19/8/97)—

- (1) Why was a decision made to establish the Shanghai Trade Office as a \$2 company?

- (2) What is the potential risk value of the \$2 company decision as, according to sacked employee Eve Sun, millions of dollars have been placed at risk to date?
- (3) Did the department receive a proposal for a \$3m investment in a dairy farm; if so, on what date?
- (4) Was this proposal dismissed by the department as being 'too small'; if not, why was the project rejected?
- (5) Who was the officer who rejected the proposal and was this matter brought to his attention?
- (6) Why was Ms Sun only paid once in six months?
- (7) Why were insufficient funds made available for office expenditure and was Ms Sun reimbursed for her office expenditure?
- (8) Who in Treasury directed that staff be paid by cheque which caused difficulty in China?
- (9) Why were staff not paid in cash?
- (10) Why was Ms Sun sacked in clear defiance of her contract without formal notification of complaints against her and without allowing her a response within seven days?

Mr Slack (18/9/97):

(1) The Shanghai Trade and Investment Office was established in accordance with the regulations stipulated by Government of the People's Republic of China and outlined in documents provided by the Australian Consulate General in Shanghai.

(2) There are no risks, because we are following the instructions of the host Government, the Government of the People's Republic of China. It is the role of the Office to facilitate Queensland trade and investment—it does not undertake any trading or investment activities which would put any money at risk.

(3) No, the department has no record of an inquiry from Ms Sun in relation to a \$3 million dairy farm purchase. Ms Sun mentioned the prospect in a weekend telephone call to the Acting Director-General shortly before her dismissal but she did not follow the project up.

However, the department did receive a number of requests from Ms Sun to respond to farm purchase inquiries which she had received from the Austrade Investment Office in Shanghai.

(4) & (5) In all cases where Ms Sun raised issues in the agribusiness sector, the department did its best to be helpful and either provided relevant information to her or referred the inquiries to the Department of Primary Industries.

It should be noted however, that in appointing Ms Sun to the position of Queensland Government Commissioner in Shanghai, the department expected her to seek out opportunities for productive new investments into Queensland which would provide a significant net economic benefit to the State in terms of new jobs or new exports, particularly in those industry sectors where Queensland has a competitive advantage.

It was not expected that she would merely act as a post office for the less important inquiries picked-up by the Austrade network, as there is already a mechanism for the State to receive these inquiries through Austrade's head office in Sydney. It should also be pointed out that none of these inquiries for direct farm purchases were ever considered significant enough by Austrade to process through its formal system.

(6) Ms Sun commenced duties with the Department on 17 October, 1997 as Queensland Government Commissioner, Shanghai for a period of three years. The terms and conditions of the contract of employment were negotiated between Ms Sun and the then Director-General of the Department, Mr Tony Krimmer.

Mr Krimmer was concerned that Ms Sun was not being paid a salary on a regular basis. However, the department had not been able to establish where income tax was to be paid or the total amount on which the taxation liability was to be calculated as Ms Sun had not finalised, with Mr Krimmer, her income tax obligations. Ms Sun did not finalise negotiations with Mr Krimmer in relation to the issue of how tax was to be deducted from Ms Sun's salary. Ms Sun herself indicated that she did not wish to be paid any salary pending resolution of her taxation status.

Mr Krimmer, as Director-General, directed that Ms Sun be compensated at the approximate net value of her basic salary, in arrears from the date of commencement of duty with the department. To prevent an overpayment, the department considered it advisable to withhold money equivalent to the maximum tax rate payable in China until the issues relating to Ms Sun's contract of employment were finalised between Ms Sun and the Director-General.

At the time the department anticipated that the issues concerning Ms Sun's contract of employment would be resolved in the very near future. The department intended to adjust future payments to Ms Sun if necessary and to remit the required amount of tax to the appropriate government.

The only payment made to Ms Sun between 17 October, 1996 and 25 June, 1997 under the contract was the sum of \$20,000 paid on 28 February, 1997. This was an interim payment to Ms Sun as there had been delays in finalising the issues relating to the treatment of Ms Sun's personal taxation obligations and whether Ms Sun's rental assistance would take the form of cash or a rent reimbursement. The payment was made at my direction when I discovered that there had been no payment to Ms Sun.

All monies owing to Ms Sun under the terms of her employment were paid to her as soon as the Department had been advised that she was considered a non-resident for tax purposes. All monies due to Ms Sun were paid to her on 25 June, 1997.

(7) The Shanghai Office was provided with a budget of \$A1.059 million for the 1996/97 financial year.

A significant portion of the initial set-up costs of the Shanghai Office were paid for directly from the Department in Brisbane. The ANZ Bank in Shanghai

also assisted the Department in this regard, by paying accounts on behalf of the Department and seeking reimbursement at a later time.

The Shanghai Office's ANZ bank account was opened in November 1996, with Ms Eve Sun as sole signatory to the account. Arrangements were put in place at that time for funds to be transferred from Brisbane to the Shanghai Office's bank account as and when requested by Ms Sun.

A second bank account, dealing solely in the local Chinese currency, was opened in late December 1996 to further assist the Shanghai Office in meeting its financial obligations.

In January 1997, Ms Sun was provided with a departmental Corporate Credit Card, to facilitate departmental business.

Under the Department's "Delegations and Associated Policies for Overseas Offices", all Commissioners have authority to approve their own expenditure. The purpose of this delegation is to ensure that Commissioners do not have to wait for approval from Brisbane before receiving reimbursement for valid personal expenditure claims. With respect to the reimbursement of Ms Sun for expenditure incurred on behalf of the Office, Ms Sun had authority to authorise the processing of her claims without waiting for approval from Brisbane.

However, despite having access to departmental funds through the Office's bank accounts, and the possession of a departmental credit card, Ms Sun continued to use her own funds to meet departmental expenses. With respect to Ms Sun's departmental credit card, Office staff had noted that she was initially reluctant to use the card.

At the beginning of her engagement, Ms Sun received instructions in the financial administration of the Office from staff in Brisbane. In particular, the importance of fully documenting and supporting official claims for payment was emphasised. However, it is evident from subsequent audits and reviews of the Office's financial processes, that to a large extent, Ms Sun disregarded departmental instructions on this matter. When in Brisbane in January 1997, Ms Sun submitted a claim for reimbursement of official expenditure. This claim was so poorly documented and supported that the majority of the claim could not be paid at that time.

Price Waterhouse (PW), an international firm of Chartered Accountants, was engaged in early December 1996 to provide professional support to Ms Sun in the implementation of appropriate accounting systems and banking arrangements in the Shanghai office. However during this critical settling-in period, Ms Sun delayed the commencement of the engagement, and once started, exhibited a general lack of interest in and cooperation with PW staff in their assigned tasks.

(8) I am not aware of anyone in Treasury giving Ms Sun such advice.

(9) It is an accepted practice for the payment of government employees to be made by either direct credit to a nominated bank account, or to a lessor extent, by cheque. This practice avoids the security

problems inherent in handling large amounts of cash, affords a greater level of control over the related processes, and is a far more efficient and effective use of departmental resources.

However, the staff of the Shanghai Office were initially paid in cash, as appropriate systems had not been established to do otherwise.

It should be noted that the payroll records maintained by Ms Sun were inadequate, and indicated irregularities in the payment of staff.

From April onwards, salaries have been paid directly to employees' bank accounts.

In June 1997, the Department outsourced the processing of payroll to a chartered accounting firm, to ensure full compliance with the Chinese Government's legislative requirements. Under these arrangements, the payment of staff wages in cash is not a viable option.

(10) Ms Sun's employment was terminated on the 16th April, 1997 by notice given to her by the Acting Director-General on behalf of the Crown in the right of the State of Queensland.

Ms Sun was paid three (3) months salary in lieu of notice plus three (3) months salary by way of a severance payment.

Under the contract terms that were negotiated with Ms Sun either party was entitled to terminate the contract without giving any reasons. Further, there was no requirement under Ms Sun's employment conditions that formal notification of complaints be given or any response be given within 7 days or any other time.

The decision to dismiss Ms Sun was taken when it became apparent that Ms Sun was failing to perform at the level expected of a person of the seniority of a Trade and Investment Commissioner.

Major administrative difficulties were experienced in the Office. Since her dismissal, the extent of these problems have continued to emerge and have confirmed that the Acting Director-General acted appropriately in dismissing Ms Sun.

As early as November 1997, Ms Sun was offered administrative support from Brisbane to assist with the establishment of the Office. She refused to accept this assistance. The offer of assistance was renewed on subsequent occasions. In February 1997, the Department sent an officer from Brisbane to assist with the administrative functions of the Office. This officer subsequently spent six months in Shanghai assisting in the Office.

The Department received feedback from various sources that Ms Sun had been unable to represent the interests of Queensland as expected of the Trade and Investment Commissioner. She had demonstrated a lack of knowledge of Queensland issues and failed to utilise opportunities to promote the interests of Queensland.

838. Seizure of Illegal Weapons

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/8/97)—

With reference to the disturbing results of Operation Moonstone and Gazit which resulted in almost 100 illegal weapons being seized—

- (1) Were all of the weapons seized from the one property or several properties, and which were the properties involved?
- (2) Does he find it alarming that amongst these weapons were a 12 gauge yabbie pump shotgun and a 22 calibre fountain pen gun?
- (3) What other exotic firearms were seized during this raid?
- (4) Were the yabbie pump and fountain pen weapons locally made or imported and were they one-offs or production lines?
- (5) How many people have been charged in connection with the manufacture and/or possession of these firearms, were they local residents or visitors, and what were their names?
- (6) What was the connection between the possession of these firearms and the current gun buy-back scheme?
- (7) Did the persons found in possession of these weapons intend to surrender them to the gun buy-back scheme in return for compensation?
- (8) Have any of the persons charged in connection with these firearms surrendered weapons to the buy-back scheme previously; if so, what are their names and what amount of compensation was paid to each person involved?
- (9) Were any semi-automatic gun parts seized during these two raids; if so, how many and were these destined for the gun buy-back scheme?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

- (1) Weapons were seized from properties at Minden, Warwick, Logan Village, Tarragindi, Brighton, and Brackenridge.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A silenced sniper type 375 calibre rifle; a silenced semi-automatic 22 calibre rifle with detachable butt and barrel enabling the weapon to also be used as a pistol; and a 22 calibre rifle with in-built concealed silencer.
- (4) There is no conclusive evidence to support where these firearms were produced; however, it is believed they were manufactured in the Brisbane area. It is believed they were not production line weapons but made to order.
- (5) Two persons were charged with weapons offences. Both persons were local residents. Until these matters have been dealt with by a court, it is inappropriate to disclose the names of the persons charged.
- (6) There was no known connection between the possession of these exotic firearms and the gun buy-back scheme.
- (7) The persons charged with the possession of the exotic firearms did not declare an intent to surrender them to the gun buy-back scheme in return for compensation.

(8) Both persons charged have surrendered firearms to the gun buy-back scheme. The first person received \$4,632.00; the second person received \$42,045.00.

(9) In excess of eighty (80) automatic, semi-automatic, pistol and revolver parts. It is not known if it was intended that these parts be surrendered to the gun buy-back scheme.

839. Forestry Projects

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/8/97)—

- (1) What forestry projects and consultancies are being undertaken by the department outside Australia?
- (2) What Australian species of timber are being grown in other countries?
- (3) What input does the Forestry Department have in monitoring these forests?
- (4) What commercial projections have been undertaken by the department into these projects?
- (5) What reports are available on the department's involvement in research and development of offshore timber-forestry projects?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

(1) QDPI Forestry has had a significant involvement in overseas projects over the last 15 years. In particular this has involved projects conducted under the sponsorship of Australia's aid agencies, for example AusAID. Some work has been conducted also from a range of government and private forestry organisations. Three major areas of benefit accrue through involvement in this work:

Direct profit from fee-for-service activities. As a commercial organisation, DPI Forestry needs to maximise fee-for-service revenues in order to maintain its high level of technical strength.

Strategic value—e.g. acquisition from overseas of technical and commercial information which is of value to domestic forest industries. The case of Australian hardwood plantation species is a good example—many offshore planting programs are technically very advanced, and information gained from these operations will be invaluable in Queensland's own emerging hardwood plantation.

Staff development—staff improve their capabilities by exposure to new environments and challenges.

The following are projects that are current:

APRIL Forestry Services Breeding and Clonal Forestry Project. Conducted as a commercial project for a large Indonesian pulp company, this provides DPI Forestry with a good profit as well as valuable experience in the management of short rotation species.

South Pacific Regional Initiative on Genetic Resources (SPRIG). Conducted (in partnership with CSIRO) in four Pacific Island countries under a competitively awarded contract with

AusAID, this returns a profit to DPI Forestry, experience with hardwood species, and strategic value in terms of improved contacts with forestry authorities in the Pacific.

ACIAR Drylands Project. With sponsorship from ACIAR (Australian Council for International Agricultural Research), and in partnership with forestry authorities in Kenya and Zimbabwe, this project is gathering technical information on the establishment of tree plantations in more arid zones of Queensland and Africa.

ACIAR Plantation establishment project. Also sponsored by ACIAR, this project is examining some aspects of nutrition and early establishment of Acacia and eucalypt plantations in Queensland and the Philippines.

ACIAR Rainforest modelling. An ACIAR sponsored project conducted in collaboration with forestry authorities in PNG, this project is assisting in maintaining Queensland's skills in native forest management.

ACIAR Pests of Acacia and Eucalypt Plantations Project. This project, also sponsored by ACIAR, is providing and opportunity to conduct over-the-horizon monitoring of pests in South-east Asia, and to devise strategies for managing these pests should they be introduced into Australia.

(2) Australian species grown for timber production in other countries comprise mainly species of Acacia and Eucalyptus. The former (in particular Acacia mangium) are being established in south-east Asia for pulp production, particularly in Indonesia. The latter include eucalypts such as Eucalyptus grandis, E. globulus and E. nitens. Many millions of hectares have been established, in particular in Latin America, South Africa and Spain. Some of these plantation programs are quite sophisticated.

(3) DPI Forestry has no formal role in monitoring most of these forests, but a 'watching brief' is maintained through regular contact with forestry authorities in those countries.

(4) In terms of commercial projections for plantations offshore, specific involvement in offshore projects has generally involved technical input rather than economic analysis (although there are one or two projects which have involved economic projections as a component of feasibility analysis). In terms of economic outcomes to DPI Forestry, careful analysis of costs and benefits is undertaken prior to involvement in any project, and only those with a high expectation of domestic benefit undertaken.

(5) Reports are available on all offshore projects in which DPI Forestry has been involved. Arrangements will be made for a full list of projects to be made available to Mr D'Arcy, with access to detailed reports subsequently provided for those projects identified as being of interest.

840. Year 2000 Computer Bug

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Premier (19/8/97)—

(1) What action, if any, is the Government taking with regards to the so called "millennium bug"?

(2) Will the Government give a commitment that appropriate resources have been made available to ensure State Government computers will not suffer problems associated with the bug?

(3) Is the Government confident that any such problems will not impact on the provision of services at the beginning of next century?

(4) What resources is the Government planning to make available to the business community to assist them in eliminating the bug from their software, or in the transition to new business software?

(5) Will the Government assure the people of Queensland that emergency services will not be affected?

Mr Borbidge (18/9/97):

(1) The Government has been actively addressing the millennium bug issue for over a year. A Year 2000 Project Office was established in July 1996 in the Information Planning Branch, Department of the Premier and Cabinet to coordinate whole of Government activities in this area. A number of initiatives have been undertaken to ensure that the Government is addressing the issue. These initiatives include:

(a) The production and distribution of a comprehensive set of guidelines and checklists for Departments to follow when undertaking Year 2000 tasks;

(b) Coordination of risk assessment activities across Departments, and providing advice to Government Owned Corporation and Statutory Authorities;

(c) Establishment of agency reference groups, one of which is responsible for investigating the problem of embedded systems. That is, those systems which contain microchips that are date dependant such as PABXs, building security and ventilation systems, medical equipment, radio controlled devices, equipment in emergency vehicles, etc.

(d) The Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet ensures that his CEO Forum is regularly briefed on the current status of the Year 2000 issue.

At this stage, the Year 2000 Project Office is assisting Departments with guidance on rectification strategies. Options include software replacement, re-programming of existing systems, integration of systems and software across Departments, replacement or upgrading of existing PC desktop systems, and replacement of date affected embedded equipment.

(2) To date, resourcing in respect of this matter has been appropriate. During the next twelve months, additional resources will be supplied to the Year 2000 Project Office as well as to Departments. This will ensure that key deadline dates for Year 2000 compliance are met. Cabinet has remained informed on the Year 2000 and has approved a number of initiatives aimed at minimising the Year 2000 risk. Year 2000 is also on the agenda of the Ministerial

Council for Information Technology and Communications, which I chair. The CEOs of each Department have been formally briefed and are well aware of this issue. Cost estimates are being progressively refined. Departments would normally be expected to fund rectification work through existing budgets. However, if this proves impractical, Treasury will consider other funding options.

(3) No Government or private sector organisation is immune from this problem. The Information Planning Branch, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, is fully aware of the range of Government services potentially affected by the Year 2000 problem. With this in mind, any rectification work undertaken by the Government is focused upon ensuring that any potential disruption to Government services is minimised and that rectification takes place well prior to the turn of the century. Inter-agency cooperation in this regard is of paramount importance, and is currently effected through regular Year 2000 Agency Reference Group meetings.

(4) The Year 2000 Project Office is currently working on a State Year 2000 Strategy in conjunction with the Department of Economic Development and Trade. The primary focus of the State Year 2000 Strategy will be on raising private sector awareness of the issue, particularly amongst small to medium enterprises. A number of meetings with industry representatives have already taken place in order to identify the current level of industry awareness and formulate plans of action. Other Departments involved in the strategy include Tourism, Small Business and Industry, Local Government and Planning, and Consumer Affairs.

(5) The continued provision of emergency services at the beginning of the next century is a priority task in all Government Year 2000 programs. The Department of Emergency Services, Queensland Police and other agencies and suppliers are working together on this issue to ensure that duplication of work effort is minimised and that emergency services will not be affected as a result of the Year 2000 change over.

841. Diesel Refuelling Depot, Whyte Island

Mr LUCAS asked the Premier (19/8/97)—

With reference to the Queensland Rail refuelling facility situated at Whyte Island within Moreton Bay Marine Park—

- (1) Does he acknowledge the accuracy of the article on the front page of the Wynnum Herald of 11 September 1996 when it reported, "When Mr Borbidge was asked why he had not removed the Depot after promising to do so before the last State Election, he announced that 'an urgent inquiry' to be conducted. 'If it comes out that it shouldn't have been put there, then it will have to go,' he said"?
- (2) With respect to the answer to Question on Notice No. 1145/96 from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Johnson) in response to a question 4(a), "What inquiry process was established as a result of the Premier's Policy Statement to the people of Lytton", to which the Transport Minister

answered "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"—can he confirm the accuracy of this statement and the nature of the inquiry process including whether it was a formally conducted inquiry?

- (3) With respect to the letter dated 9 May from the Director-General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Mr Ellis) to local residents Mel and Maureen Holz, in which Mr Ellis states: "You expressed concern about the lack of public consultation during the assessment of the application. In view of the minor nature of the works within the park and the environmental management arrangement proposed by Queensland Rail it was not considered necessary to subject the proposal to a formal environmental impact assessment process or to seek public comment." and "In conclusion, I assure you that it is considered the operations of the provisioning shed pose a relatively insignificant threat to the marine park which would not justify the cost of relocation", do these statements of Mr Ellis' represent Government policy?

- (4) If they do not represent Government policy, then at what stage did he alter Government policy, particularly in light of the undertakings given to the people of Queensland: (a) by the then Shadow Transport Minister Vaughan Johnson at a protest rally held at Whyte Island on the 10 June 1995, (b) in the clear context of the Premier's question (in his then capacity as Leader of the Opposition) without notice in the Parliament to the then Premier Mr Goss on the 15 June 1995, (c) in relation to the statements made at the Liberal candidate's campaign launch for the Lytton By-Election referred to in the Wynnum Herald article at (1) above, and (d) in the light of the reply of the Transport Minister (Mr Johnson) to then Member for Lytton Mr Burns' Question on Notice No. 27/96, in which he stated "the present Government can give no timetable on when works will be undertaken at Whyte Island"?

- (5) Given that he stated to the people of Queensland in the Courier-Mail of 7 May 1995 and reported as "Opposition leader Rob Borbidge said yesterday that he would quit politics if the Coalition broke any election promises", why will he not immediately resign in the light of this clear breach of an election commitment made (particularly in the light of the letter from the Premier's Department Director-General dated 9 May) and after having shown he has no intention of complying with his Whyte Island undertakings?

Mr Borbidge (18/9/97): For the information of the Honourable Member who has only recently been elevated to this House, the Queensland Rail refuelling facility situated at Whyte Island was a project proposed by the previous Labor Party Government and completed under that administration.

842. Free Trade Zone Project

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (19/8/97)—

With reference to his announcement in 1996 that the Queensland Government is investigating establishing a 'free trade zone' adjoining the Brisbane Airport—

- (1) What progress has been made in achieving this objective to date?
- (2) What are the details of the project to date?
- (3) Is the Federal Government supportive of this project and what assistance has been provided by the Federal Government to date?
- (4) In light of the announcement by the Federal Government that a free trade zone is contemplated for the Newcastle area, what impact will this have on the Queensland Government's attempts to establish a free trade zone at the Brisbane Airport?
- (5) Apart from DHL, what other companies are involved in the free trade zone project and what is the nature of their involvement?

Mr Slack (2/9/97):

1. On 18 July 1997, a submission on this issue sponsored jointly by my Department of Economic Development and Trade, DHL International (Aust) Pty Ltd and Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited was forwarded to the Commonwealth Minister for Industry, Science and Tourism, John Moore.

2. The submission examines the characteristics of international free trade zones which have been successful in attracting export industries. These characteristics include proximity to trade ports with established international transport links, reliable infrastructure including available land, political and economic stability, a suitably skilled work force and supporting industry networks.

Successful free trade zones also feature simplified customs arrangements, including exemption of duty on capital equipment. The submission therefore recommends that Australian Customs provisions be simplified to enable Manufacture-in-Bond, whereby a greater range of export oriented manufacturing activities can be undertaken in a licensed or bonded warehouse. It also recommends that regulatory and administrative impediments imposed under the Customs Act be reduced.

Queensland has a number of regions with the characteristics common to successful free trade zones which would be able to take advantage of these changes. The Brisbane Gateway region, for example, is the only gateway in Australia that can potentially offer fully integrated air, sea, rail and road freight interchange facilities and also meet land availability, skilled workforce and other requirements. The submission recommends that the Brisbane Gateway area be considered for any proposed pilot scheme.

However, the Queensland ports of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Gladstone and Bundaberg also have comparative advantages which could attract

new economic activity if the submission's recommendations are adopted.

3. I understand that the Commonwealth Government does not favour proposals to establish "traditional" free trade zones. However, The Commonwealth Government has shown considerable interest in Queensland's proposal to allow greater potential for Manufacturing-in-Bond which will deliver most of the administrative benefits of a "traditional" Free Trade Zone. It is expected that this matter will be considered by the Commonwealth Government in the near future.

4. Newcastle has different characteristics and different comparative advantages to the Brisbane Gateway region. BHP and the parties to the Queensland submission see benefits in working together to ensure the success of the Manufacturing-in-Bond concept across Australia.

5. My Department of Economic Development and Trade is working with DHL, the Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited and the Port of Brisbane Corporation to ensure the success of the project. DHL and Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited have been parties to the steering committee for the submission and have contributed financially and in kind to the preparation of the submission. The Port of Brisbane Corporation has recently joined discussions.

843. Electricity Supply, Mount Isa

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/8/97)—

With reference to the agreement between Mount Isa Mines and NORQEB regarding the provision of a number of megawatts of power made available to the Mount Isa community and in view of the changed ownership of the Mica Creek Power Station—

- (1) Is this agreement still in place; if not, what agreement has been put in place?
- (2) What effect will this have on the Mount Isa community?

Mr Gilmore (16/9/97):

1. There are two contracts which underpin supply arrangements in the Mt Isa area:

the bulk supply agreement with MIM which sets out the pricing mechanism for NORQEB's purchase of power from MIM; and

a contract between MIM and NORQEB for the provision of a guaranteed capacity from Mica Creek Power Station.

As a part of the industry restructure, these contracts were transferred to the Northern Electricity Retail Corporation (NERC). Under these agreements, NERC purchases its electricity supplies through MIM, and not directly from the power station.

Currently, both agreements are still in place. In view of the recent changes in ownership of Mica Creek Power Station and reforms in the electricity industry, MIM and NERC are renegotiating these contracts with a view of developing a single Power Purchase Agreement between NERC and the Power Station.

2. Given that negotiations are still under way, the details of the agreement are unknown. In any event, under the Government's electricity strategy domestic consumers will not pay any more for their electricity in real terms as prices will be capped.

844. School Security Systems, Townsville/Thuringowa; B & M Technical Services

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Education (19/8/97)—

With reference to community concerns at the spate of vandalism to schools in the Townsville/Thuringowa area especially following a series of incidents at Aitkenvale State School—

- (1) Will he intervene in the contract with B & M Technical Services for the upgrade of security systems at Kirwan State School, Kirwan State High School, Heatley State High School, William Ross State High School, Bohlevale State School, Currajong State School and Townsville State High School to ensure that all schools are electrically secured, all major defects rectified, all manuals are received by all schools and all registrars trained as a matter of urgency?
- (2) If B & M Technical Services are unable or unwilling to comply, will he terminate the contract and have the work completed by others?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): (1) & (2) Responsibility for management of the contract with B&M Technical Services lies with my colleague The Honourable David Watson, Minister for Public Works and Housing. It is therefore not within my authority to make any decisions in relation to the contract with B&M Technical Services.

845. Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (19/8/97)—

- (1) How many staff were employed at the Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE at the beginning of the 1997 school year and what is the expected number to be employed at the end of the 1997 school year under the following categories (a) permanent, (b) contract and (c) casual?
- (2) Will he allocate the numbers to the various campuses—Cairns, Johnstone, Mareeba and Thursday Island?

Mr Santoro (18/9/97):

(1) On 4 February 1997, there were 195 permanent staff and 183 temporary/contract employees employed across the various campuses of the Far North Queensland Institute of TAFE. Casual employment is utilised on a day to day basis as required and the number of casual employees varies significantly from week to week. On average there are approximately 150 employees engaged on a casual basis at any one time undertaking between one and 35 hours per week. The majority of these

employees are engaged for periods of less than 12 hours per week.

The Institute is realigning its workforce to reflect the changing training demands of the community and a number of Voluntary Early Retirements have been offered and accepted.

On 26 August 1997, the Institute employed 168 permanent staff and 176 temporary/contract staff.

(2) On 4 February 1997, the distribution of staff was:

Cairns—permanent (140) temporary (134)
 Johnstone permanent (35) temporary (34)
 Mareeba (Tablelands College) permanent (14) temporary (7)
 Thursday Island (Torres Strait College) permanent (6) temporary (8)

On 26 August 1997, the distribution of staff was:

Cairns permanent (132) temporary (124)
 Johnstone permanent (21) temporary (34)
 Mareeba (Tablelands College) permanent (8) temporary (9)
 Thursday Island (Torres Strait College) permanent (7) temporary (9).

846. Water Infrastructure Projects, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (19/8/97)—

With reference to the Water Task Force Implementation Plan and the recommendation that private enterprise, including water users, provide approximately 50 percent of the capital for future water storage projects—

What capital funding from private sources does the Government expect for the implementation of (a) the Underground Rescue project for Bundaberg and (b) the Paradise Dam project on the Burnett River?

Mr Hobbs (16/9/97): In its final report to me, the Water Infrastructure Task Force recommended "That in the longer term, Government should target to recover at least 50% of the capital cost of new water infrastructure from water users".

The Government's position on this recommendation is given in the Water Infrastructure Planning and Development Implementation Plan—1997/98 to 2001/02 which was endorsed by Government on 23 June 1997. It is: "As a guiding principle, Government will seek to maximise water user contributions according to their capacity to pay. Negotiations will be undertaken to assess expected levels of cost recovery prior to determining priorities for development. Where appropriate, competitive bidding processes will be used to recover the market price for all new water allocations."

With respect to the Bundaberg Irrigation Area Groundwater Rescue Project listed as a Category 1 project in the Implementation Plan, my Department of Natural Resources is proceeding with an assessment of specific components to determine their technical feasibility and costs. Once these assessments are completed there will be a process of negotiation with water users with respect to funding and cost

recovery for the proposed works prior to my seeking Government's approval to proceed with construction. Negotiations concerning cost recovery will be undertaken within the context of the principle stated above.

The Paradise Dam proposal is to be evaluated as part of the Burnett River Catchment Study. However, as a potential major project, specific studies will be initiated at an early stage to ensure a comprehensive assessment is completed within the overall Study time frame. Again, subject to the outcomes of the Study, there would be a process of negotiation with potential water users on cost recovery prior to making any recommendation to Government concerning approval to proceed with development.

Finally, I can advise that the proponents of both these projects have already indicated a preparedness to contribute to their cost.

847. "White Knights" Vigilante Group, Ipswich

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/8/97)—

With reference to reports of a racially motivated vigilante group in Ipswich calling itself the "White Knights"—

- (1) Is he aware of the existence of this group and complaints to Ipswich Police about their actions?
- (2) How many complaints have been received over what time frame?
- (3) How many of these complaints featured firearms?
- (4) What arrests and charges have been laid by police with regard to this group's activities; if none, why not?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

- (1) The possibility of a group called "White Knights" operating in the Ipswich area was investigated after an article appeared in the Courier Mail newspaper on 25 July 1997. All of the incidents quoted in the article were examined, with no mention being made of a group called the "White Knights" by any of the persons involved.
- (2) No complaints have been received by Ipswich Police regarding the actions of a group using this or any similar name.
- (3) The newspaper article nominates two firearm related incidents, however investigations found no evidence to support these claims.
- (4) There is no evidence to support the claims this group is operating in the Ipswich District, and no arrests have been made.

848. Palm Beach Community Health Centre

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed Palm Beach Community Health Centre—

- (1) Why has work still to commence on the site?
- (2) Why did he give an assurance some 12 months ago that the health centre and dental clinic would be open and operational by August 1997?
- (3) Why should southern Gold Coasters believe the project will go ahead under this Government?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) I refer the Honourable Member to Question on Notice No. 480 in response to previous questions raised on the subject.

Tenders for this project closed 23 July 1997 based on a single stage design and construction with Principal supplied Schematic Design contract. Evaluation of tenders has been completed and a tenderer nominated. Some delay has occurred in the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA) completing a financial audit of the nominated company's ability to complete the project. Discussion with both the company and QBSA have only recently been finalised and the awarding of the tender will be completed within days. Site work will commence immediately and no delay is expected in meeting completed timeframes previously advised.

- (2) I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question on Notice No. 480.
- (3) My Government reaffirms its commitment to the establishment of the Palm Beach Community Health Centre which will be constructed on a site acquired for this purpose located at 1-15 Fifth Avenue, Palm Beach. Completion of the new facility is planned for May 1998.

849. Gateway Port Rail Link

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/8/97)—

With reference to the Gateway Port area—

- (1) Is consideration being given to linking this area by rail to the north coast line by an additional route using, in part, the existing Gateway Arterial Road corridor?
- (2) What discussions have taken place between Queensland Rail and the Department of Main Roads in relation to this matter?
- (3) What outcomes have arisen from these discussions?
- (4) What other areas or corridors are being considered for this connection?
- (5) When will a decision be made on this matter?
- (6) What processes will be undertaken before any decision is made?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) The Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) for South East Queensland recognises that an efficient and reliable freight network is a vital component in supporting the economic development of the region. This is particularly relevant to the large commodity flows within the region associated with the Port of Brisbane and other key industry areas.

The IRTP has recommended that a staged integrated transport study be carried out on future freight rail demands and constraints within the rail system. Included in the study would be an examination of a wide range of options to overcome constraints and make better use of existing rail infrastructure.

(2) No discussions have taken place to my knowledge between Queensland Rail and the Department of Main Roads. There is currently no planning for an additional rail route using the Gateway Arterial Road corridor.

(3) There have been no discussions to my knowledge.

(4) The rail freight capacity study will examine future demands and constraints within the existing rail system, not new corridors.

(5) The rail freight capacity study is expected to start in the second half of 1998 and will take around two years.

(6) Extensive consultation will be carried out as part of the study to ensure that stakeholders have an opportunity to provide input and be kept well informed of progress.

850. Inland Railway System; Davidson Scheme

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/8/97)—

As he would be aware that Mr Everal Compton is attempting to obtain finance for the Davidson Scheme for an inland railway system to link all the major industrial areas of eastern Australia and regional and country centres to Darwin, which could revitalise Australian industry and trade, will he give a guarantee that he and the Government will give all practical and moral support to the group organising an attempt to make a reality of the Davidson Scheme for a high speed railway to link Melbourne, Sydney/Wollongong, Newcastle, Brisbane, Gladstone, Townsville, Mt Isa and Darwin, as a new great Australian trade route?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) I have spoken on a number of occasions with Mr Compton and various board members of the Australian Transport & Energy Corridor Pty Ltd (ATEC) about the Darwin/Melbourne Railway (the Inland Rail) proposal.

(2) Both the Premier and myself have publicly supported the concept of an Inland Rail being developed as a totally private sector capital investment, and recognise that the ATEC proposal represents the most tangible evidence to date of private sector interest in constructing such an important transport link.

(3) Whether the ATEC's proposal, or any other Inland Rail proposal for that matter, proceeds will obviously depend on their respective commercial viability. ATEC is currently completing a Revenue Feasibility Study.

(4) The Queensland Government wants to make sure that, in the event that a firm commercial proposal is put to Governments, any unnecessary administrative or legislative impediments are identified and

remedied as speedily as possible. This can only be achieved by cooperation between the relevant Governments and agencies.

(5) The Premier has invited the Commonwealth and relevant State and Territory Governments to join Queensland in establishing a high level Steering Group to properly consider the many inter-jurisdictional policy and legislative issues involved with the ATEC proposal. It is proposed that the Steering Group will meet prior to the forthcoming National Rail Summit

(6) I will be advancing the Queensland Government's position for a national approach to the Inland Rail with my Australian Transport Council colleagues at the special National Rail Summit scheduled for 9 -10 September this year.

(7) The Honourable Member's question referred specifically to the Davidson Scheme for an inland railway linking major cities and ports on the eastern seaboard. Members should appreciate that there are a number of groups and individuals actively promoting the broad concept of an Inland Rail. Although there are some similarities, each proponent group has a different view in respect of the precise operating standards, routes and timing for construction of such a railway.

(8) It is my understanding that the ATEC proposal would differ significantly from the Davidson "National Trunk Railway" scheme. For instance, ATEC advocates a more direct inland rail corridor through central and western Queensland linking Mt Isa to Tennant Creek.

(9) At this early stage of development of such proposals, it would be premature for the Government to comment on technical and operational matters relating to the ultimate route of an inland railway or possible future connections to major ports and industrial centres in Queensland.

851. Animal Husbandry Research Farm, Rocklea

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/8/97)—

With reference to current deliberations concerning the future of the Department of Primary Industries farm at Rocklea—

(1) Is he aware of community concern over the future of this site and, in particular, of community groups' desire to see a city farm providing educational opportunities for school children and TAFE students?

(2) Will he give an assurance that there will be further community consultation before a decision is made on the future of the site?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. When I assumed office in 1996, I directed that the disposal of the Animal Husbandry Research Farm at Rocklea be deferred pending the outcome of discussions with the Department of Education and Queensland Farmers' Federation to gauge their commitment to a proposed education centre at Rocklea. These discussions were later extended to include TAFE Queensland.

Although each of these organisations has been reluctant to proceed with the proposed education centre/city farm in view of the significant costs associated with the concept, I have directed my Department to continue negotiations.

2. I am sympathetic to the concerns of community groups and, accordingly, have invited two local community representatives to participate in further discussions regarding the future of the Animal Husbandry Research Farm.

852. Home and Community Care Program

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to complaints in recent months by a number of elderly constituents that their allocated hours of assistance under the HACC program have been cut back and at the same time, the Government was wasting \$14m on the politically biased Connolly-Ryan Inquiry—

- (1) Why were elderly Queenslanders who have contributed to this State and paid their taxes over many decades being denied basic home help?
- (2) What steps will he take to restore basic home help to older citizens who need assistance in their basic daily activities?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) There has been significant increases to the total funds provided for HACC Services under the Coalition Government with increased funding from \$113 715 000 to \$120 236 274 over the period 1995/96 to 1996/97.

There has been no change in the eligibility criteria for home help services provided through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program. Due to the high demand for home help services, some clients who are assessed as eligible for the service, and who have an immediate need, are referred to other HACC funded services as an interim arrangement until services can be arranged through the home help service.

(2) To address the issue of increased demand, Queensland Health through the HACC Program has increased the level of funding for home help from \$19.2m to \$22.1m over the period 1995/96 to 1996/97. During that period the number of clients receiving home help services through the HACC Program has increased from 20,246 to approximately 23,000 clients throughout Queensland.

853. Motor Vehicle Registration Concession for Seniors

Mr PEARCE asked the Premier (19/8/97)—

With reference to his commitment to review a motor vehicle registration anomaly for those people in receipt of the Seniors Card—

- (1) On what date was the review begun and by whom?
- (2) What date did the review report to Government?

- (3) What action has the Government undertaken to honour its commitment on motor vehicle registration?
- (4) How many seniors will be affected by the decision?
- (5) What is the cost for (a) 1997-98, (b) 1998-99 and (c) 1999-2000?

Mr Borbidge (18/9/97): The Government recognises the significant amount of money that the annual motor vehicle registration and insurance bill means to many seniors. To help manage budgets better, Queensland Transport has introduced a new phone pay credit card system to allow more flexibility and has also introduced improved telephone information services which allow seniors to make inquiries from the comfort of their own home.

The Government is not proposing to make any changes to the eligibility requirements for motor vehicle registration concession. There is only a certain amount of money available and any expansion of the eligibility would result in the need to reduce other benefits to a much larger group of seniors than would receive the benefit.

Finally, the Government intends to continue to improve options for payment of motor vehicle registration and is currently considering the introduction of a 6 monthly payment option. If this option proves to be viable, this will make it just a little easier for seniors and other motorists to meet their annual registration costs.

854. Scallop Fishery

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/8/97)—

- (1) What is the status of the Queensland scallop fishery, i.e. is it a fact that the scallop returns for this year are significantly reduced from those taken in recent years?
- (2) Is he concerned at the apparent reduction in the scallop catch?
- (3) What steps is he taking to ensure that the scallop fishery continues to be sustainable?
- (4) Has he considered the possibility of introducing commercially reared scallops into the fishery?
- (5) What research is currently being undertaken at either the Bribie Island or Deception Bay research stations into the viability of the scallop fishery and the possibility of introducing commercially reared scallops into the fishery?
- (6) What results has either of these research stations achieved in the propagation of scallops and the restocking of these into the fishery?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. Yes. Catches of scallops in the 1996/97 scallop season were well below the average catches observed in the previous 10 years. Normally about 1,200 tonnes of scallop meat are taken annually, but this reduced to about ... in 1996/97.

2. Yes. I am concerned about the reduction in the scallop catch in 1996/97. I am particularly concerned about the resulting impacts on employment

opportunities and the economies of coastal communities between Hervey Bay and Yeppoon.

3. I am advised by Fisheries Scientists that the reduced catches observed in the 1996/97 scallop season have been caused by a reduction in the recruitment of small scallop onto the scallop grounds. Scallop have larvae which drift in the water currents before settling on the scallop beds. Following negotiations with industry, I approved the closure of some 300 square nautical miles of scallop trawl grounds off Yeppoon, Bundaberg and Gladstone. This represents about 8% of the main scallop trawl grounds. The closed areas act as a significant source of breeding stocks which will ensure a reasonable level of recruitment to all the scallop grounds.

Economic effects from the closure should be offset by greater future catches.

I have also committed significant resources for the next two years for a detailed survey to measure the abundance of small scallop in the main scallop grounds between Yeppoon and Hervey Bay. The results of the survey will enable my Department to give industry an early indication of the likely levels of scallop stocks in the coming season. This will enable industry to adjust, if necessary, in the coming season.

4. The concept of stocking our coastal waters and rivers with fish and shell fish raised in hatcheries is not new in Queensland.

Freshwater fish stocking has been highly successful in many inland areas. Trials by my Department with the stocking of Barramundi in North Queensland rivers and with whiting and flathead in the Maroochy River are yielding some very promising results.

I am advised however that some serious problems and issues can arise from fish and shellfish stocking.

These include the following:

The feasibility of whether the stocking will work successfully and produce more product.

The costs of stocking and who should pay.

The need to maintain genetic diversity in the wild stocks.

The need to ensure that diseases and foreign organisms are not introduced by stocking.

These issues need to be addressed as part of the initial consideration of all fish stocking proposals including any proposal for scallop stocking.

5. My Department, with specialist facilities at the Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre, and Southern Fisheries Centre, Deception Bay, has an open mind on the concept of scallop stocking. The commercial trawl fishing sector is the major potential beneficiary and therefore this industry may need to bear the cost of such a scheme.

The consideration of any proposal for scallop stocking must be considered at a very early stage by the trawl industry and the Trawl Fisheries Management Advisory Committee (TrawlMAC). All major stakeholders from industry and government are represented on TrawlMAC.

6. Officers of my Department carried out scallop hatchery trials in the early 1980s. Spawning of scallop and the raising of early larval stages were successfully achieved. However some problems were encountered in raising the young scallops after settlement of the larvae. If scallop stocking was seriously proposed, further research work on post larval biology, and culture of these stages and the newly settled scallops would be necessary.

855. Home Assist/Secure Program, Pine Rivers

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/8/97)—

Will the Pine Rivers area be the beneficiary of a Home Assist/Secure scheme since his announcement of a \$5.23m boost to the program in the local press during the week ending 16 August?

Dr Watson (18/9/97): Funding for the Home Assist/Secure program increased from \$4.9m in 1996/97 to \$5.23m in 1997/98. This increase was distributed among the 36 presently funded organisations throughout the State. The Community Housing Grants Board, through its Future Ways and Future Means project, is currently examining the effectiveness of the Home Assist/Secure program. Decisions relating to the future direction of the program, including the issue of expansion to the Pine Rivers area, will be made following the completion of the project.

856. Survey of Women

Ms SPENCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/8/97)—

With reference to her media release and the 150 women she recently surveyed—

- (1) What was the socio-economic and cultural composition of the women surveyed state-wide?
- (2) What were the key domains of the research?
- (3) Who and what informed the survey design?
- (4) When will the preliminary data be published?
- (5) Will she please define gender-based social engineering on men and boys and was this language used in the survey instrument?

Mrs Sheldon (18/9/97):

(1) to (4) The views publicised by the Office of Women's Affairs in the media release you identify were not those of the Government or of the Office of Women's Affairs. They were the views of women who took part in broad-based focus group interviews as part of the Survey of Women. The press release and subsequent statements cautioned that the findings were both preliminary and indicative; they were qualitative only and needed to be tested in a wider sample, a process now under way.

The Queensland Government is deeply committed to widespread community consultation. The Office of Women's Affairs employs a number of consultative mechanisms to seek the views of women throughout the State. They consist of the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Queensland Women, the Women's

Council for Rural and Regional Communities, the Steering Committee of Directors General for Indigenous Women and the Queensland Survey of Women as well as a range of direct consultation with stakeholders. Our interactive web site encourages electronic feedback from Internet users and Women's Infolink provides a direct telephone link with the community.

The Survey of Women process allows women in the general community, who are not necessarily members of advocacy or networking groups, an avenue for participation in policy formulation. Women who took part in focus groups were from a broad range of socio-economic, geographic and cultural sub-groups including women with urban, rural, regional, indigenous and ethnic profiles.

The Survey of Women is canvassing a wide range of issues affecting women and is being undertaken in a number of specific stages:

A community consultation and literature review which has been conducted by the Office of Women's Affairs with the University of Queensland's Department of Anthropology and Sociology and Deborah Wilson Consulting Services, who tendered jointly and successfully.

A qualitative stage conducted by the parties above. Stages one and two informed the third stage of the survey and provided input to questionnaire development.

A third stage, a statewide random survey of 5000 women is being undertaken by the Government Statistician's Office.

(5) The Honourable Member may wish to consult the Concise Oxford Dictionary Ninth Edition for standard term definitions such as those listed.

The terms constituted a clearly intelligible summary statement by the Executive Director of the Office of Women's Affairs for media advice regarding issues involving work and family and had no other purpose or use.

857. Aitkenvale State School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (19/8/97)—

With reference to the fact that Aitkenvale State School has been broken into or vandalised at least 17 times this year and over 60 times in the last two years and to his repeated refusal to fund a comprehensive upgrade of security at the school—

- (1) Will he provide a list of all schools which have been vandalised and/or broken and entered in 1997 and in each school, on how many occasions and will he provide a breakdown of money spent in schools in 1997 on security upgrades?
- (2) How many and which schools in Queensland have been broken into or vandalised more often than Aitkenvale State School in the last two years?

(3) How much money has been allocated for security at Aitkenvale State School in 1997 and how has this money been spent?

(4) Given the embarrassing situation where two private Townsville businesses have now stepped in to help fill the void created by the unwillingness of the Government to fund a comprehensive upgrade of security at Aitkenvale State School will he now reconsider and provide sufficient funds for the comprehensive upgrade the school deserves?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): I preface my response with the advice that as a matter of policy, Education Queensland does not publicly identify individual schools in relation to their offence history or security arrangements.

This protects individual school communities from adverse and unwarranted public perceptions, and helps to prevent potential offenders from identifying schools which they may perceive to be easier targets for vandalism or break and enter.

(1) In response to the first part of Question 1, 602 schools have reported break and enter or vandalism offences in 1997, as at 15 August 1997. The breakdown by numbers of reported offences is set out in the attached table.

With regard to expenditure on school security upgrades in 1997, the total expenditure from 1 January 1997 to 31 July 1997 is \$4,341,365.

(2) The number of schools which have reported more break and enter or vandalism offences than Aitkenvale State School in the last two years (1 July 1995 to date), is two.

(3) The total amount allocated to Aitkenvale State School to date in 1997 is \$5,351 for additional and emergency security measures. The majority of the \$5,351 has been expended on the installation of 13 additional electronic security detectors and some sirens, the remainder being expended on the hire of a guard service to deter offenders while the additional electronic security was being installed. In addition, \$598 will be expended on monitoring the electronic security at the school. Additional funds may be allocated for additional security measures, following the planned full security audit of the school in the near future.

(4) The Government has no control over the decision by private business concerns to offer funds to schools. In fact, schools often receive funds from sources other than the government. Parents and Citizens Associations are a prime example of this support. It is my understanding that this school did not solicit the donations to which you have referred and that the funds are being spent on a number of projects. This is a school decision.

With regard to a comprehensive upgrade of security at Aitkenvale State School, a security audit team is scheduled to visit Townsville this month. If there is a requirement for additional security measures at Aitkenvale State School, it is expected that this will be identified in the audit.

Should significant additional security requirements be identified at Aitkenvale State School, I am

confident that the work will be included in the 1997/98 security upgrade program.

858. Heroin Addicts, Trial Treatment Program

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to claims by Israeli Doctor Andre Waismann's that his "accelerated neuro-regulation technique" will cure heroin addiction—

- (1) Has Queensland Health investigated this technique; if not, will Queensland Health establish a team to evaluate this technique?
- (2) If the claims are correct, will Queensland Health establish a trial treatment program?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) While there have been promising case reports on this technique in the popular press, there has never been a controlled trial of this technique in the international literature.

Any new treatment regime has to be rigorously investigated, using controlled trials before it could be considered for the treatment of patients in Queensland. This is particularly so for the use of rapid opiate detoxification as it involves greater risks than existing treatment.

Dr Waismann's technique involves rapidly detoxifying patients from drugs under anaesthetic using Naltrexone. This method of using Naltrexone is in a way contrary to the instructions issued by the manufacturer of the drugs. It should be noted that a patient recently died undergoing opiate detoxification under sedation in the UK.

Naltrexone, the drug used by Dr Waismann, is an opiate antagonist which works by blocking opiate receptors and preventing other opiates from having any effect. Naltrexone is licensed in the United States of America for preventing relapse in patients who have already detoxified.

(2) The Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services is consolidating current knowledge on the use of these techniques in collaboration with other jurisdictions using expert medical knowledge. This will provide a basis on which relevant decisions about the use of Naltrexone in Australia can be made.

If a controlled evaluation of this technique shows it to be a worthwhile treatment, and the use of Naltrexone for rapid opiate detoxification is approved in Australia, then Queensland Health will certainly consider implementing this program.

859. Speed Cameras

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/8/97)—

With reference to the recent introduction in Queensland of speed cameras—

- (1) How many infringement notices have been issued since the cameras come into effect?
- (2) Will he identify which centres or regions throughout the State where the cameras have been implemented?

- (3) How much money has been collected from fines to date?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) A total of 19,467 Infringement Notices were issued for the period May—July 1997:

May—2,712;
June—5,904; and
July—10,851.

(2) A total of 10 speed cameras are in use throughout the eight police regions. They are distributed as follows:

Metropolitan North Region and Metropolitan South Region have two cameras each.

Far Northern, Northern, Central, Southern, South Eastern and North Coast Regions have one speed camera each.

Two additional speed cameras will be put into operation on 1 September 1997. One will be deployed in South Eastern Region. The other will be shared between the Southern and North Coast Regions.

One speed camera is retained by the Traffic Camera Office for training purposes. It is also used as a replacement van in the event of a breakdown and for use in holiday periods.

(3) Information from Queensland Transport indicates that no collections were received in May 1997. Collections to date are—

June 1997—\$108,830.00
July 1997—\$282,120.00
Total —\$390,950.00

860. Safe Disposal of Syringes

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Health (19/8/97)—

With reference to the comments of the Minister for Emergency Services in the Weekend Bulletin on 28 June in relation to syringe exchange—

Is it the policy of his department to promote needle bins for the safe disposal of syringes?

Mr Horan (17/9/97): The Department views seriously the need to implement appropriate strategies to ensure the safe disposal of all used injection equipment.

All injecting equipment distributed by publicly funded services is required to include a disposal container and education of people who inject drugs about disposing of this equipment safely.

861. Ruled out of order by Mr Speaker on 21 August 1997 (p. 3083)

862. Use of Metarhizium on Sugarcane

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/8/97)—

With reference to the grave threat to the sugarcane crops in the Burdekin posed by the greyback cane grub—

Will he speed up the introduction of *Metarhizium* which occurs naturally in the soil and which should not, therefore, be subject to the same pre-registration trials required for man-made chemicals?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97): Officers of the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES) in conjunction with staff from CSIRO and a commercial organisation have been undertaking trials since 1995 using *Metarhizium anisopliae* (which is a pathogenic fungus) against greyback cane grub in sugarcane.

In May 1997, BSES requested that the maximum use of the product be increased from 1 000 kg per season to 5 000 kg per season so that the trials to be undertaken by BSES and the Burdekin Cane Protection and Productivity Boards could be extended.

Recent trials have shown that rates of between 5.0 and 10.0 g per metre of row (approximately 35-70 kg/ha) are managing cane grub very well. However, the upper limit of this dose range is unlikely to be a commercially viable product for the control of the species.

Once trialling is completed and prior to its release for widespread commercial use, the various data will need to be assessed by the National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals.

863. Diversionsary Centre, Carramar

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (20/8/97)—

- (1) What action is he taking to take the issue of the Townsville diversionsary centre from Mr Lingard?
- (2) Is he aware of the confusion Mr Lingard has caused the Townsville community by his constant changing of position from Ecklin Street to Stanley Street to North Ward and the Bohle?
- (3) How much has Mr Lingard's constant changes cost Queensland taxpayers to date?
- (4) Who in his office or department will take control of the issue?
- (5) Exactly how incompetent have you got to be to be sacked from his Ministry or, in Mr Lingard's case, do you just expect it?

Mr Borbidge (19/9/97): By these five questions the Leader of the Opposition shows once again his preference for a negative and destructive approach when he perceives any political advantage, despite the sensitivities that the particular issues demand.

It would be incumbent on the Leader of the Opposition to display a level of maturity that the public might expect of someone in his position when dealing with such issues.

The establishment in Townsville of a permanent diversionsary centre, a facility to which intoxicated people can be taken as an alternative to custody, has been under consideration for several years.

A decision has been made to establish a permanent purpose built diversionsary centre at Bohle. The design concept for the centre has been finalised and

approved. The necessary local government approvals have been sought. It is anticipated that construction will commence shortly and a fast track construction program using local contractors will be instituted.

These questions by the Leader of the Opposition do nothing other than seek to undermine this important project which will provide a solution to a sensitive community issue in Townsville.

864. Maryborough Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (20/8/97)—

- (1) Why is he closing the Lady Musgrave Unit at Maryborough Hospital after only three and a half years?
- (2) How many maternity beds will be tacked on to the end of the surgical ward and what impact will this have on surgical ward patients?
- (3) Why is he breaking an election promise and closing the children's ward at the Maryborough Hospital?
- (4) Is the children's ward in close proximity to the medical ward; if so, what types of patients are there in the medical ward?
- (5) How many criminals have been kept in the medical ward and what security arrangements are in place to ensure the children are not in danger?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

- (1) Maryborough Hospital will maintain its Lady Musgrave maternity unit. I have given repeated assurances that current services will continue to be provided.
- (2) The advent of upgraded maternity units at both St Stephens Private Hospital and the new Hervey Bay Hospital will have an impact on the number of births at Maryborough. The current maternity service level will be maintained at Maryborough Hospital using those beds required in the Lady Musgrave unit.
- (3) The Children's Ward at Maryborough Hospital is not being closed.
- (4) Whilst the planning process is not yet complete there is no intention to collocate the Children's Ward with the Medical Ward.
- (5) Health Services are obligated to treat the sick without discrimination. A person held in custody would be escorted by either a Police Officer or a Prison Officer for the period of their hospitalisation. The Maryborough Hospital, to the best of the knowledge of senior medical management has not accommodated a convicted criminal for a number of years. As I have said earlier there is no intention to collocate the Children's Ward with the Medical Ward.

865. Work Carried Out by Contractor on Public Housing at Zillmere

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (20/8/97)—

With reference to work carried out by a contractor on two houses at 12 and 14 Funnel Street, Zillmere—

- (1) Were stormwater pipes at these properties damaged during construction of carports and the damaged pipes never repaired, rather they were covered with either concrete or a carport, thereby hiding the damage?
- (2) When was this damage reported to departmental officers, when was it repaired, and by whom?
- (3) Why do nearby residents continue to report that the repairs have never been undertaken?
- (4) Were private gardens of residents damaged during the work of these contractors, as well as personal property broken, mud traipsed through carpeted interiors and lifestyles disrupted; if so, why?

Dr Watson (19/9/97): In answer to the Honourable Member's question, I am advised that:

- (1) The stormwater piping to 12 Funnel Street was damaged during the construction of the carport and repairs were carried out promptly by the contractor. The contractor has raised concerns that the existing stormwater drainage system does not work adequately, and this matter will be investigated separately at the conclusion of the builder's repairs. The investigations will also reveal the adequacy of repairs made during the construction period.
- (2) The damage to 12 Funnel Street was reported in mid-May and repaired immediately by the contractor. Damage to the stormwater pipes was also identified at 14 Funnel Street during a post-contract defects' inspection, and included on a defects' list issued to the contractor on 7 August 1997. Repairs by the contractor of items on that list were commenced on 21 August 1997, and were completed on 28 August 1997.
- (3) The contractor undertook to repair the defects as per the issued defects' list between the 21 and 28 August 1997 and this was closely monitored.
- (4) There were minor instances of damage to private property and gardens, which have been included on the contractor's defects' list. There was also an early instance of mud being traipsed through one house, to which the contractor was immediately alerted and warned. No further such instances have occurred.

866. Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Environment (20/8/97)—

With reference to his altered captive breeding program for the endangered hairy-nosed wombat—

- (1) Which institutions are involved in this new program and in which way?
- (2) Are captive breeding programs for southern hairy-nosed wombats being established at "The Woolshed" at Ferny Grove and at Fleay's Wildlife Park; if so, why?
- (3) Has Dubbo Zoo yet established a captive colony of southern hairy-nosed wombats at its zoo?

- (4) What financial support is the Queensland Government giving to the establishment of any captive colony of southern hairy-nosed wombats?

- (5) Where are these southern hairy-nosed wombats being drawn from and are any coming from wild caught stock?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

- (1) Four institutions are involved in the captive breeding program for southern hairy nosed wombats. These are (1) Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo (2) Currumbin Sanctuary (3) Monash University (4) Department of Environment, which is coordinating the captive program.

(2) No.

(3) No.

(4) None.

- (5) It is expected that the southern hairy-nosed wombats to be used will be wild caught stock from South Australia. That decision will be made by the South Australian Government.

867. Capital Works Reporting System

Mr HAMILL asked the Premier (20/8/97)—

With reference to the establishment of the whole of Government capital works monitoring system established in his department—

- (1) In respect of each department and agency funded from the consolidated fund, what was the allocation for capital works from this fund in 1997-98?

- (2) What proportion of this allocation was spent in respect of each department and agency as at 31 July?

Mr Borbidge (19/9/97):

- (1) The original Capital Budgets for each Department for 1997-98 are provided in Budget Paper 2, page 103.

- (2) The Government's Capital Works Reporting System is currently being implemented across all Departments. At this stage, information within the system is incomplete as some Departments are yet to finalise their data. It is anticipated that all data issues will be resolved within 2 months. Pending this, it is recommended that questions in relation to expenditure for individual Departments be addressed to the relevant Ministers.

868. Greyhound Racing Facility

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (20/8/97)—

With reference to his 1995 pre-election commitment to the Greyhound Racing Industry that he would establish a greyhound racing facility north of Albion Park to compensate for the closure of the Lawnton Greyhound Track—

- (1) Does he still intend to honour this commitment; if so, in view of the competing interests of

Redcliffe, Dakabin and Lawnton, will he ensure the Queensland taxpayers interests' are protected by taking the most economically viable option available?

- (2) When will he make a decisive announcement on this issue?

Mr Cooper (19/9/97):

- (1) Yes; issues of economic and strategic importance to the industry will be considered.
 (2) After the Greyhound Racing Authority has completed its feasibility studies and has made a submission to the Minister.

869. Queensland Law Society Statutory Committee; Mr C. Bax

Mr NUTTALL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (20/8/97)—

With reference to recent media coverage of the appearance of Mr Craig Stephen Bax before the Queensland Law Society's Statutory Committee for professional misconduct and, in particular, comments attributed to the Minister in the media regarding the lodgement of an appeal against the inadequacy of the penalty imposed on Mr Bax by the Queensland Law Society's Statutory Committee—

- (1) Is the offence for which Mr Bax has been found guilty forgery under the Criminal Code?
 (2) Has there been, or is there presently, a police investigation into the matters involving Mr Bax; if not, why not?
 (3) Are any further charges being considered?

Mr Beanland (19/9/97):

- (1) The proceedings before the Statutory Committee of the Queensland Law Society are disciplinary in nature. The Statutory Committee considers whether particular conduct by a practitioner constitutes professional misconduct. These were not criminal proceedings and did not consider the question of liability for any criminal offence.
 (2) Whether there is an investigation by the police of matters involving Mr Bax is a matter for the Queensland Police Service.
 (3) The consideration of laying charges in relation to a criminal offence against Mr Bax is also a matter for the Queensland Police Service.

870. Eco-Challenge; Mr A. Cattermole

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (20/8/97)—

With reference to a briefing note prepared for him by a Cairns-based departmental officer called Allan Cattermole on 8 July, in which he expressed concerns about arrangements for the Eco-Challenge race in North Queensland—

- (1) What is Mr Cattermole's position within the department?
 (2) Did he receive this briefing note; if so, when?
 (3) If he didn't receive it, what and who stopped it making its way to his office as Mr Cattermole obviously intended?

- (4) Which points in this briefing note does he disagree with, and on what and whose advice does he base this disagreement?
 (5) Is he comfortable with the procedure his department follows that obviously prevents briefing notes prepared by senior regional officers from reaching him, and what does he intend to do to rectify the situation?
 (6) Is he satisfied that the safety concerns raised in the briefing note were adequately addressed prior to the Eco-Challenge event?

Mr Littleproud (18/9/97):

1. Alan Cattermole is the Visitor Management Officer (TO3) based at the Atherton office of the Department of Natural Resources. He is responsible for the management of all Commercial Tour Operators in the Far North District on State Forest land.

2. Following the matter becoming an issue I have been provided with a copy of the draft brief note.

3. Mr Cattermole reports directly to senior officers including the Operations Manager at Atherton. Through this reporting process the form, content, accuracy, format and quality of advice is assessed before forwarding it to me, as has been the case before, during and since the Labor Government's time in office. It is normal procedure for drafts to be assessed and validated by the Operations Manager, Resource Management, Far North District.

(5) Yes. The final brief, sanctioned by the senior staff to which Mr Cattermole reports was both quality assured and accurate and in accordance with practices that have been applied by successive governments over the years.

(6) Yes.

871. Redevelopment of Boggo Road Site

Ms BLIGH asked the Premier (20/8/97)—

With reference to recent announcements regarding the redevelopment of the Boggo Road precinct, including the development of a high-tech industry park—

- (1) Have any discussions been held with the University of Queensland regarding the possible involvement of the university in the high-tech park?
 (2) Have any such discussions included discussion of a vehicle bridge being constructed between the St Lucia campus and Dutton Park?
 (3) Will he rule out any plans to construct a bridge across the Brisbane River between St Lucia and Dutton Park?

Mr Borbidge (19/9/97):

(1) Yes.

(2) The idea of a light-rail or people-mover link has been discussed. However, no engineering specifications nor detailed planning for any such link has been undertaken in relation to the development of the Boggo Road site as a Science and Technology Precinct.

(3) The success of a Science and Technology Precinct depends heavily upon close linkages, including physical access, between the Precinct and centres of research excellence, such as universities. The Boggo Road site has been identified as a potential Science and Technology Precinct because of its close proximity to three universities. The Queensland Science and Technology Council is undertaking the preparation of a Concept Development Plan for the Boggo Road site. The Plan will be submitted to the Government for consideration. The preparation of the Concept Development Plan will involve the investigation of the potential for creating direct public transport links between the site and the universities. I have asked the Council to contact the Member for South Brisbane to ensure that her views on the potential for the development of the site, transportation issues and community issues are taken into account in the preparation of the Development Concept.

872. Sithe Industries; Power Station, Brisbane Region

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (20/8/97)—

- (1) Has he, his department or SEQEB had any talks with Sithe Industries who have Brisbane City Council town planning approval to build a 500 megawatt gas powered station on what is known as Gibson Island near the mouth of the Brisbane River; if so, (a) what cost will the State buy the power for, (b) what environmental restrictions will be placed on the station if any, (c) when will the station start putting power into the State grid and (d) how many employees will the new power station employ?
- (2) Has he any plans to convert Swanbank Power Station to gas as it is the single largest polluter in the Brisbane air shed; if so, will the conversion to gas be over time so that coal miners and power station workers will be looked after and given timely notice to find alternative work?

Mr Gilmore (16/9/97):

- (1) Sithe Industries, along with many other prospective participants in the electricity industry, have had discussions with officials regarding the new industry arrangements to apply following the implementation of the Government's reform agenda—currently being undertaken by the Queensland Electricity Reform Unit.

These discussions have centred on industry arrangements to apply under the National Electricity Market rules as a rule of Queensland's participation in the NEM.

- (a) Any discussions with Sithe have in no way involved the cost of electricity or the State becoming involved with any contract with Sithe to supply electricity. Any decision by Sithe or any other prospective generator to invest in electricity capacity will be based on their assessment of market risk. The Government will no longer be intervening in what should be

investment decisions by the market by engaging in contracts for capacity with investment proponents.

- (b) Environmental restrictions are introduced through Environment Impact Studies, public consultation process and continuous monitoring of plant emissions. The Brisbane City Council has made a decision to approve the project under certain conditions. The applicant is allowed to appeal, if the conditions are not favourable, within forty days. The appeal period expires in September.
- (c) Future electricity demand will largely depend on how the competitive electricity market will be operating. Based on future demand studies, generators fully aware of the open competitive electricity market operation, will develop future generation capacity. It is envisaged that there will be many generators competing to provide the additional power required in Queensland by the year 2001 or 2002 and Sithe Industries could be one of them. The date for connecting future power supply to the grid either by Sithe Industries or by any other generator is not yet known.
- (d) The responsibility for developing Gibson Power Station lies with Sithe Industries. With a view to facilitating competition and implementing competitive neutrality, the Government will not be involved with any details regarding the power station or the likely number of employees.

- (2) Swanbank Power Station located near Ipswich is mainly a coal fired thermal power station comprising 10 units of coal fired power plant capable of producing 840 MW and a gas turbine plant (Swanbank C) of 26 MW.

The power station currently receives its coal supply from three mines in the Ipswich area and one near Oakey on the Darling Downs.

In order to reduce environmental pollution, the power station is currently in the process of fitting fabric filters to each of its coal fired units at a cost of \$30m. Installation of the fabric filters on eight units has been completed and this has resulted in the reduction of particulate emissions to less than 10 mg per cubic metre. Installation of fabric filters on the remaining two units will be completed in April and July 1998.

As regards conversion of Swanbank Power Station to gas turbine operation, no commitment has been made for such conversion. However, there is an opportunity to re-power the units at Swanbank using combined cycle gas turbines operating in parallel with the existing turbines. Introduction of this gas technology to Swanbank Power Station would be progressive according to electricity load growth, market opportunities, gas availability and its economics.

The conversion process would allow a gradual phasing out of the existing coal fired plant, whilst providing the opportunity for the Station to increase its capacity in line with the State's load growth. This increase in Station capacity would be achieved with

a reduction in overall emissions including greenhouse gas emission rates.

As regards the future of power station workers, in the context of such changes taking place, opportunities would be made available to the staff to be re-trained in the new technology.

873. Wynnum North State High School

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (20/8/97)—

With reference to the urgent need for a performing arts complex to be provided at the Wynnum North State High School and the lobbying for this project undertaken by both myself and the school community—

- (1) Will he (in accordance with the request in my letter to him of 23 May, which request he has ignored) make arrangements for me to meet the appropriate departmental officers so as they may provide me with a detailed briefing concerning assessment of such proposals including (a) procedures involved by which an assessment is made for inclusion on the capital lists, (b) prioritising that capital list so as immediate funding decisions are made and (c) what detailed evidence is required to be placed before the department so as to demonstrate the immediate and high priority of the proposed Wynnum North State High School Performing Arts Complex?
- (2) Will he release documents to myself and the school community to demonstrate his obvious view that the performing arts complex is not of a high priority and why schools in other areas have had their proposals constructed?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1)(a) Procedures involved for assessment of request
At the present time, there is a two stage assessment process employed to determine whether a capital works request is included on the list of potential projects for inclusion on a draft capital works program.

The first stage involves assessment of requests at a Regional level in order to determine a listing of Regional priorities. This process may differ slightly from region to region but the same principles of equity and consultation are employed. The process consists of:

Determining regional strategic direction (for example an emphasis on clustering arrangements between groups of schools or emphasis on projects in a particular school sector).

Highlighting requests in schools experiencing enrolment growth.

Assessment/ranking of projects through a reference group arrangement, generally consisting of representatives of all school sectors.

Development of a prioritised regional list which is forwarded to the Facilities Development Section of Education Queensland.

The next stage involves the grouping of regional nominations into project specific areas and the application of a mathematical modelling process in order to determine a statewide ranking within project specific requests. This ranking can be used to determine an overall statewide ranking for all capital requests.

(b) Prioritising the capital list

There are several factors which are used in determining the statewide ranking of a capital works request. These include:

Sponsorship of the request from the respective region.

The number and condition of any existing facilities of this type at the school.

The enrolment trends of the school.

The student capacity of existing facilities.

Whilst this process is used to determine the statewide ranking of a project, final funding allocation will be made on the basis of corporate strategies and the amount of capital works funds available.

(c) Detailed evidence

These factors have been outlined in response to part 1(b) of the question.

(2) Release of documents for purposes of comparison

In the past two years, there have been four performing arts complexes funded from Education Queensland's Capital Works Programs. All of these facilities were constructed in growing schools as part of their core facilities. Each new complex has cost in excess of \$600 000. It is recognised that there has been much enthusiasm generated by the Wynnum North State High School community for a performing arts complex. However, factors such as revised projected enrolment growth and surplus accommodation capacity will continue to affect the project's overall statewide ranking in the short term.

As part of the Leading Schools concept of school based resource management, Education Queensland is developing strategies for innovative design solutions for and project delivery of capital works projects. When the performing arts project attracts funding on a future program, it is hoped that creative solutions will result in a project which fulfils the expectations of the school for performing arts facilities.

874. Fish Habitats and Sanctuaries

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/8/97)—

With reference to declared fish habitats along the Queensland coast—

- (1) Where are these fish habitats located and what area do they cover?
- (2) What restrictions apply to fishing in these fish habitats?
- (3) How many fish sanctuaries exist along the Queensland coast, where are they located and what area do they cover?

- (4) What restrictions apply to fishing in these sanctuaries?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. Fish Habitat Areas are declared under the provisions of the Fisheries Act 1994. A total of eighty Fish Habitat Areas have been declared along the east coast of Queensland and within the Gulf of Carpentaria. The area of fish and fisheries habitats protected is in excess of 650 000 hectares. Further declarations, including Fish Habitat Areas for Trinity Inlet, Kinkuna (Woodgate), Burdekin Delta and Calliope River are proposed within twelve months.

2. No additional restrictions apply to fishing activities within the boundaries of these Fish Habitat Areas. All legal recreational, commercial and traditional fishing activities are able to continue.

3. The Fisheries Act 1994 did away with the provision for declaring Fish Sanctuaries as the same level of protection is now able to be provided by the gazettal of a 'Fishing Closure'. The six (6) areas previously given Sanctuary status have been given 'Fishing Closure' under the new Act. The areas are located at Coombabah Lake and Swan Bay, north of the Gold Coast; Middle Island, Central Queensland; Hook Island, Whitsunday; Centenary Lakes, Cairns and German Bar, Bizant River, Princess Charlotte Bay.

4. No fishing activities by commercial or recreational fishers may be undertaken in these Fishing Closures.

875. Home Assist/Secure Program, Inner Western Suburbs

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (20/8/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Inner West Home Assist-Home Secure Project (HAS) has had to substantially reduce the available financial assistance for needy pensioners and the disabled for security upgrades and home maintenance from \$23,000 in 1996-97 to \$5,000 in 1997-98?
- (2) Is he also aware that this difficulty is being experienced by all 36 HAS projects?
- (3) Will he, as a matter of urgency, provide a funding upgrade to redress this unacceptable situation?

Dr Watson (19/9/97):

(1) The Home Assist/Secure program in the inner western suburbs of Brisbane is delivered through the Red Hill Paddington Community Centre. Funding to this organisation increased from \$100,731 in 1996/97 to \$118,196 in 1997/98. It should be noted that the amount of 1997/98 funding includes the increased project staff salary payments in accordance with the Social and Community Services Award (SACS).

While the Red Hill Paddington Community Centre in applying for its budget has identified greater administrative costs in 1997/98 than in 1996/97, I am advised

the total amount available in 1997/98 to directly assist clients is \$89,525 compared with \$75,864 in 1996/97.

(2) Yes.

(3) Future funding for the Home Assist/Secure program will be determined following the outcome of the Future Ways and Future Means project.

876. Cleveland Rail Line

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/8/97)—

With reference to the ongoing serious assaults occurring on the Cleveland line—

When will he ensure that school children can travel to and from school in safety?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): The safety of all passengers and staff utilising Queensland Rail's network has one of the highest priorities for myself and Queensland Rail. Continual financial and human resources are directed to safety and security issues for all passengers.

Citytrain is continuing with the implementation of the TrainSafe strategy which was launched by me and this includes a whole range of security initiatives and part of this is the installation of CCTV cameras at all stations which enhances the detection and prosecution of offenders.

No organisation can totally guarantee a person's safety, however every endeavour is made to enhance the safety of passengers, especially children and staff, on the QR network.

Unfortunately, the increase in violence is a community wide problem and is not just peculiar to the rail network. The Queensland Police Service has previously indicated that the rail system is 2.5 times safer than the broader community.

In regard to the recent problems involving troublesome youths intimidating school children on the Cleveland line, Queensland Rail has responded by hiring private security guards to patrol stations and school trains, as well as working in close co-operation with the Queensland Police Service. At this point in time, Queensland Rail has an additional 30 to 40 people placed on this line to ensure the highest level of safety is provided to Queensland Rail customers.

This subject is now a police matter and results are expected.

877. Police Drug Raids

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (20/8/97)—

With reference to recent allegations by a Whitsunday drug dealer that a senior Queensland police officer stole \$5,000 from him during a police drug raid on the dealer's car—

- (1) How many other allegations of similar police theft have been made against Queensland police in recent times?
- (2) Does he find it perplexing that all five police officers involved in the raid had no independent recollection of the drug dealers arrest?

- (3) Does he find it odd that the dealer, after having been found in possession of 237 grams of marijuana, was only fined \$500?
- (4) What provisions has he put into place to ensure that all future drug raids properly account for all drugs and/or monies seized?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) Records of complaints held at the Professional Standards Unit indicate that there are five (5) complaints of a similar nature dating back to 1995. On investigation there was insufficient evidence on which to base any criminal charge. Two investigations resulted in disciplinary action being taken. Records held by the Queensland Police Service concerning complaints of this nature are not exhaustive because complaints are often made direct to the Criminal Justice Commission and this information is not made available to the Queensland Police Service.

(2 & 3) These matters are subject to investigations by the "Criminal Justice Commission Inquiry into Police and Drugs" (Carter Inquiry). The findings of Judge CARTER will be released in his final report. It would be inappropriate to comment on these matters prior to the release of his report.

(4) This matter is subject to investigations by the "Criminal Justice Commission Inquiry into Police and Drugs" (Carter Inquiry). The findings of Judge CARTER will be released in his final report. On 1 January 1995 the Commissioner of Police published an Operational Procedures Manual (OPM) containing Queensland Police Service policy, orders and procedures on an extensive range of operational policing issues. The manual is issued pursuant to Section 4.9 of the Police Service Administration Act 1990. Instructions with respect to the seizure of drugs and money are contained in Sections 4.6.1 to 4.6.4 of the OPM which have been recently updated. The Commissioner's Inspectorate is presently conducting a State-wide audit to gauge compliance by members of the Queensland Police Service in respect of the abovementioned sections of the OPM and the drug handling process generally. The results of this audit are still being evaluated and remedial action will be taken where necessary.

878. Ambulance Service, Kurwongbah Electorate

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (20/8/97)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service and the recent experience of Ms Kylie Griffin of Lawnton, who made an emergency call to the Queensland Ambulance Service on 26 July—

- (1) Will he give an undertaking that Kurwongbah residents in the North Pine Rivers area will be serviced by the Petrie Ambulance Station rather than the Sandgate Ambulance Station?
- (2) Will he provide details of the number of emergencies in the North Pine Rivers area

which are serviced by ambulance units from other areas?

- (3) How many emergency calls from outside the Petrie station's coverage area does the Petrie station service, taking units away from the area?
- (4) Will he provide details of funding allocated to ambulance services in the Kurwongbah Electorate in 1996-97 and estimated funding levels for 1997-98?
- (5) Will he provide current average and standard deviation statistics for emergency response times in Kurwongbah?

Mr Veivers (19/9/97):

(1) In the Greater Brisbane Region, which incorporates the Kurwongbah Electorate, the Queensland Ambulance Service, (QAS) undertakes up to 700 cases per day. This means that ambulance vehicles are routinely transversing the region to provide patient care and transport services and are therefore not always waiting in stations for their next call. In order to provide the best possible response to the community, the QAS has standard operating procedures which require that the nearest available ambulance unit is dispatched to all code 1 emergencies. As a result of ensuring that the nearest available ambulance unit is dispatched to emergency cases the attending vehicle may not be a unit located at the closest ambulance station.

The QAS also uses a process which is referred to as system status management. This process is used to maintain the integrity of emergency response coverage throughout the region. In essence, it facilitates the movement of ambulance units from other areas to provide coverage to areas where local units are already assigned to cases.

(2) As QAS stations do not confine their operational area to set boundaries, it is impractical to provide the number of responses in the North Pine area serviced by ambulance units from other areas. It is the philosophy of the QAS to dispatch the closest unit to an emergency.

(3) In the 1996/97 financial year, Petrie attended 171 out of 1,297 code 1 cases outside the North Pine area. At this stage the database does not indicate where the 171 cases were located.

(4) Prior to October 1996 there were two ambulance stations located in the Kurwongbah electorate. These stations were located at Dayboro (a two officer station) and Petrie (a 24 hour station).

Following the restructure of the Greater Brisbane Region and the redistribution of resources consistent with demand profiles and demographic changes, an additional 24 hour ambulance station has been established in the Kurwongbah Electorate, located at Brendale.

As a result, this Electorate received a significant increase in ambulance resources and this has been consolidated in the 1997/98 budget for the Greater Brisbane Region.

The funding allocations for this area prior to and post these changes are as follows:

Stations	FINANCIAL YEAR	
	96/97	97/98
	Petrie, Dayboro	Petrie, Dayboro & Brendale
Salaries	\$924,633	\$1,248,083
Staff	\$22,643	\$26,985
Admin	\$119,450	\$185,581
Maintenance & Equipment purchase	\$15,271	\$20,619
Other		\$20,000

The increases are due to the establishment of a new station at Brendale:

7 additional staff

4 additional vehicles

(5) As the QAS stations of Dayboro, Brendale and Petrie do not confine their operational area of response to the electoral boundaries of Kurwongbah, it is impractical to provide average and standard deviation statistics for the electorate.

879. AVCO Financial Services Ltd

Ms SPENCE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (20/8/97)—

- (1) Is he aware of a report into the practices of AVCO Financial Services Ltd by the Legal Aid Commission of NSW and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre of NSW entitled "In Whose Interest"?
- (2) Does he think that the conduct of AVCO Financial Services Ltd as revealed in the report warrants the use of the negative licensing provisions of Part 6 of the Consumer Credit (Queensland) Act?
- (3) Does he intend to instruct the relevant officers within the Office of Consumer Affairs to investigate the conduct of AVCO Financial Services Ltd with a view to applying to the Court to prohibit them from acting as a credit provider in Queensland, as they can under Section 23 of the Act?
- (4) Does he at least intend to instruct the relevant officers within the Office of Consumer Affairs to ask AVCO Financial Services Ltd to enter into a Conduct Deed under Section 19 of the Act giving certain undertakings as to its conduct in Queensland?
- (5) If he does not think that the conduct of AVCO Financial Services Ltd as revealed in the report warrants such action, what action does he think would do so?
- (6) As the report reveals that AVCO Financial Services Ltd is still charging up to 29 per cent interest on its personal loans to consumers, and as the Act (Section 14) allows the Governor-in-Council to make regulations prescribing a maximum annual percentage rate, will he be seeking to exercise this power and to urge the other members of MECCA to do so; if not, what does he think is a permissible interest rate for consumer lending?
- (7) As the report reveals that AVCO Financial Services Ltd has been selling life insurance

policies from its wholly owned subsidiary, Hallmark Insurance, with its loans to consumers who already have paid for life insurance as part of their superannuation, what steps will he take to warn Queensland consumers and to prevent such over-selling in the future?

- (8) As the report reveals that AVCO Financial Services Ltd has engaged in practices which can only be described as debt collection by humiliation, does he think that this is appropriate for Queensland consumers faced with difficult circumstances, and what steps will he take to prevent such practices in the future?

Mr Beanland (19/9/97):

(1) Yes. I am aware of the report into the practices of AVCO Financial Services Ltd ("AVCO") prepared by the Legal Aid Commission of NSW and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre of NSW entitled "In Whose Interest" ("the Report")? The Report received considerable press and television coverage on or about 8 July 1997.

(2) The Report highlights alleged conduct by AVCO occurring throughout Australia. It is only conduct which takes place in Queensland that is pertinent in determining whether there are breaches of consumer credit legislation. Part 6 of the Consumer Credit (Queensland) Act 1994 ("the Act") provides for the control of credit providers' practices. It is premature to indicate whether AVCO's conduct, as revealed in the Report, warrants action under Part 6. Investigations by the Office of Consumer Affairs are determining whether there is sufficient evidence to establish "unjust conduct" by AVCO within the terms of Part 6.

(3) The Office of Consumer Affairs had initiated its own investigations into AVCO's conduct as soon as the Report was released. It is premature to advise whether the chief executive will be applying to the court to prohibit AVCO acting as a credit provider in Queensland pursuant to section 23. This will depend upon the results of the investigations and any legal advice that is furnished. Also AVCO have retained legal consultants to undertake an independent investigation into the allegations in the Report, as well as examining AVCO's practices and procedures. My office and the Office of Consumer Affairs are liaising with those consultants.

(4) I do not at this stage intend to instruct the Office of Consumer Affairs to require AVCO to enter into a conduct deed under section 19 requiring undertakings from AVCO in respect of its conduct in Queensland, unless investigations reveal and legal advice recommends such action being taken.

(5) As it is premature to provide a response on whether AVCO's conduct in Queensland warrants the course of action suggested by the Honourable Member for Mt Gravatt, it is not possible to comment on what action ought to be taken under Part 6 in response to AVCO's conduct.

(6) The Report correctly points out that AVCO's interest rates are amongst the highest of any mainstream lender in charging interest rates of up to 29% on its personal loans to consumers. This implicitly recognises that there are other lenders in

the marketplace which charge similar interest rates or even higher rates. A similar provision to section 14 of the Act exists in section 155 of the Credit Act 1987. Queensland has never relied on those provisions to set a maximum annual percentage rate. Victoria and New South Wales prescribed a maximum annual percentage rate under their Credit Acts. Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory are the only jurisdictions in Australia to prescribe such a rate under the Code. The maximum annual percentage rate set is 48% for credit contracts under the Code. This is well above the rates charged by AVCO so they have no effect on the interest rates charged by AVCO. No doubt Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, when setting this rate, would have closely looked at the various competing arguments on what would be considered an appropriate maximum rate. A similar exercise would be required if Queensland were to consider prescribing a maximum annual percentage rate. I do not propose to embark on such an exercise, particularly as any rate that may be set is likely to be well above interest rates charged by AVCO and other similar lenders.

(7) If investigations reveal that officers from AVCO were aware, when selling life insurance policies to consumers, that they already had life insurance and if advice is to the effect that warnings should be given to Queensland consumers about such conduct, then appropriate action will be taken to issue such warnings.

(8) If investigations establish that AVCO has engaged in inappropriate and unreasonable debt collection practices in Queensland then this is certainly not appropriate conduct towards borrowers who may be in difficult financial circumstances. Depending on the legal advice that is provided, it may be appropriate that AVCO be required to enter into a conduct deed to ensure that its conduct in collecting debts does not frighten, intimidate or harass consumers.

880. Emergency Services Centre, Spring Hill

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (20/8/97)—

- (1) What is the Budget for 1997-98 for the development of the new combined Computer Aided Dispatch Centre at Spring Hill?
- (2) What is the projected completion date for the facility?
- (3) What are the projected running costs of the facility?
- (4) What is the total cost, including all capital costs, of the establishment of the facility at Spring Hill?
- (5) What is the current running costs, including capital costs, of Firecom, taken over a year?

Mr Veivers (19/9/97):

(1) The projected development budget which will meet commitments for 1997-98 including hardware, software, project and technical services is \$ 2.5M. An additional \$ 0.4M has been allocated for

commissioning costs to cover extensive training and business process re-engineering activities.

(2) The handover of all technical components is scheduled for completion at the end of October 1997. Transition to operations will then commence and be staged through to January 1998.

(3) Current salaries for AMBCOM and FIRECOM total \$2.9M. Technical, computer, data, and training support services and other running costs for the facility are estimated at between \$1.1M and \$1.3M. As this is a new centre, service agreements are still being negotiated and the extent of support services is yet to be finalised.

(4) It is incumbent upon the Department of Emergency Services to utilise modern 'state of the art' technology in call centres. A major driver for this project is to commission proprietary technology as opposed to the manual systems employed by the Queensland Ambulance Service and the 'in house' specially developed technologies employed by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority. The benefits include improved response time and incident support and improved inter service coordination. The total cost of the facility is still within the approved budget of \$14.075M.

(5) The 1996/97 budget for running FIRECOM was \$1.14M which included staff costs, stationery supplies, uniforms and other sundry items. Additional costs of \$0.3M were required for technical support, training, computer hardware and software purchases and support. This amount is not reflected in the specific FIRECOM budget but appears within individual program centre codes.

881. Contamination of Coomera River; Councillor Kleinschmidt

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (20/8/97)—

With reference to the major fish kill in the Coomera River in November 1996—

- (1) Have officers of the Environment Department investigated the extent of this environmental disaster and its causes?
- (2) What were the extent of the impacts on fish and other fauna?
- (3) Was the disaster caused by the escape of feedlot waste; if not, what other cause was identified?
- (4) What was the source of the contaminant and what volume and over what time was the contamination allowed to occur?
- (5) Who are the owners of the property from which the contaminant escaped, and do they include Deputy Gold Coast Mayor, Cr Kleinschmidt?
- (6) Does he acknowledge that this was a serious pollution incident; if so, could such an incident possibly have occurred without negligence?
- (7) Has action been instigated to prosecute the offenders for this disgraceful environmental harm; if not, why not and is it because of Cr Kleinschmidt's membership or associations with the National Party?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): This matter is being investigated by the Department and the material in respect to this incident has been referred to the Crown Solicitor's office for advice on what action, if any, the Department should take. The Crown Solicitor has not yet provided legal advice to the Department on this matter. The Department views this matter as serious and as the matter is under investigation and is subject to current legal consideration it would be inappropriate at this time to comment. With regard to (7), the Member shows surprising ignorance of such matters in thinking that I would have any involvement. I find it insulting for the Honourable Member to suggest that I would have acted in such a way.

882. Diamantina Lakes National Park; Stanbroke Pastoral Company

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Environment (20/8/97)—

With reference to the matter of grazing on Diamantina Lakes National Park—

- (1) When does this grazing lease expire?
- (2) Has he received a request from the lessee, Stanbroke Pastoral Company, to renew or extend the lease; if so, on what basis and for how long?
- (3) On what scientific basis are Doctors Lavery and Kirkpatrick of Australian Environmental International promoting this extension on behalf of Stanbroke?
- (4) Has he ruled this request out of order or, if he is considering it, on what basis does he intend to circumvent the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act?
- (5) Which other national parks has he received requests to allow grazing on?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): The Stock Grazing Permit on Diamantina National Park expires on 2 July 1998. I held a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Stanbroke Pastoral Company, Mr Cox, in July. A number of land management issues including grazing on Diamantina National Park were discussed. I advised Mr Cox that there was no intention to change the situation regarding stock grazing. I am not aware of any other requests before the department with regard to stock grazing on National Parks.

883. Dairy Industry

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/8/97)—

With reference to the issue of de-regulation of the dairy industry as part of Hilmer competition reforms—

- (1) Is he aware of concerns within the industry that such a move could lead to a 10 cent rise in the price of a litre of milk to consumers?
- (2) Is he aware of industry concerns that in the event of total de-regulation, they could expect lower farm returns?

- (3) Is he aware of industry concerns that de-regulation would inevitably lead to a drop in the quality of milk sold?
- (4) Does he intend to support dairy producers in their fight to retain a farm gate price and supply quotas; if not, why not?
- (5) What aspects of de-regulation of the dairy industry under Hilmer does he believe would meet a test of public benefit?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. The Honourable Member has lodged a series of questions relating to the National Competition Policy review of the dairy legislation. He has inquired as to my awareness of a number of aspects of the review and I would hasten to assure him that I am very well aware of the significance of this review for both the industry and the community.

Mr Schwarten should be aware that the review of the Dairy Industry Act 1993 is required under the Commonwealth/State National Competition Policy Agreements, which were entered into when his side of the House was in Government. One of the NCP requirements is that legislation should not restrict competition unless it can be demonstrated that the benefits to the community as a whole outweigh the costs, and that the objectives of the legislation can only be achieved by legislation which restricts competition.

2. There is no presumption that deregulation will occur, there is only a requirement that a review be conducted according to the criteria set out in the NCP agreements.

Mr Schwarten should be aware of the measures I have put in place for this review because the Queensland Dairy Legislation Review Committee sent him a copy of the Issues Paper, as it did to all Honourable Members.

This widely circulated Paper clearly outlines the comprehensive review process which is being undertaken by the Committee to address and evaluate, in terms of public benefits, such critical industry issues as farm gate prices, supply management and food quality and safety assurance.

3, 4 and 5. Mr Speaker, I am well aware of industry concerns related to this review, however there is a process under way which needs to be carried out properly and I trust that the Honourable Member opposite understands that no good purpose will be served by actions which would appear to direct or prejudice the outcomes of the Committee's work at this time.

The Committee will hand its recommendations to me early next year and any action the Government considers necessary will be based on the review outcomes including an assessment of the costs and benefits related to the review issues.

Mr Speaker, the dairy industry is important to this State, ranking fifth in terms of gross value of rural production and I believe members need to get behind the review process to ensure that the Committee's recommendations are developed with the maximum level of community input and debate possible. In this way, the Government will be in the

best position to make properly informed decisions which will best serve the interests of the community and the future development of the Queensland dairy industry.

884. Bundaberg Hospital

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (20/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed redevelopment project of the Bundaberg Hospital—

- (1) Who is the architect commissioned for this project?
- (2) When was this architect appointed?
- (3) Has the architect undertaken public consultation in the planning process; if so, with whom and on what dates?
- (4) When will final plans be available for public inspection and comment?
- (5) Is there an expected cost for the redevelopment project?
- (6) Have staff at the hospital had an input to the planning?
- (7) What are the major aspects of these new redevelopment plans?
- (8) When is the expected date for (a) the calling of tenders, (b) the commencement of construction and (c) the completion of construction?
- (9) What is the expected expenditure for this project for (a) 1997-98, (b) 1998-99 and (c) 1999-2000?

Mr Horan (17/9/97): 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 your constituents, I provide the following answers:-

- (1) Peddle Thorp Architects have been commissioned to provide architectural consultancy services for the Bundaberg Hospital Redevelopment Project.
- (2) Peddle Thorp Architects were commissioned in November 1994.
- (3) No.
- (4) Unfortunately the previous State Labor Government conducted minimal planning on the Redevelopment over the period November 1994 to February 1996. However, the Master Planning process is now nearing completion and will be followed by the development of the Project Definition Plan. Once the design plans have been completed, the Manager, Bundaberg District Health Service will display the plans and invite interested members of the public to provide comment.
- (5) A total of \$22.7m has been allocated for Stage 3 of the redevelopment project;
- (6) Staff at Bundaberg Hospital have been consulted during the planning process. A number of Hospital User Groups have been established and members will continue to be informed and are involved in the planning and design processes;

(7) It is planned that Stage 3 of the Bundaberg Hospital Redevelopment Project will include 4 operating theatres and 1 day procedure room; 5 birthing rooms; 1 endoscopy room; expansion of emergency and medical imaging departments; the provision of a district rehabilitation service; upgraded facilities for community health; and upgraded/new facilities for pharmacy, medical records, allied health, linen handling, stores, Central Sterilising Services Department, mortuary, administration and a new entrance. New maternity facilities are planned within the current Women's Unit.

(8) The approved program for the main development forecasts (a) tenders being called during September 1998; (b) construction commencing during November 1998 and (c) construction being completed during November 2000. An early works demolition package is expected to result in (a) tenders being called in October 1997, (b) the contract being let in November 1997, and (c) the contract being completed by May 1998;

(9) The forecast expenditure in (a) 1997-98 is \$2,900,000, (b) 1998-99 is \$7,500,000 and (c) 1999-2000 is \$8,700,000.

885. Suncorp/Metway/QIDC Merger

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (20/8/97)—

With reference to comments by the Member for Cunningham in the Courier-Mail (late city edition) of 19 July, page 11, where he said that the QIDC—merged into Suncorp-Metway, had lost direction and was not adequately strong for rural people—

- (1) What date did she have discussions with the bank to ensure that Mr Elliott's concerns were being addressed?
- (2) Is it true, as Mr Elliott alleged, that some staff have \$1m a month loan targets and pushed money on people who had no chance of meeting the repayments?
- (3) What action is she taking as Treasurer to ensure the bank provides special services for rural people?

Mrs Sheldon (19/9/97):

- (1) The matters raised by Mr Elliott are commercial matters for Suncorp-Metway.
- (2) This question should be referred to Suncorp-Metway as it relates to an operational matter in which the Government, as a shareholder, has no involvement.
- (3) Since its merger with Suncorp and Metway the range of services available to rural customers of QIDC has been significantly improved. These customers now have access to a fully integrated banking service providing a range of insurance and banking services. In addition to these services, there has also been the introduction of new products previously unavailable through QIDC. These include business cheque accounts, EFTPOS facilities and an Export Finance Facility. In rural areas where QIDC operates and agribusiness dominates the lending, the

QIDC brand has been retained and the specialist rural banking operation will be marketed as "QIDC Agribusiness Banking". The QIDC has also been given a greater regional focus since the merger, with eight (8) new regional administrative centres replacing two (2). The regional focus of these centres will facilitate decision making by people who have a detailed knowledge of each region's industries and people. Importantly, this regional focus will strengthen the rural partnership between Suncorp-Metway and its regional customers.

886. State Emergency Service Volunteers

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (20/8/97)—

What arrangements does the Government have to ensure that SES volunteers have made a will prior to an activation, particularly prior to a dangerous activation?

Mr Veivers (19/9/97): Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers are provided with information during their official induction into their Local Government volunteer SES units and during follow-up training which includes advice on the need to have their personal affairs in place before responding to SES operational activities.

From a legal and policy perspective the question of whether a SES volunteer has made a Will is considered a personal matter for the individual concerned. It would be inappropriate for the State Government to become directly involved in the conduct of an SES volunteer's personal affairs.

887. Roadside Service Centre, Deception Bay Road/Caboolture-Bribie Island Road

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/8/97)—

With reference to the Notification of Declaration of Roadside Service Centre Facility Zones on an Access Limited State Controlled Road in the Government Gazette of 15 August and, in particular, Zones BH5 and BH6, Deception Bay Road to Caboolture-Bribie Island Road—

Will he provide details of the time frame it will take in order to get a project under way?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): Offers were called on Saturday 16 August.

Offer period remains open to Monday, 17 November 1997.

The assessment of conforming offers is estimated to take about two months.

Following acceptance, the successful offerer has up to two years to obtain all local government and any other approval and a further six months to have substantially commenced construction of the service centre.

On this basis, service centre operations could commence as soon as early 1999 to as late as early 2000, depending upon the period taken to obtain local government approval.

888. Arts Office

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (20/8/97)—

With reference to the restructuring of the Arts Office—

- (1) How many jobs are to be lost in this restructuring?
- (2) How many staff will lose their current positions and be obliged to apply for positions in the restructured Arts Office?
- (3) What is the detailed breakdown of the total cost of \$6.8m in implementing the restructure of the Arts portfolio in respect of the Arts Office and each of the statutory agencies affected?
- (4) Over what period of time is it proposed that the "recoverable loan" of \$6.8m will be repaid out of future arts budgets?
- (5) How does she reconcile the claim in the 1996-97 budget papers that the corporate affairs restructuring would save \$800,000 with her recent admission that the implementation of the Arts portfolio restructuring would in fact cost \$6.8m to be repaid as a "recoverable loan"?

Mrs Sheldon (19/9/97):

- (1) The recruitment and selection processes are currently under way and the exact numbers will be known at the completion of the process.
- (2) All positions in The Arts Office will be recruited. The recruitment and selection processes will be in line with the current requirements of the Public Service Act 1996.
- (3) An amount of \$6.123m has been provided to meet the establishment costs of the Corporate Administration Agency and the cost of systems implementation. A further \$0.692m has been provided for the expenses of the Arts Implementation Office.
- (4) The period of time for the payment of the recoverable loan has not been determined.
- (5) The \$800,000 were the savings, the Corporate Services of the Arts portfolio were required to make in the 1997-98 financial year, following the savings decision made in the context of 1996-97 budget. Once established, this restructuring initiative is expected to generate significant savings from efficiencies in corporate service delivery, that will enable repayment of the initial cost.

889. Gold Coast Oral Health Service

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (20/8/97)—

With reference to the centralised waiting list for the Gold Coast Oral Health Service—

- (1) How many patients are on the waiting list?
- (2) What is the waiting time before patients can reasonably expect an appointment in their turn?
- (3) Will he provide an age and gender breakdown of patients on the waiting list?

Mr Horan (17/9/97): I thank the Member for Currumbin for the above questions. It was interesting

to note that in the recently released 'Better Health' Policy that the Queensland Labor party doesn't have a policy on Oral Health. I take this to mean that the Queensland Labor party has full confidence with the Coalition Government in improving and delivering oral health services to Queenslanders.

(1) The numbers of patients on the centralised waiting lists for Oral Health Services in the Gold Coast District compared with equivalent figures under the Goss Labor Government in 1995 are:

Under Coalition—Current

(General) Examination List—8939

Prosthetic (Denture) List—1089

Under Labor (April 1995)

(General) Examination List—1 447

Prosthetic (Denture) List—16 700

These figures show that the Coalition has halved the general dental examination list on the Gold Coast in just 18 months.

(2) Patients with emergency/immediate problems are seen on same day for urgent relief of pain, infection or other urgent conditions.

The average number of emergency patients seen under the Goss Labor Government in 1994/95 was 458 compared to 1 367 in 1996/97 under the Coalition. This is 909 people more on average, per month receiving emergency care under the Coalition Government.

The following table shows the average number of patients receiving oral health care per month has increased in throughput by approximately 1200/month since the Coalition government came to power :-

94/95—1100; 95/96—2300; 96/97—2300

New clinics at Southport, Runaway Bay and Palm Beach will be commissioned during the current 1997/1998 financial year which will further improve patient throughput for the oral health service.

The Coalition Government continues to give oral health care a very high priority and Queensland is the only state to fully supplement the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program, with a \$19.8 million New Initiative Program announced in the 1997-98 State Budget.

(3) The Waiting List does not record information on age and gender breakdown of patients on the waiting list.

890. Rail Yard, Parkinson/Larapinta

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/8/97)—

With reference to the plans for a possible new rail line to the Port of Brisbane and for a possible major rail facility at Parkinson—

(1) Is he aware that residents are still concerned, in that they believe these projects are still being advanced without disclosure to, or consultation with, the public and possibly without the knowledge of the Minister?

(2) Is he aware that there is information being disseminated in local suburbs, that Queensland Rail is purchasing land in the vicinity of existing railway property at Parkinson and Larapinta?

(3) Is he aware of a claim that Vegetation Protection Orders (VPOs) have been lifted on railway property, allowing unrestricted destruction of trees?

(4) Are any of these claims correct?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) I would like to state quite clearly that these projects are not being advanced.

On 2 September 1997, State Cabinet categorically ruled out any new rail freight corridor on the south side of Brisbane and also ruled out any future rail freight marshalling yards at Parkinson.

(2) Queensland Rail is not currently negotiating to purchase any additional land for the purposes of a terminal or a freight rail line in the area.

(3) It is not true that Vegetation Protection Orders (VPOs) have been lifted on the QR land at Parkinson. Most of this land has never had a VPOS. However, a VPOS is in force on part of the land. It was put in place on 31 March 1992 and has never been lifted.

The Brisbane City Council controls VPOs and has not made any changes to their status since 1992. Moreover, Queensland Rail is not doing any work on the Parkinson property.

(4) In summary, none of the claims are correct because:

projects are not being advanced without consultation;

QR is not currently purchasing additional land near the Parkinson property; and

VPOs have not been lifted.

891. Paedophilia; Teacher Registration

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (20/8/97)—

With reference to the revised administrative procedures being introduced into the New South Wales Education Department flowing from the findings of the Wood Commission of Inquiry regarding paedophilia—

(1) What steps are being taken to ensure that the strongest levels of protection for Queensland children are being introduced in the Queensland Education system?

(2) Does the Board of Teacher Registration have sufficient powers to scrutinise applications to the Register of Teachers and to monitor teachers on the Register; if not, what steps are being taken to give the BTR the powers necessary to ensure paedophiles do not become registered teachers in Queensland?

Mr Quinn (1/10/97):

(1) Criminal checks on all applicants for employment in school-based positions are run with Queensland Police Service. Regional staffing officers forward names of applicants for employment to Employee

Relations, Human Resources Branch, to conduct the criminal checks.

Human Resources Branch is also establishing a process to run interstate criminal checks on these applications for employment. Requests to other state police forces have revealed that some states are not able to provide information of criminal records directly to Education Queensland. To determine the overall position on exchange of criminal history between police services and Education Queensland, every state or territory police service has been asked to state its policy on such information exchange. When the responses to these requests are received, it will be possible to address the issue of establishing mechanisms to enable the exchange of information about criminal convictions, including for unlawful sexual activity such as paedophilia, among states and territories.

As part of the implementation of The National Strategy for the Elimination of Paedophilia and other forms of Child Abuse, a national contact officers' network for the National Register of Teachers has been established and Education Queensland has a nominated contact officer. The function of this network is to facilitate national screening of people who are applicants for teaching positions. The national screening process will detect not only those teachers who have a criminal record of a sexual offence against a child but also those who have been the subject of formal disciplinary action in relation to improper conduct of a sexual nature. The National Strategy Working Party is also working on the exchange of information about employees who have had allegations of child sexual assault or improper conduct of a sexual nature and those who have had a warning or penalty imposed following allegations of improper conduct of a sexual nature with a student. There are presently some concerns about defamation under the existing definitions of the categories identified for exchange information.

The Attorney General has agreed to include amendments to Section 9A at item 5, column 1 of the table in the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 regarding disclosure of criminal history by employees which would capture contract employees; volunteers; any employee, agent or member of any entity providing an educational service; adult students; and any employee, agent or member of any entity which receives funding from the Minister of Education or Education Queensland. The nature of the offences will also be more inclusive.

In 1992, Education Queensland developed a comprehensive policy entitled Allegations of Physical or Sexual Abuse of Students made against School Staff to establish procedures for dealing with such issues. Principals and managers are aware of legislative underpinning of the policy and their obligations to report any allegations of this nature. The policy is available to all worksites and staff through the Department of Education Manual.

The Board of Teacher Registration also contributes significantly to eliminating paedophilia in schools. Through the statutory system of compulsory registration of teachers employed in schools in this state, Queensland is already providing among the

strongest levels of protection in Australia for its children, whether they attend government or non-government schools. For over twenty years, teachers convicted of indecent dealing, or found by the BTR to be guilty of improper behaviour, have been deregistered by the Board after due process. Once deregistered, they are unable to be employed in any school system in Queensland. Currently BTR is liaising with the Deputy Director-General and with non-government employing authorities on assisting with the implementation of MCEETYA recommendations on The National Strategy to Eliminate Paedophilia to facilitate final recommendations and initiatives as they apply to Queensland.

(2) The Board of Teacher Registration requires applicants to complete a criminal offence declaration and to indicate whether or not an entitlement to teach has ever been cancelled or withdrawn, to indicate whether or not they are the subject of any disciplinary proceedings, and provide a character reference.

The BTR has liaised with Education Queensland, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and the Association of Independent Schools of Queensland with regard to the implementation of the MCEETYA recommendations concerning a national strategy to prevent paedophilia in schools. These agencies have agreed that extending the existing powers of the BTR under the Education (Teacher Registration) Act 1988 would enhance public assurance for the protection and welfare of Queensland school children.

As a consequence, a number of legislative amendments have been proposed and it is my intention that these be introduced into the parliament in the near future.

As well, the BTR already has in place a number of arrangements to ensure the protection and welfare of Queensland school children.

Through the support of the Queensland Police Service, the Board is implementing its policy that all applicants for registration, and all applicants for restoration of registration, be subjected to national criminal history checks which will reveal a range of convictions including any involving an assault of a sexual nature. The Board has power to conduct these checks under section 9A of the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 and in monitoring the situation as to whether this power should come under the Education (Teacher Registration) Act 1988.

As a further safeguard, the amended Education (Teacher Registration) Act 1988 requires the Board to refuse any application for registration unless the Board is satisfied that the applicant is "of good character". The onus is on the applicant to demonstrate fitness to be registered.

The Board is being kept informed of developments and will support any further action which may become necessary in the light of MCEETYA recommendations or other nations of interstate developments with regard to paedophilia.

892. Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Levy on Mango Growers

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (20/8/97)—

With reference to plans by the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association to raise their levy on mango growers from 28 cents to 30 cents—

- (1) What justification is being used for this 2 cent rise?
- (2) What amount of money will this 2 cent rise raise in the first 12 months of operation?
- (3) What will these additional funds be used for?
- (4) What is the current breakdown of the levy currently collected by the association for purposes such as research, advertising, marketing and administration?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. I am advised that QFVG is not planning to raise the levy on mango growers from 28 cents to 30 cents.
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable
4. The current breakdown of the levy currently collected is:

General—8 cents

Promotion—18 cents

Research—2 cents.

893. Staff Reductions, Queensland Rail

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (20/8/97)—

With reference to a now widely circulated document from Queensland Rail which refers to a proposed reduction of staff from 1,217 down to 941, a reduction of 276 jobs across the State with particular mention of losses in the ALP seats of Bundaberg 20, Cairns 11, Mackay 20, Maryborough 20, Rockhampton 38 and Townsville 32—

What is the time table for these proposed reductions and what categories of employment classifications are affected?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): The anticipated reduction in staff requirements is associated with the current development of a certified Industrial Agreement between Queensland Rail and relevant unions representing station and yard employees. The Agreement is necessary to enable Queensland Rail to meet the challenges of a competitive rail industry through the adoption of a commercial operational culture which delivers significant productivity and efficiency gains.

The likely scope of the reduced staff requirements are generally of the order mentioned above, however the exact numbers will be determined after the completion of reviews at each location. The reviews are being progressed in full consultation with staff and unions (at both State and local level), and it is expected that the changes will be completed within 6-12 months.

The anticipated changes affect employees in the station and yards area of Queensland Rail (both Coal & Minerals and Freight Groups) and typically involve the following classifications:

Station Officer

Shunter

Porter

Numbertaker

In accordance with long standing policy, employees who become surplus as a result of these changes will not be subject to redundancy or compulsory relocation. They will however have access to benefits available under QR's current Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme.

I have recently sought to have this scheme enhanced for those wishing to avail themselves of a package under the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme. In addition, Queensland Rail is actively working on marketing strategies designed to grow its business and produce more jobs. It is also pointed out that under the Coalition Government, the number of staff reductions have dropped markedly in comparison to the approach under the Labor administration.

894. Redcliffe Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (21/8/97)—

With reference to the redevelopment program for the Redcliffe Hospital—

- (1) When will construction commence?
- (2) Will there be further bed closures during construction?
- (3) What is the estimated date of completion of the redevelopment?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) Construction for the redevelopment of Redcliffe Hospital is due to commence on 24 November 1997. The present program proposes a staging arrangement and identifies a number of early works packages with commencement of construction of the main building works planned for commencement by March 1998.

(2) Construction is being planned and staged with a view to minimising impact on inpatient services.

(3) Approximately April 2000.

895. Relocation of Residents of Basil Stafford Centre

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (21/8/97)—

With reference to his recent announcement of an additional allocation of \$2.6m for the relocation of residents of the Basil Stafford Centre who choose to live in the community—

- (1) Over what period has the allocation been made?
- (2) How many residents does he anticipate can be relocated with these funds?

- (3) On what basis will access to these funds be determined?
- (4) Does the allocation include any funds to support the involvement of family and independent advocates in the decision making process, as per his motion to the Parliament on 29 April?

Mr Lingard (2/9/97):

- (1) The allocation has been made for the 1997-98 financial year with a commitment having been made to provide ongoing recurrent funding for the people who relocate.
- (2) The precise numbers of people to relocate will not be known until the process of consulting with families and considering compatibility issues has been determined.
- (3) Access to these funds will be determined on the basis of individuals whose families have indicated a preference for them to live outside of Basil Stafford Centre. My Department will shortly be calling for Expressions of Interest to contract an individual or organisation who will consult with all families of people with intellectual disabilities living at Basil Stafford Centre. Once this process has been completed, it will be possible to then select the individuals and groups who will relocate as part of this exercise.
- (4) As noted previously, a key part of this initiative will be the involvement of families in a detailed consultation process to ascertain their views about the preferred outcomes for their family member. Once these consultations have occurred, the issue of the involvement of independent representatives will be further considered. Ongoing support will also be provided to families during the process of relocating individuals from the Centre.

896. Tourism, Small Business and Industry Minister, Meeting with President Mandela

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (21/8/97)—

- (1) What arrangements had he or his office put in place to meet with President Mandela prior to his visit to South Africa?
- (2) On what date was his office notified that President Mandela would meet with him?
- (3) Who in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs was contacted about his proposed meeting with President Mandela?
- (4) Who were the South African contacts he had arranged with to organise his meeting with President Mandela?
- (5) What assurances did he receive prior to leaving Brisbane that his meeting with President Mandela had been confirmed?
- (6) Who in the Premier's office approved his visit to South Africa?
- (7) What reaction did National Parks Board Chief Executive, Dr George Hughes, have to his proposal for a rhino park in Queensland?

- (8) Has this park in the past donated rhinos to Australia; if not, why then did he meet with Dr Hughes, and was this meeting arranged by his office before his departure from Brisbane?

Mr Davidson (22/9/97):

- (1) This meeting was organised by the proponents of the project.
- (2) See (1).
- (3) The Australian High Commissioner Mr Ian Porter was contacted regarding the Ministerial visit to South Africa and Mr Porter attended part of the visit.
- (4) See (1).
- (5) See (1).
- (6) The Premier.
- (7) The meeting with Dr George Hughes was very informative and successful.
- (8) No. They are world renowned for being the leaders in Rhino conservation and preservation. Yes.

897. WorkCover

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/8/97)—

With reference to a letter recently published in the Courier-Mail of 4 August from a small businessman in Caloundra, complaining that WorkCover have stopped providing a facility for employers to pay their premiums by instalment—

- (1) What changes have occurred to premium collection policies of WorkCover since its establishment?
- (2) Did WorkCover respond to this person's inquiry by suggesting he take out an overdraft to cover the premium, or alternatively that a time payment would be available, but at an interest charge of 11.75 percent per annum?
- (3) How does he reconcile this usurious and inflexible premium collection policy with his often quoted, but rarely demonstrated, commitment to small business?

Mr Santoro (22/9/97): WorkCover Queensland continues to offer instalment plans to employers where payment of the premium in full by the due date would impose financial hardship.

(1) In respect to premium collection through instalment plans, an instalment plan can only be entered into if the payment of premium by the due date would impose financial hardship on the employer. To ensure equity for all employers, a reasonable but practical criteria has been applied to the determination of financial hardship. To this extent, WorkCover requires written advice establishing finance is not available, or that the interest rate proposed by a financial institution or premium funding agency is unacceptably high. Upon provision of reasonable practical evidence, WorkCover will consider providing an instalment plan to those policyholders where the premium paid exceeds \$1,000 in an insurance year.

(2) Employers who are experiencing difficulty in paying their premium are not advised by WorkCover

to take out an overdraft in order that they meet their obligation. Those employers who qualify for an instalment plan may do so at an interest rate of 11.75% per annum.

(3) The WorkCover Queensland Board determined that the revised position regarding instalment plans and interest rates provides a more equitable position for all employers. The policy to fund instalment plans where the interest rate being asked by financial institutions is 12.5% or greater, is intended to shield employers from unacceptably high interest rates, thus reducing the burden on business.

898. Ski Boat Races, Hinchinbrook Channel

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

With reference to the issue of boat traffic and speed in the Hinchinbrook Channel—

- (1) Has he recently issued permits for monthly ski boat races in this channel?
- (2) What numbers of boats does he envisage will be involved in this racing and what sort of top speeds will these boats reach during these races?
- (3) How do these boat numbers and speeds equate with the coastal management plan requirements for the area or the dugong protection plan his Government only recently announced?
- (4) Where will these races start and finish?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) Permits have been issued to the Hinchinbrook Waterski Club for ski races in the Hinchinbrook Channel for the following dates this year: 2 February 1997, 23 February 1997, 23 March 1997, 20 April 1997, 1 May 1997, 18 May 1997, 21 July 1997, 18 August 1997, 21 September 1997, 26 October 1997, 23 November 1997.

(2) Each ski race comprises from twelve to fifteen boats. During a race, the maximum speed reached will be in the order of sixty to seventy knots (110 to 130 km/h).

(3) The races are conducted along the main navigable channel which is open to unrestricted navigation.

At present Queensland Transport has no specific information on dugong habitats in close proximity to the navigable channel.

Arrangements have been put in place to have Queensland Transport and the Department of Environment undertake a joint study to clearly identify areas of dugong habitat in Hinchinbrook Channel.

In the interim, no speed restrictions will apply to the main navigation channel, which is some distance away from the shallow areas of Hinchinbrook Channel where dugong are known to feed.

(4) Races start at Lucinda inshore jetty and proceed to Scraggy Point, at the north end of the channel and return to Lucinda.

899. Health Facility, Wacol

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (21/8/97)—

With reference to the relocation of the new prisons at Wacol by the Minister responsible for prisons to a piece of land previously owned by the Health Department—

- (1) What health facility was intended to go on this land prior to this change?
- (2) Where will this facility now be located?
- (3) What return did the Health Department get from the Corrective Services Commission for agreeing to this swap?
- (4) Has the Health Department acquired the land on which the new prisons were initially intended to be built?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) No health facility was proposed to be located on the land in question prior to any decision being made in respect of the establishment of new correctional centres.

(2) Refer to question (1).

(3) Acquisition will be based on market valuation and this is currently being determined.

(4) No.

900. Revocation of Drought Status of Shires

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (21/8/97)—

With reference to the recent furore surrounding the revocation of the drought status of several Queensland shires by the Federal Government—

- (1) On which guidelines were these revocations based?
- (2) Was Queensland a signatory to these guidelines at the time of these revocations?
- (3) When did the independent Rural Adjustment Scheme Advisory Committee (RASAC) examine the shires in question?
- (4) Who was the prominent Queensland farm industry leader the Federal Primary Industries Minister checked with before supporting the RASAC recommendation to lift the drought status of these shires?
- (5) When was the drought affected status of these shires revoked?
- (6) When did he formally reapply to his Federal counterpart for these shires to be again drought listed and what caused the delay?
- (7) Will he table this re-application?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. There are six criteria used when making an assessment of an area's eligibility for Drought Exceptional Circumstances (DEC) status. These six criteria are meteorological conditions, agronomic and livestock conditions, water supplies, environmental impacts, farm income levels and, scale of the event. As part of their assessment process, the RASAC

members must consider objective information against each of the six criteria. The meteorological criteria is the most important criteria in determining a DEC event.

2. The Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ), comprising all Commonwealth and State and Territory Ministers for agriculture and resource management, agreed on a process for reviewing DEC in 1994.

3. As part of the Autumn '97 Review of DEC, two representatives from the RASAC inspected DEC areas in northern and central Queensland on 14–16 April 1997. The RASAC members were also provided with a detailed Queensland submission which demonstrated that many areas of the State received only patchy summer rainfall which was not adequate to truly break the exceptional drought conditions, especially in consideration of the likely onset of another El Nino event. The RASAC nominated areas they wished to visit and also how long they were prepared to allocate to the visit.

4. As part of the review process, senior industry leaders and industry representatives are consulted by the RASAC. The Federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy also undertakes his own personal and confidential consultations with industry and community groups.

5. Following the Autumn '97 Review of DEC areas, 29 shires in Queensland were revoked from DEC status from 7 July 1997.

6. Of the 29 shires revoked on 7 July 1997, reinstatement was sought only for Mundubbera Shire. This submission was prepared immediately following Mundubbera Shire's revocation and forwarded to the Federal Minister in July. In addition, an application was lodged at that time for the South Burnett and adjacent areas due to deteriorating seasonal conditions following the "false break" in summer and autumn of 1997. The shires in the South Burnett, along with most shires in south east Queensland, were revoked from DEC in June 1996.

7. The submissions for both Mundubbera Shire and the South Burnett were provided to industry organisations and other agencies at the time and both documents are in the public domain.

901. Realignment of Bruce Highway at Gunalda Range

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

Has there been a decision made on whether Route A or Route B has been accepted as the preferred route for the realignment of the Bruce Highway at the Gunalda Range?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): A decision has not as yet been made as to which route will be accepted as the preferred route for the realignment of the Bruce Highway at Gunalda Range.

The Bruce Highway is a National Highway and any recommendation will need to be approved by the Federal Government before an announcement can be made.

The consultants, Maunsell Pty Ltd, who have carried out the concept planning for this realignment, have completed their report.

A recommendation is being considered by the Department of Main Roads and will be forwarded to me in due course.

It is anticipated that, by October 1997, a recommendation will be forwarded to the Federal Government for its approval.

A public announcement will follow.

902. Schools, Kurwongbah Electorate

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Education (21/8/97)—

With reference to the decision to sell the proposed Lawnton West State School site—

- (1) When was this decision made?
- (2) On what basis was this decision made?
- (3) What are the estimated enrolments for Lawnton State School, Bray Park State School and Strathpine West State School in (a) 5 years, (b) 10 years, (c) 15 years and (d) 20 years?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1) Ministerial approval for the disposal of Lawnton West school site in Todd Road, Lawnton was obtained on 27 August 1996. This site had been held for several years without being used for school purposes.

(2) Disposal of assets that are demonstrably surplus to requirements is an obligation upon the Department. This is in order to ensure that potential capital is freed to invest in the upgrading of the quality of facilities for students in existing schools.

An assessment of the need to hold this site showed that construction of a school would impact adversely on Lawnton State School, a short distance to the east of the property. Further, a school at this location is unlikely to significantly reduce enrolments at Bray Park State School and it would not impact on Strathpine West State School enrolments.

Enrolments at Lawnton State School have declined from 557 students in 1988 to 439 in 1997. Further subdivision to the west of this school is possible but it is limited by the topography and Lake Samsonvale (refer Table 1).

TABLE 1 ENROLMENTS HISTORIES FOR LAWNTON, BRAY PARK AND STRATHPINE WEST STATE SCHOOLS.

School	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Lawnton	542	557	550	512	526	497	498	486	420	403	439
Bray Park	1089	1052	1046	957	899	944	935	844	803	812	790
Strathpine West	632	690	722	717	689	685	707	689	701	723	698

Bray Park State School peaked in 1986 with 1134 students. In February 1997, 790 students were enrolled.

As a consequence, both these schools are able to cater for enrolments greater than those experienced presently.

At Strathpine West State School, enrolments have increased from 632 students in 1987 to 723 in 1996. In 1997 enrolments fell to 698.

(3) Forecasts indicate that enrolments could increase by about 100 students at Lawnton State School during the next 20 years (refer Table 2). However, this level of enrolment will not be very different from that recorded at the school during the 1980s, as indicated in Table 1.

TABLE 2 ENROLMENT FORECASTS FOR LAWNTON, BRAY PARK AND STRATHPINE WEST STATE SCHOOLS.

School	1997	2002	2007	2012	2017
Lawnton	439	484	530	534	521
Bray Park	790	837	834	806	839
Strathpine West	698	672	640	641	640

Bray Park State School is expected to stabilise with an enrolment of about 840 students. The enrolment at Strathpine West State School could decline marginally to stabilise at about 640. Existing facilities will be sufficient to cater for these anticipated enrolment levels.

903. Rail Fare Evasion

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

With reference to fare evasion on the Queensland rail system—

- (1) How many persons, for each month in the last twelve-month period, have had infringement notices issued against them for failure to possess an appropriate rail fare ticket?
- (2) Is there a system (official or unofficial) of warnings being issued to rail patrons in lieu of fines under infringement notices?
- (3) If there is such a system as referred to in question (2) above, for each monthly period in the last twelve months, how many persons have been issued with such cautions or official warnings?
- (4) Are there any guidelines made available to Queensland Rail revenue protection officers for assessing whether to issue an infringement notice, or a warning in any particular case, and will he table copies of those documents?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) August 1996—32; September 1996—26; October 1996—44; November 1996—49; December 1996—27; January 1997—78; February 1997—119; March 1997—1218; April 1997—873; May 1997—586; June 1997—910; July 1997—241; August 1997—237.

(2) There is an official system to record details of persons issued a warning letter in lieu of an infringement notice.

This system is confidential and has restricted access to Authorised Personnel only.

Names are recorded for the different offences under the Transport Operations Passengers Act, Transport Infrastructure Rail Regulations. However, Ticket Inspectors are required to exercise discretion as each case warrants.

(3) August 1996—270; September 1996—1330; October 1996—3962; November 1996—242; December 1996—166; January 1997—266; February 1997—228; March 1997—2485; April 1997—1278; May 1997—1098; June 1997—4684 (Joint Trainsafe Operation); July 1997—851; August 1997—1155.

(4) For each major fare evasion exercise the Ticket Inspectors are fully briefed. To assist them a "Ticket Inspectors Guide To Dealing With Offences" was prepared and I have tabled a copy of this for the Hon Members information.

At the completion of each exercise a debrief is performed to fine tune our operations.

A Revenue Protection Compliance Manual has been documented for Ticket Inspectors and this sets out the operational and legal requirement regarding the issuing of an Infringement Notice. In addition, this manual outlines procedures when dealing with complaints.

904. Promotional Campaign, Hervey Bay

Mr NUNN asked the Premier (21/8/97)—

With reference to his offer of a \$100,000 promotional campaign for the Hervey Bay region to offset the impacts caused to the local whale watch industry by his Government's issuance of competitive whale watch permits in Moreton Bay Marine Park—

- (1) Why was no consultation undertaken with the executive of the Hervey Bay Whale Watch Association about this campaign?

- (2) Why did he choose instead to include, in the people he did consult with, a Gold Coast based head of the Bay's Regional Tourism Association in whom RTA members had recently passed a vote of no confidence?
- (3) Was this promotional campaign discussed with the Government by Mr Ken Bennett, Mr Gary Smith and Mr David Nicholson only days prior to the release of the Moreton Bay permits decision?
- (4) What was the rationale behind the decision to involve the QTTC in this grant to the virtual exclusion of the Hervey Bay Whale Watch Association executive?
- (5) How can he deny that this \$100,000 campaign offered at the last minute was nothing more than an attempt to buy off the association and prevent further politically damaging criticism within the electorate of Hervey Bay?

Mr Borbidge (22/9/97): The proposal to conduct an advertising campaign promoting Hervey Bay as the whale watching capital of Australia was put to the Government by the local regional tourist authority, members of the local whale watch association and individual tourism operators.

The campaign consolidates the Government's view that Hervey Bay is the whale watching capital of Australia.

Such a campaign can only be conducted through the QTTC which as the honourable Member should be aware operates on behalf of the tourism industry of Queensland.

The State Government acknowledges the support for the campaign of a number of tourism operators in the region, including:

- Spirit Of Hervey Bay Whale Watching
- Volante Tours
- Mimi McPherson Whale Watch Expeditions
- Wilderness Cruises
- Kingfisher Bay Resort And Village
- Top Tours
- Fraser Island Retreat
- Eclipse Charters

It is disappointing that the State Opposition and you, as the local member of Parliament, do not support an advertising campaign promoting Hervey Bay.

905. "Submarine Rail", Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Premier (21/8/97)—

With reference to a tourism scheme being promoted for waters offshore of the Gold Coast in which tourists will travel by submarine amongst sunken ships and aircraft—

- (1) Is he aware of this scheme and does he support it?
- (2) What is the name of the company promoting the scheme and its principal?
- (3) Where off the coast is this scheme proposed to be sited?

- (4) Will an environmental impact study be required for the project; if not, why not?
- (5) Is Grant Kenny, the noted lifesaver, associated with the submarine component of the scheme?
- (6) Where will the boats and aircraft for this project come from?

Mr Borbidge (22/9/97):

- (1) The project is too early in its conception for any assessment to be undertaken by the Government.
- (2) The scheme is known as 'Submarine Rail' and I am informed that the principal's name is John Fairfax according to Rapid Searches. (Submarine Rail is BN 6288649 registered 4 November 1996.)
- (3) The proposed scheme is to be sited off the coast of Surfers Paradise; about five kilometres offshore.
- (4) If the project is to proceed, it is likely that an environmental impact study (EIS) will be required. For example, the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 and the Beach Protection Act 1968 are likely to trigger a requirement for an EIS to be undertaken. Further, if the project is supported by the EIS, then a number of approvals would still be required, including under section 86 of the Harbours Act 1955 which relates to works below the high water mark and section 47 of the Beach Protection Act 1968 which relates to the disturbance of sand.
- (5) I am not aware that Grant Kenny has any association with the project.
- (6) I am not aware at this stage where the project will obtain the boats and aircraft.

906. WorkCover

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/8/97)—

With reference to the insistence of his Cabinet colleagues to claims that WorkCover has unfunded liabilities of \$400m—

- (1) Is this figure an accurate reflection of the state of the workers' compensation scheme either now or previously?
- (2) What is the latest estimate of the level of unfunded liabilities as at 30 June?
- (3) What was the number of common law claim intimations over the course of 1996-97, and how does this compare to the previous five years?
- (4) What is the distribution of these intimations across the years to which each claim relates?
- (5) How many of these intimations relate to an injury incurred after 1 January 1996?
- (6) What was the total number of statutory claims made during 1996-97, and how does this compare to the previous five years?
- (7) How many of these statutory claims relate to an injury incurred after 1 January 1996?
- (8) What was the average payout for common law and statutory claims during 1996-97?

Mr Santoro (22/9/97):

- (1) Yes.

(2) I expect to table the latest actuarial assessment during the next session. The assessment will provide the detailed information related to 1996/97 required by various parts of your question.

(3&4)

Injury Year	Intimation Year			
	1995/96	1994/95	1993/94	1992/93
1995/96	345			
1994/95	1273			
1993/94	972			
1992/93	619			
Prior Years	238			
TOTAL	3447	2500	1678	1653

(5) See (2) above.

- (6) 1995/96—93,008
 1994/95—100,530
 1993/94—92,741
 1992/93—83,567

(7 & 8) See (2) above.

907. Police to Population Ratios

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (21/8/97)—

With reference to the issue of police to population ratios—

- (1) What is the national police to population ratio average?
- (2) What is Queensland's police to population ratio?
- (3) What are the police to population ratios in all other police regions and districts in the State?
- (4) Will he provide this information in the same format as provided in answer to Question on Notice No. 1243 (3 December 1996)?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) The estimated national police to population ratio average at 30 June 1997 was 1:455.

(2) The Queensland police to population ratio at 30 June 1997 was 1:524. The ratio has improved from last year in almost every police region. It is anticipated that the ratios for June 1998 and June 1999 will continue that trend and be substantially reduced given the Government's Commitment to increase police numbers. A three-year staffing plan to deliver 800 extra sworn officers and 400 extra civilians was instituted to overcome the shocking malaise the Government inherited from Labour, who between 1993 and 1996 refused to increase police numbers to keep pace with population growth and a spiralling crime rate. The Coalition is now clawing its way back with 160 extra police in 1996-97 and 252 and 409 budgeted for during this and next financial year respectively.

(3) The police to population ratios in all police regions and districts is as follows:

Far Northern Region	1:455
Cairns	1:470
Innisfail	1:532
Mareeba	1:471
Northern Region	1:529
Mount Isa	1:305
Townsville	1:621
Central Region	1:616
Gladstone	1:663
Longreach	1:267
Mackay	1:754
Rockhampton	1:598
North Coast Region	1:806
Bundaberg	1:894
Gympie	1:744
Maryborough	1:835
Redcliffe	1:828
Sunshine Coast	1:806
Southern Region	1:676
Charleville	1:235
Dalby	1:515
Ipswich	1:741
Roma	1:414
Toowoomba	1:934
Warwick	1:615
South Eastern Region	1:678
Gold Coast	1:625
Logan	1:812
Metropolitan South Region	1:778
Oxley	1:778
South Brisbane	1:687
Wynnum	1:1120
Metropolitan North Region	1:565
Alderley	1:1139
Boondall	1:1121
Brisbane City	1:64
Clayfield	1:759
Fortitude Valley	1:198
Petrie	1:975
Sandgate	1:901
Toowong	1:1275

(4) Yes.

908. Disability Program

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (21/8/97)—

With reference to the budget allocation of \$1.9m over 3 years to meet the unmet needs of those families caring for people with a disability—

- (1) When will the funds for 1997-98 become available?
- (2) How will the funds be allocated?
- (3) Will any funding round, other than the "moving ahead" program, occur in the disability program in 1997-98; if so, (a) how much will be available, (b) who will be eligible to apply and (c) what process will be used to allocate the funds?

Mr Lingard (2/9/97):

(1) Funding has already been allocated to regional areas of the Department, and individual proposals are being approved as they are finalised.

(2) I have already answered this question during the Estimates Committee debate, and I refer the Honourable Member to the transcript of these proceedings.

(3) The majority of new monies for the Disability Program in 1997-98 have been targeted for specific purposes, such as the Moving Ahead Post School Options Program, the closure of the Challinor Centre, the Queensland Guide Dogs Training Centre, and the funding of the SACS Award.

909. Removal of Crocodiles from Cairns Area

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (21/8/97)—

With reference to a recent public call by a Department of Environment officer for the total removal of all crocodiles from the Cairns area—

- (1) Does he support this call; if so, what purpose does he believe it will serve?
- (2) Did the officer who made this highly contentious policy announcement have official sanction for it; if so, from whom?
- (3) In which regard has the present problem crocodile policy failed to warrant such wholesale removal?
- (4) Where would he envisage the removed crocodiles would be relocated to in the event this policy is implemented?
- (5) Would he entertain their slaughtering and marketing as skins, meat and souvenirs?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97): I have consulted with senior Departmental staff who are unaware of any officer from the Department calling for the total removal of all crocodiles from the Cairns area. I am supportive of the action proposed with the Cairns City Council and my department as expressed in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties. I include a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for information.

910. WorkCover

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/8/97)—

With reference to the WorkCover scheme—

- (1) Has the \$1.5 billion the scheme has invested with Queensland Investment Corporation shown a return of 16 per cent, which translates to an income of \$210m in 1996-97?
- (2) Will this result now enable WorkCover to reduce its liabilities without the need to raise premiums or reduce workers' common law entitlements?
- (3) Will the final actuarial assessment in August show a vastly improved debt position, thereby allowing WorkCover to maintain its current levels of benefit for injured workers?

Mr Santoro (22/9/97):

(1) The final amount of the return on WorkCover's investments with the Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC) is yet to be finalised. An early

indication of the return from QIC shows an amount in the order of \$210M equating to approximately a 16% return.

(2) If a return approximating \$210M or 16% is realised, then it will have a very positive effect on the operating results for this financial year. As I have stated on other occasions, the Coalition Government is committed to maintaining the average premium rate target of 2.145% set by the Labor Government from 1 January 1996. The Government has no plans to reduce workers' common law entitlements.

(3) The end of year position for WorkCover is not yet available. Early projections indicate an improvement to the deficit position of the fund, primarily as a result of the above average investment returns. The Government has no plans to alter current levels of benefit for injured workers.

911. Commercial Fishing, Hay's Inlet and Pine River

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (21/8/97)—

With reference to a report prepared by Sunfish North Moreton which calls for Hay's Inlet and the Pine River system to be declared a recreational fishing zone—

- (1) Does he agree with the report and is he intending to implement it; if not, why not?
- (2) Does he agree with the Sunfish claim that there appeared to have been a major impact by commercial fishing on Bay and greasy prawns in the area?
- (3) What has been the size of the decrease in the commercial catch of these species over past years and what has been the decrease in prawn size over this time?
- (4) Will he entertain the closure of Hay's Inlet to commercial fishing for a year, and Pine River for nine months, as called for by Sunfish North Moreton in this report?
- (5) Does he agree with the Sunfish claim that problems existed with water quality in the area and algae blooms, sulphate soils, mosquito larvae spraying and sewerage outfalls were contributing to the problem?
- (6) Will he support the Sunfish call for an intense short term testing program of water quality in the area?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. Thank you for raising this issue as it is of importance for all users of Moreton Bay's fisheries resources.

The report prepared by Sunfish North Moreton provides an opinion that calls for the removal of commercial fishing from Hay's Inlet and the Pine River Systems.

At the outset, it must be recognised that this is only one opinion on the future management of fisheries in that area. I can assure the Member for Woodridge that other opinions have been put forward by other interested groups and stakeholders which are at variance with those of Sunfish North Moreton.

Some twelve months ago, I supported the establishment of a small working group, comprising all key stakeholders to investigate the need for recreational only fishing areas in Hay's Inlet and the Pine River. This working group has completed its work and has recommended relatively minor changes to commercial fishing practices.

This recommendation is now being considered as part of a Moreton Bay Fisheries Management Plan by the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and its advisory committee, the Moreton Bay Task Force.

It is important that all interest groups, not just a single branch of Sunfish have input to the future management of fisheries in Moreton Bay.

I intend to await the total proposal for management of all fisheries in Moreton Bay which will be submitted to me by the QFMA in about 12 months. This plan will have had input from all interested parties, including Sunfish and its Branches.

2 & 3. The QFMA recently released a Discussion Paper on the fisheries of Moreton Bay. Available information on all fish stocks was included in that Paper. The mixture of small prawns called "bay prawns" comprises several species including greasy prawns, school prawns, small king and tiger prawns and various other types. The overall catch of bay prawns in Moreton Bay has decreased from about 600 tonnes to about 350 tonnes in the past eight years. The reasons for this decrease are not clear. Some possible causes are a change in the fishing patterns by commercial fishers or a reduction in the abundance of the prawns. I am advised that there is no scientific information available on the average size of bay prawns taken annually during the past eight years.

4. I shall await the recommendations of the QFMA as put forward in the Moreton Bay Fisheries Management Plan.

5. I am aware that there have been some concerns regarding water quality and other impacts on the area. Development of the catchments of Hay's Inlet and the Pine Rivers is growing rapidly with significant increases in both residential and industrial activity. It is a matter for all agencies and all levels of Government to ensure that adverse impacts on our coastal waterways are kept to a minimum.

912. Increase in Leasing Charge for Road Reserves

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Natural Resources (21/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to increase the minimum charge for leasehold of unrequired road reserves by a massive 200 per cent—

- (1) How many Queensland primary producers will be affected by this massive rent hike, and how much revenue will this generate for the State Government?
- (2) How many cane farmers in the State will be affected by the decision, providing a breakdown by local authority?

- (3) What consultation occurred with affected industries prior to the decision being made?
- (4) Given that some cane farmers have little option but to continue to use the unrequired road reserve, will he now reconsider this attempt as "highway robbery"?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

(1) I am advised by my department that across the State, some 7113 permits to occupy and road licences over areas of unused road are held by persons engaged in the business of grazing or agriculture and intensive primary production. The estimated revenue from these permits and licences, based on the new minimum annual rental of \$150, is \$969,000.

(2) The records of my Department of Natural Resources show that some 1590 permits and licences are used in conjunction with canegrowing activities.

The bulk of these are located within the Local Government areas of: Burdekin (50), Cairns (375), Cardwell (40), Dalrymple (24), Douglas (165), Hinchinbrook (183), Johnstone (400), Mackay (25), Mirani (152), Sarina (20) and Whitsunday (117).

(3) The decision to adopt the new minimum rental level of \$150 was taken by the Government after consideration of the findings and recommendations of an independent committee which reviewed the Leasehold Rental System between August and December 1996. This committee, which included representatives from rural and non-rural industries invited written submissions on the Terms of Reference from 86 key stakeholder groups including the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Canegrowers and other agricultural and primary producer peak bodies. The original recommendation was for new charges to be \$250, which in my opinion was overly prohibitive, hence the reduction to \$150. I am considering options to further reflect the capacity to pay principle and a rationalisation of the tenure and subsequent cost structure of these charges, which will be taken to Cabinet for ratification in the near future.

Neither the Queensland Farmers' Federation nor Canegrowers chose to make a formal submission to the committee notwithstanding that the Terms of Reference for the Review included a specific reference to the appropriate method of determining minimum rentals.

The report of the Committee was presented to me on 18 December 1996 and was subsequently available to the public through all offices of my Department. I have made several Ministerial Statements on the outcomes of the review before the new charges were issued and several articles have appeared in the Courier Mail, Queensland Country Life and provincial newspapers.

(4) I must point out that the areas of road which are covered by these permits and licences are not "unrequired". If these road areas were no longer required, they would have already been permanently closed and sold to the adjoining owners for inclusion in their land. The fact is that the road areas are not currently being used as road and must be retained

until their future use and any impact of Native Title has been clarified.

While interpretation has included reference to a 200% increase, in reality the increases represent up to an extra \$1.90 per week for the continued use of an area of State land in conjunction with primary production activities. This does not in reality constitute "highway robbery".

913. Stradbroke Island Fishing Classic

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (21/8/97)—

With reference to the recent Stradbroke Island fishing tournament (the 'Straddie Classic')—

- (1) How many participants competed in this event over what timeframe?
- (2) How many fish were caught by these people during this time and how many were released?
- (3) How many of the released fish were tagged and how many were subsequently caught again during the Straddie Classic and how many have been caught since?
- (4) Does he believe fishing competitions on the scale of the Straddie Classic are good examples of ecologically sustainable use of a natural resource?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. I am advised that 1370 people registered for the Stradbroke Island Fishing Classic this year. This event started at midnight on Sunday 10 August and finished at 4 pm on Saturday 16 August.

2. There was no information collected on the total number of fish caught or the numbers of fish released during this event. However 1458 fish were weighed in over the six days. Predominant species which were weighed in are: Snapper, 311; Bream, 308; Dart, 156; Tailor, 128; Parrot fish, 119; Flathead, 105.

3. No fish were tagged as part of this event

4. These events can be good examples of sustainable use of our fisheries resources. Small business communities such as those at Point Lookout experience difficulties outside the main holiday periods. This event results in the injection of many hundreds of thousands of dollars into the economy of this small community at a time when activity is normally depressed.

I appreciate that the event results in a large number of people staying at Point Lookout and this may be a concern to some local residents who are seeking a different life style. However, I am informed that the majority of the business community support this event as a means of improving the local economic base.

Whilst the numbers of fish taken may seem to be high, the event only lasts for six days and hence there is ample opportunity for stocks to recover. In addition the organisers and the fisheries management agencies are encouraging people to catch and keep only small numbers of fish. The Queensland Fisheries Management Authority only allows these events to

occur under permit and steps are being taken to improve the monitoring of catches.

914. Mr Childs; Sir David Longland Correctional Centre

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (21/8/97)—

With reference to the death in custody of a Mr Childs recently in the Sir David Longland Centre—

- (1) Was an autopsy performed on Mr Childs?
- (2) What were the results and to what was the cause of death attributed?
- (3) Is there any truth to reports that Mr Childs died of a heroin overdose while in prison?
- (4) What have Mr Childs family been informed was the cause of death?
- (5) Does he regard the Corrective Services Commission description of Mr Childs' death as 'exhibiting no sign of foul play' as being consistent with a death resulting from an overdose of heroin?
- (6) How many prisoners have died in Queensland jails of a heroin overdose since February 1996 and in which prisons?
- (7) How did Mr Childs come into possession of this heroin?
- (8) Does he admit his much publicised drugs in prison inquiry has failed to address this most serious problem if prisoners can not only get access to heroin, but sufficient quantities and strengths to overdose on it?

Mr Cooper (9/9/97):

(1) Yes, it is Police procedure to require an autopsy to be performed in the event of any death that occurs in a correctional centre.

(2) The results of the autopsy are not yet available. When they are available they will be provided to the Police and to the Coroner.

(3) The investigation into the death of Mr Childs has revealed that he ingested heroin the day before he died. This is believed to have been a contributory factor in his death.

(4) The next of kin were personally visited by the Programs Manager and a Counsellor from the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre for the purpose of advising of the death. A subsequent visit was also made at a later time for the purpose of delivering the personal effects of Mr Childs and to assess any further need for assistance. No cause of death was confirmed at any stage due to the requirement for a post-mortem examination. Some indications were given that in the circumstances it was probable that Mr Childs had either died as a result of natural causes or a drug overdose.

(5) This comment is only an indication of the absence of any evidence which would suggest that any other person 'directly' contributed to the death of Mr Childs.

(6) It is testimony to the impact of the focus that the QCSC have put on illicit drug usage that there have been no deaths of this type in Queensland prisons during this period.

(7) The source of the heroin has not been established.

(8) No. The Drugs in Prison Inquiry has helped to identify both the nature and extent of the problem and I am currently engaged in implementing the recommendations from that report to strengthen our fight against this most insidious and disturbing problem. Your question is facile in the extreme and indicates an alarming ignorance of the difficulty in dealing with some of the complex and intractable problems facing this portfolio area. This indication of such ignorance bodes very ill indeed for the welfare of this portfolio area should you ever be entrusted with the position of Minister and the responsibility of administering it.

915. South East Transit Project

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

Will he accept the recommendations of the Public Works Committee contained in its recently tabled report "The South East Transit Project" and (a) direct the Department of Transport to engage an independent consultant to undertake a review of the Logan City regional road network and table the report of the review in Parliament within six months; if not, why not, (b) direct the Department of Transport to evaluate the viability of extending the busway further south to the Logan Motorway; if not, why not and (c) engage an independent consultant/organisation to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the south-east transit project; if not, why not?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(a) As the Honourable Member for Sunnybank is aware, on 26 August 1997 the Legislative Assembly of Queensland directed the Public Works Committee to re-evaluate the South East Transit Project and report to the Parliament by 9 October 1997. It would therefore be premature and inappropriate for any further comments to be made on the Committee's report until the inquiry has been completed. I believe it is essential that the inquiry runs its course and the true picture on the South East Transit Project revealed.

(b) See answer to Question A.

(c) See answer to Question A.

916. Computerised Traffic Light Control System

Mr PURCELL asked the Premier (21/8/97)—

With reference to his promise during the last election campaign of "a \$30m three year program to introduce a computerised traffic light control system to smooth traffic flows. Construction of the system which already existed in Sydney and Melbourne would start in 1995-96 on Gympie, Bowen Bridge and Lutwyche Roads before spreading to all metropolitan arterial

roads. The smart traffic lights would cut congestion at road work sites and events like sporting matches and provide clear runs for emergency vehicles"—

Has his Government implemented this promise; if not, why not, and when will this election promise be kept?

Mr Borbidge (22/9/97): The Government has given a high priority to traffic management and traffic safety issues. The Department of Main Roads has a world class traffic management system for Traffic Responsive Area Control, called TRACS, which provides computerised control of traffic signals on all major arterials and freeway management. Upgrading to make this system automatically adaptable to any changes in traffic flows is nearing completion. Further development of this system to encompass the operations of the Pacific Motorway project and the South East Transit project is occurring.

Main Roads officers have been engaged by the Roads and Traffic Authority of New South Wales and VicRoads to assist them with the upgrade of their old traffic management system (SCATS). Those agencies need to upgrade their systems because of the age of the hardware and they have recognised that Queensland's TRAC system is based on a very modern computer platform, superior to that used in the southern states.

The Queensland Government is strongly committed to the development of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). Two conferences have been held in Queensland in the last twelve months: the ITS Australia Conference in Brisbane and the Asia-Pacific ITS Seminar in Cairns. Both these conferences attracted international involvement and are indicative of Queensland and Australian excellence in this growing area of technology.

After extensive consultation with a broad range of stake-holders by the Department of Main Roads, Traffic Management and Intelligent Transport System Strategies have been developed and are to be released shortly. While these systems cannot provide a green light at every intersection to every driver, they do provide significant improvement to traffic operations.

The operation of a number of major routes has been reviewed to improve the progression of traffic for the major traffic movements. These include Gympie Road, the Gold Coast Highway and Cleveland-Capalaba and Redland Bay Roads. (This process is ongoing as traffic demands increase with the continued growth of the State).

A bus priority system for both Gympie and Lutwyche Roads, in partnership with Brisbane City Council, is proposed to be completed this financial year.

917. Motion of No Confidence in Attorney-General

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (21/8/97)—

With reference to his decision not to resign his commission despite a motion of 'no confidence' in him—

- (1) What legal or constitutional advice did he rely on in coming to his decision?
- (2) What constitutional conventions did he consider in coming to his decision?
- (3) Is he aware of any precedent for his decision?

Mr Beanland (19/9/97): I refer the honourable member to the Ministerial Statement delivered by the Honourable the Premier on 26 August 1997.

918. Land Tax

Mr ARDILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (21/8/97)—

Will she advise the amounts of Land Tax now being collected from each State electorate and the amount estimated as being due from each electorate following the adjustments in threshold contained in the Revenue Laws Amendment Bill, as this information was previously available to Members of this Assembly?

Mrs Sheldon (22/9/97): Land tax collected from each State electorate is unknown. The land valuation system provides a valuation for each parcel of land, however, data categorising valuations by electorates is not available. Up until 1993-94 rough approximations of land tax assessed on land in electoral districts were made based on an estimate of how land tax assessed in local government areas translated to electoral districts. This was not a satisfactory procedure as it lacked accuracy and it has therefore been discontinued. To my knowledge no approximations were made of projected collections by electorate.

919. Littering Offences on Public Highways

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/8/97)—

Will he provide details of the number of people charged with littering on public highways in Queensland during the last 12 months and, specifically, how many have been charged in the area north of the Pine River Bridge and south of the Bribie Island turnoff?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): I would like to advise Mr Hayward that this matter does not fall within the Transport and Main Roads Portfolio. Advice was sought from the Office of the Hon Brian Littleproud, Minister for Environment, and the Office of the Hon Di McCauley MLA, Minister for Local Government and Planning, who indicated that the primary enforcing authority for this matter are the respective local authorities. For specific information relating to the area north of the Pine River Bridge on this issue, I suggest contacting the Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shires directly.

920. Environmental Impact Assessments

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (21/8/97)—

With reference to the Government's growing habit of dispensing with the requirements of environmental impact assessment and with respect to the following

developments, namely (a) Great Barrier Reef International Resort site at Zelzie in the Livingstone Shire, (b) the proposed subdivision by Cardwell Properties of land south of Stoney Creek near Cardwell, (c) the Club Hinchinbrook resort near Dungeness, (d) the hazardous waste treatment facility proposed by Barkoola Environmental Pty Ltd at Yatala, (e) the Oyster Cove subdivision including the filling of Ramsar listed wetlands for another golf course adjacent to Saltwater Creek, (f) the Coomera Waters resort proposed by Austcorp International on the Coomera River, (g) dredging of the Maroochydore River and Noosa River estuaries and (h) a marine development by XYZ Pty Ltd on the Coomera River—

- (1) What advice, if any, did the Department of Environment give about the requirement for an EIS; if no advice was given, why not?
- (2) Was an EIS required; if not, why not?
- (3) If an EIS was required, what is the status of its preparation and consideration by Government?

Mr Littleproud (22/9/97): I am advised that such matters are considered no differently than under Labor and legislation introduced by the Goss Government. What needs to be taken into account are the anti-development views of the Honourable Member, which are a matter of concern to many of his colleagues.

(a) Great Barrier Reef International Resort at Zilzie in the Livingstone Shire:

1. The Department advised the Department of Local Government and Planning (DLGP) that:

Stage One of the Development (for 104 residential allotments) considered in isolation, would not require an EIS. However certain environmental conditions of approval were recommended, in particular to address stormwater runoff, biting insects, waste management, and beach use and access;

The Department recommended that the development as a whole should be subject to an EIS to address the impacts and provide opportunities for Government and the community to comment, particularly with regard to impacts on the adjacent estuarine and marine systems and to inform the community and government.

2. The DLGP waived the requirement for an EIS for Stage One and concerns raised by the Department of Environment (DoE) were included in development conditions.

The requirement for an EIS for the development as a whole also was later (1991) waived when the rezoning for the development was recommended by Livingstone Shire Council.

3. No EIS was prepared.

(b) Proposed subdivision by Cardwell properties south of Stoney Creek near Cardwell:

1. The Department advised the DLGP in August 1997 that as submitted the studies did not specifically

address the proposal. It was recommended that the applicant expand on the work to enable the request to be properly considered.

2. No decision has been made.

3. The proponent is yet to provide the additional information requested.

(c) Club Hinchinbrook resort near Dungeness:

I am advised that the Council took over a failed development.

1. DoE recommended to the DLGP that an EIS be required due to the proximity of the development to sensitive areas within marine parks and World Heritage Areas.

2. DLGP required an EIS and issued terms of reference (ToR). However, the proponent, Hinchinbrook Shire Council, objected to their scope and entered into discussions with DLGP.

3. The Department received and commented on a draft EIS and in so doing raised a number of matters.

(d) Hazardous waste treatment facility proposed by Barkoola Environmental Pty Ltd at Yatala:

1. The Department recommended to DLGP that an EIS should be undertaken as no relevant studies demonstrated that all potential impacts and cumulative risks to the receiving environment could or would be addressed. However, the Department also indicated its general support for options for treating waste.

2. The DLGP waived the requirement for an EIS but advised the applicant that relevant referral agencies had recommended that an environmental management plan should be submitted with any planning application lodged with the Gold Coast City Council.

Barkoola Environmental Pty Ltd needs an environmental authority under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for its activities which also provides an opportunity to deal with some environmental concerns.

3. No EIS was prepared.

(e) Oyster Cove:

1(a) For extensions to an existing canal and lake, the Department suggested that no impact assessment study was necessary to establish the suitability of the site for the purposes which the intended zone would allow. The Department recommended the preparation of environmental management plans for the necessary works.

1(b) However, for the Oyster Cove development the Department recommended that a holistic approach to impact assessment should be taken to determine the nature and significance of cumulative impacts. The development appeared to have the potential to significantly impact on the environmental values of the site, adjacent Moreton Bay Marine Park and Ramsar sites and on cultural heritage values.

2(a) The DLGP waived the requirement for an EIS for the canal and lake extension but advised the proponent of the Department's opinions;

2(b) The DLGP directed that an EIS be prepared for Oyster Cove which comprised a golf course, marina

and development below the floodline adjoining a fish habitat area and wetlands. The proponent was advised of the Department's views.

3. No EIS has been submitted.

(f) Coomera Waters resort proposed by Austcorp International on the Coomera River:

1. The Department recommended in 1995 that an EIS be prepared and the DLGP accepted this advice.

2. An EIS was submitted to the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) with the planning application in the same year.

3. In August 1995, DoE provided comments to GCCC. A key issue was the inconsistency between the proposal and the East Coomera Structure Plan and potential impacts on environmental values.

In December 1995, GCCC officers recommended to the council that the rezoning be refused but before the matter was formally considered, Austcorp withdrew its application.

A revised concept plan was submitted by Austcorp to GCCC and the relevant State agencies in May 1996. The main amendments to the development proposal related to content and design.

In June 1996 the Department submitted comments to GCCC on the revised proposal.

The Gold Coast City Council has approved the application subject to conditions including the development of several management plans to address issues raised by the Department. Draft documents for each have been submitted and are being negotiated with the Council and proponent.

(g) Dredging of Maroochydoore and Noosa River estuaries:

1. Advice sought from the Department has related to the feasibility of dredging.

Noosa River

There is an ongoing problem of erosion of Noosa Spit immediately upstream of the Noosa River mouth. This erosion has reached a point where urgent remedial works are necessary.

Two options suggested are:

rock revet the eroding bank area; or

nourish the eroding bank with sand.

Numerous discussions over an extended period have occurred between the Department of Primary Industries, Noosa Shire Council and the Department on options and preferred methods to mitigate this erosion. All three parties have opposed the option of rock revetment as it would lead to major detrimental impacts from a coastal management viewpoint.

Sand nourishment is preferred with sand sourced from the river mouth area. Computer modelling by the Beach Protection Authority indicates that the work would not detrimentally impact on the tidal regime within the river system.

Dredging would occur near a declared fish habitat area and to minimise any adverse impact on fisheries resources, a 40 metre buffer has been recommended between the dredge area and the fish habitat area. Noosa Shire Council has agreed to undertake a 12

month monitoring program post dredging to quantify any impacts on fisheries values. Results would be assessed by the Departments and Council before proceeding with any future nourishment programs near the river mouth.

Maroochy River

Extensive movement of the tidal channels and sand shoals at the mouth of the Maroochy River has occurred over many years. In recent years, the southern channel has become tidally dominant resulting in major erosion at the river mouth area near Pincushion Island and accretion of a large sandy spit from the northern river bank which is affecting the flow capacity of the northern channel pushing the river mouth to the south.

Members of the local community have expressed concern that the river mouth will break through south of Pincushion Island and cause erosion and flooding of residential and business areas of Maroochydoore.

In 1997, Maroochy Shire Council commissioned consultants to investigate dredging through the northern spit to arrest erosion to the southern river bank. A report was submitted recently to the Council.

Approvals for any dredging/beach nourishment would be required from the Department and the Department of Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry.

(h) Marina development by XYZ Pty Ltd on the Coomera River:

1. This Department recommended that an EIS should be required for this proposal, but also advised of inconsistencies between provisions of the town planning scheme and policies of the Moreton Bay Strategic Plan.

2. The Department of Local Government and Planning required an EIS.

3. A draft EIS was received on 16 July 1997, with responses due on 5 September 1997.

921. Federal Contribution to Thailand Economy

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Premier (21/8/97)—

With reference to the Howard Government's \$1.3 billion contribution to the financial rescue package for Thailand's ailing economy—

- (1) Does he support the Prime Minister's involvement in this rescue package to the extent of 1.3 billion; if not, why not?
- (2) Does he support the Prime Minister's summation that opponents of Australia's involvement are 'cheap and populist'; if not, why not?
- (3) Does he support the Prime Minister's assertion that failure to participate would brand us as 'fair-weather friends' in the Asia Pacific region; if not, why not?

Mr Borbidge (22/9/97):

1. Questions of Australia's international obligations and national interests are the province of the Federal Government. The decision to outlay \$1.3 billion in

defence of the economy of a major trading partner, Thailand, is likewise one for the Commonwealth authorities and the Prime Minister.

2. The issue of Australia's international relationships and the financial standing of important neighbours are complex. It is for the Prime Minister to decide what descriptions he wishes to apply to critics of these and other matters within the Commonwealth's domain.

3. It is beyond dispute that failure by Australia to play a full part in regional and global affairs would reduce this country's standing within and relevance to the international community.

922. Pollution of Brisbane Creeks

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Environment (21/8/97)—

With reference to pollution problems in Brisbane creeks—

- (1) What steps are being taken to monitor water quality in Brisbane creeks including, in particular, Oxley Creek, Rocky Water Holes, Stable Swamp Creek and Ekibin Creek?
- (2) What action is being taken to improve water quality in those creeks?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97):

(1) The Department of Environment is monitoring nine sites on a monthly basis at Oxley Creek.

In September and October 1996 samples were taken from Oxley Creek and tested for organochlorines, organophosphates and synthetic pyrethroids. Results from this monitoring showed that all levels fell well below guideline screening values recommended by the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council.

Very little monitoring has been carried out at Ekibin Creek. Bacteriological sampling was carried out in early 1996 for faecal coliform contamination.

Monitoring at Rocky Water Holes and Stable Swamp Creek was carried out in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Department has funded a study by Griffith University on the extent and distribution of lead contamination in the environment associated with Stable Swamp Creek at Franklin Street, Rocklea. This area is known to be contaminated with lead from previous industrial activities in the area and the site is a registered contaminated land site.

Monitoring is also carried out by members of the Oxley Creek Catchment Association. The results are collected by the Brisbane City Council.

(2) Management of the Brisbane River and its catchment is being dealt with by the Brisbane River Management Group (BRMG) which is based within the Department of Environment. The Draft Brisbane River Management Plan was released in June of 1997 for public comment. The management plan proposes specific arrangements for the future management of the river system to ensure that the river remains healthy and able to achieve the community's environmental values. A number of priority actions have been highlighted in the management plan under

the groupings of river resources, river living and river environment.

The Brisbane River Management Group has worked with community and industry to develop an Oxley Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee under the Integrated Catchment Management framework. This committee has overseen a number of activities, including the development of the 1996 State of the Oxley Creek Catchment Report and the Water and Land Use Impact and Management Analysis.

It is worth noting the BRMG has become much more focused and outcome driven under the Coalition Government than it was under the Labor Government of which you were a member.

923. Mackay Hospital

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (21/8/97)—

With reference to his decision to close 36 beds, including the aged care unit at the Mackay Base Hospital—

- (1) How does this decision equate to his election commitment that he would not close any hospital beds or wards?
- (2) Why did he ignore his own report (Aged Care Plan: Mackay Region February 1994) which indicates a sharp rise in the number of people over 70 years of age in Mackay city who are the very people requiring aged care, and that a 20 bed aged care therapy unit be included in the overall re-development at the Mackay Base Hospital?
- (3) In view of the demonstrated need for aged care in Mackay city, will he review the matter as a matter of urgency and restore aged care to the elderly of Mackay city?

Mr Horan (17/9/97):

(1) There have been no bed closures at Mackay Base Hospital.

(2) The current accommodation for aged persons at Mackay Hospital is a pavilion style ward with no dedicated rehabilitation services. Aged persons occupying this unit receive essentially "maintenance" care. The present unit does not provide the total accommodation needs for aged patients, as a number are accommodated in other areas within the Hospital. Aged patients require acute rehabilitation, slow stream rehabilitation and maintenance care and also include those patients awaiting placement within community based nursing homes.

As part of the Mackay Hospital re-development strategy, it is proposed to establish a slow stream rehabilitation unit at Sarina Hospital, thereby achieving effective use of under utilised capacity within the District and allowing for the development of a dedicated rehabilitation unit. Under this strategy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and related allied health support and facilities are proposed in a patient friendly non-acute setting.

(3) The Sarina Hospital option will represent a significant improvement for aged care services within the District and assist to reduce numbers of patients

who currently are required to travel outside of the District to receive specialised rehabilitation services. The proposal will allow the development of an enhanced level of clinical expertise within the District which will support the development of a broader based and integrated service for both aged and young patients in need of rehabilitation support.

924. Maryborough Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to an editorial in the Fraser Coast Chronicle of 19 July which says of his office, "In the past Chronicle employees have been subjected to abusive language with the famous four letter word when trying to do nothing more than air the very real concerns of employees,"—

- (1) Are his staff abusive because they are covering up for the dishonesty he has shown to Maryborough Hospital staff?
- (2) Are permanent staff from Maryborough Hospital who are transferred to Hervey Bay being replaced by casual staff?
- (3) What equipment has been taken from Maryborough Hospital to Hervey Bay Hospital?
- (4) Is there an ICU planned for Maryborough Hospital?
- (5) What were the dates of consultation which took place between the hospital staff and Queensland Health over the Maryborough Hospital redevelopment?
- (6) What action has he taken with his staff to ensure they conduct themselves professionally when dealing with legitimate media inquiries?

Mr Horan (24/9/97):

(1) It is only the Labor Party which has been dishonest about the Maryborough Hospital redevelopment. Unfortunately, the Labor Party in Maryborough has embarked on a disgraceful and completely dishonest scaremongering campaign designed to damage this \$15 million redevelopment project.

In fact, so disgraceful has been the campaign by Mr Dollin and Mr Nunn, that the Mayors of Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Woocoo and Tiaro, have been forced to take the unprecedented step to release a public statement on 30 July 1997, condemning the actions of the Labor Members for Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

For the record, this statements reads:

"The Mayors of Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Woocoo and Tiaro are concerned at the adverse publicity created by comments in the Chronicle on 28th July 1997 by the Member for Maryborough and the Member for Hervey Bay.

This publicity is very unsettling for the staff and the Health Council and the four Mayors agree that this sort of publicity does not help the current situation ...

The Councils have observed that the recent printed publicity will only divide this community and is not in the best interests of the public, the

staff, doctors and people who rely on the Fraser Coast Health system.

We will not let political interference rail road what the Minister, Mike Horan, has planned for Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals ..."

This public statement, released by the four district Mayors is clear evidence that Mr Dollin and Mr Nunn have embarked on a campaign deliberately designed to destabilise the Maryborough Hospital redevelopment. By doing so they have needlessly upset and frightened Hospital staff and the Maryborough community, particularly the elderly. It has been a reprehensible action by the Labor Party, and Mr Dollin and Mr Nunn should unreservedly apologise to the Maryborough and Hervey Bay communities for their appalling and self-serving behaviour over this issue.

(2) As at 26 August 1997, only 19 staff (all of whom volunteered) have transferred from Maryborough to Hervey Bay. Although a large number of additional staff desire transfer to Hervey Bay, they will not be released if it leaves Maryborough in a difficult position. Vacancies at both Maryborough and Hervey Bay have generally been filled on a temporary basis pending the finalisation of the major recruitment exercise currently under way, when permanent appointments will be made at both sites, according to clinical need.

(3) No equipment has been transferred from Maryborough Hospital. However, some equipment purchased for the new Hervey Bay Hospital building project has been placed at Maryborough for staff familiarisation and training purposes.

(4) It has been repeatedly confirmed that an ICU has been incorporated into the Maryborough redevelopment.

(5) Consultation between District management staff and Queensland Health is ongoing with Steering Committee meetings scheduled monthly. Formal consultation with Maryborough Hospital staff about the redevelopment has occurred as follows:-

DATES—HOURS IN MONTH

February 5,7,28—15.5

March 19—2

July 4,9,10,11,16,22,23,30—19.5

August 6,13,20,21,22—30

Total time to 26/8/97—67 hours session time

(6) The Office of the Queensland Minister for Health enjoys a strong and professional working relationship with all sections of the media and this Office is committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders are aware of the inroads the Coalition has made into cleaning up the health mess left by the previous State Labor Government.

These successes include turning around elective surgery waiting lists, from having the worst in Australia under Labor to now having the best Category One waiting lists in Australia under the Coalition. Also, the Coalition has cleaned up the Labor health capital works fiasco, which saw former Labor Health Ministers, Beattie and Elder, blow-out the capital works program by a massive \$1.2 billion.

Also, the taxpayers of Queensland are still paying off the \$24 million "Elder health debt" and \$58 million of "Beattie debt"—a legacy left by these two former failed Labor Health Ministers.

925. Students with Special Needs

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education (26/8/97)—

With reference to the support available in State schools for students with special needs—

- (1) How many speech therapists are employed by Education Queensland?
- (2) Are there any unfilled positions for speech therapists; if so, how many and for how long have these positions been vacant?
- (3) How many reading recovery teachers are employed by Education Queensland?
- (4) What additional support, each week, is provided to classroom teachers, including teacher aide hours, in respect of each child who is ascertained at level 4, level 5 and level 6?
- (5) Is this level of additional support a common standard across all regions of Education Queensland?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

- (1) 152
- (2) At the end of August 1997 there were 23.6 full-time equivalent speech therapy positions not filled by permanent staff. Most of these positions are occupied by temporary staff.
- (3) 220
- (4) In 1998, more than 30,000 hours of teacher aide time will be allocated to assist students with special needs in mainstream schools and special schools. Teacher-aide time per student may vary according to the individual needs of each child. Assistance for these students is also provided by a range of therapists and from Advisory Visiting Teachers.
- (5) Allocations for student support relate directly to the number of ascertained students and the needs of individual students within a region.

926. Police Academy Graduates

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to his claim in the Sunday Mail of 8 September 1996 that 102 of the total number of recruits graduating from both the Oxley and Townsville campuses of the Queensland Police Academy during 1996-97 would be going to regional areas—

- (1) What were the total number of graduates in 1996-97?
- (2) How many of these graduates were assigned to each of the Metropolitan South, Metropolitan North and Gold Coast Police Regions?
- (3) How many of these graduates were assigned to non-metropolitan regions throughout the State?

- (4) To which districts were these graduates assigned?
- (5) How many were assigned to each district and region in Queensland?

Mr Cooper (25/9/97):

- (1) Total number of officers sworn-in in 1996/97—386
- (2) Total metropolitan—224
Metropolitan South Region—59
Metropolitan North Region—66
South Eastern Region—99
- (3) Total non-metropolitan—158
Southern Region—18
North Coast Region—40
Central Region—18
Northern Region—43
Far Northern Region—39
- (4) Metropolitan South Region—59 (no district allocation)
Metropolitan North Region—66 (no district allocation)
South Eastern Region, Districts—99 total
Logan—29
Gold Coast—70
Southern Region, Districts—18 total
Toowoomba—13
Ipswich—5
North Coast Region, Districts—40 total
Redcliffe—19
Sunshine Coast—10
Gympie—2
Maryborough—4
Bundaberg—5
Central Region, Districts—18 total
Gladstone—6
Rockhampton—4
Mackay—8
Northern Region, Districts—43 total
Townsville—25
Mt Isa—18
Far Northern Region, Districts—39 total
Cairns—29
Mareeba—10
- (5) Metropolitan South Region—59 (no district allocation)
Metropolitan North Region—66 (no district allocation)
South Eastern Region, Districts—99 total
Logan—29
Gold Coast—70
Southern Region, Districts—18 total
Toowoomba—13
Ipswich—5
North Coast Region, Districts—40 total
Redcliffe—19
Sunshine Coast—10
Gympie—2
Maryborough—4
Bundaberg—5

Central Region, Districts—18 total
Gladstone—6
Rockhampton—4
Mackay—8
Northern Region, Districts—43 total
Townsville—25
Mt Isa—18
Far Northern Region, Districts—39 total
Cairns—29
Mareeba—10
Other—4 total
Crime Operations Branch—1
Specialist Services Branch—1
Fingerprint Bureau—2
TOTAL—386

927. Ambulance Service, Redcliffe

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (26/8/97)—

With reference to the provision of ambulance services to the City of Redcliffe—

- (1) On what days is the Redcliffe Ambulance Station rostered with only one crew?
- (2) If there is only one crew rostered on duty, where would the back-up service be based?
- (3) What is the approximate wait time for 000 calls when the Redcliffe ambulance is not available?

Mr Veivers (25/9/97):

- (1) Sunday is the only day of the week Redcliffe Station has only one crew. This is a day shift crew supported by the stations of Deception Bay, Sandgate and any other mobile unit traversing the peninsula.
- (2) It is not relevant to think of ambulance service responses as the sole responsibility of the crew from the local area where the call from assistance is generated. Calls for ambulance service assistance are received, prioritised, appropriate advice given to the caller and a unit dispatched on the basis of the closest available ambulance resource to the case dependent on the critical nature of the case and appropriate transport considerations.
- (3) If the scenario is that the Redcliffe unit is engaged with an urgent case and is unable to be diverted, the Communication Centre will provide advice on the nearest available unit. The response time will vary according to the distance travelled.

928. Public Housing Project, West End

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed construction of a block of public units on vacant land in Boundary Street, West End which has been frozen since February 1996, despite plans being on public display at that time in the West End Library—

- (1) When will these units be constructed in this area of high demand?

- (2) Will the former plans be altered in any way; if so, how?

Dr Watson (25/9/97): I am surprised the Honourable Member is not aware of delays in the project caused by the financial collapse of the original building contractor who was approved by Hon T Mackenroth MLA when he was Minister.

The Project at Boundary Street, West End has a proposed construction commencement date of mid November 1997 and is projected for completion by July 1998.

The basic site plans have not been altered. However, provision has been made for two of the units to be specially modified to accommodate special needs' clients. Design alterations may also be required to keep the project within budget.

929. Public Housing Project, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the letter he forwarded to me dated 1 August in relation to the public housing development located at Seventh Avenue, Sandgate—

- (1) What process was used to decide that the development of public housing in Seventh Avenue should be cut from 19 units of housing to 12 units of housing?
- (2) What is the reason for cutting the number of dwelling units originally planned when waiting lists for public housing in the area is a minimum of two-and-a-half to three years?
- (3) Does the Government intend to discuss this change of plans with the wider community, considering that the original plans were displayed in a local shop front and had the support of many local residents?

Dr Watson (25/9/97):

(1) The department undertook a review of all proposed developments included in the Capital Works Program for public housing. The Seventh Avenue, Flinders Parade development underwent such a review and it was apparent that a significantly improved overall program result could be achieved through sale of the front portion of the land with retention of the remainder of the site for public housing.

(2) The department seeks to provide affordable housing across the State in accordance with relative need.

(3) The department has no plans to redisplay plans for the Seventh Avenue site at this time.

930. ARCO Coal; Curragh Mine

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (26/8/97)—

With reference to information provided to me which suggests that, if possible, it is the intent of ARCO Coal to remove itself as a coal producer from all coal

mining operations in Queensland by the close of the 1997 calendar year—

- (1) What is the future of the Curragh Mine and the mines owned and operated by ARCO Coal in Queensland?
- (2) What are the contract obligations in so far as the maintenance of supply of coal to the Stanwell Power Station from the Curragh Mine?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97):

(1) ARCO have publicly stated that the company is seeking buyers for its interests in coal operations in Central Queensland. The company has an interest and is the operator of the Curragh open cut and Gordonstone underground mines. It is currently in the process of reviewing its operations at these two mines with a view to reducing employee numbers.

At Curragh, Arco and Stanwell Corporation are currently in dispute on issues relating to the amount of reserves and the price of coal. The Curragh Co Venturers however are committed to fulfilling its contractual obligations to Stanwell Corporation. I understand however that the long term future of coking coal production is in doubt unless alternative resources or arrangements are found. To this end I believe that since April 1997 ARCO and Stanwell have been working to develop a solution to the issues that are under arbitration.

With regard to Gordonstone operations ARCO announced on 28 July 1997 an intention to implement downsizing that will see one longwall unit and one development unit on a five day roster in comparison to two operating longwalls and up to four development units that had been operating.

While there has been considerable industrial unrest at both mines, it is hoped that the recent return to work will lend to fruitful negotiations between the parties to resolve outstanding issues.

(2) The details of the contractual arrangements between the then Queensland Electricity Generating Board (now Stanwell Corporation) and the Curragh Joint Venturers are a confidential matter for those two parties.

931. Connect-Ed Project; Northgate State School

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (26/8/97)—

With reference to the Connect-Ed Program where schools will be connected to the Internet, and his commitment that some small schools will be given priority under this program, and given the financial and practical difficulties faced by Northgate State School in connecting to the Internet—

Will he ensure that this school is given the necessary assistance to enable it to be connected before the end of the current school year?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): Education Queensland has released a Request for Offer for equipment and telecommunications services to connect all state schools to the Internet. This RFO has only recently closed.

The Connect-Ed project will connect all 104 Leading Schools to the Internet by the end of this year.

Education Queensland is cognisant of the difficulties faced by some small schools in connecting to the Internet. In recognition of this we will have connected a number of small and remotely located schools to the Internet by 31 December 1997. Selection of these schools was approved by the Director-General of Education, after consultation with Regions.

Until the RFO offers are evaluated and an implementation plan developed, we do not have a specific timetable for individual schools to be connected to the departmental network and the Internet.

932. Issue of Permits, Hinchinbrook Region

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (26/8/97)—

With reference to the moratorium on the issue of further permits in the Hinchinbrook region—

- (1) Is this moratorium to be maintained until the finalisation of the Hinchinbrook Regional Coastal Management Plan?
- (2) What categories of permits are covered by this moratorium?
- (3) Has he sought the agreement of Federal Environment Minister Hill to grant exemptions to the moratorium; if so, for whose benefit?
- (4) Has he sought such a special exemption for Keith Williams' Port Hinchinbrook development; if so, for what purpose and on what grounds?
- (5) Has Mr Williams or Cardwell Properties applied for any permits or development approvals for additional leasehold or freehold properties south of Stoney Creek near Cardwell?
- (6) Will an EIS be required for any such further or additional development proposals; if not, why not?

Mr Littleproud (22/9/97):

1. A moratorium on new permits in the marine park and adjacent coastal national parks in the Hinchinbrook region was declared by the State and Commonwealth on 7 May 1997.

2. The moratorium applies to all new permits required under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act, the Queensland Marine Park Act and the Nature Conservation Act except:

programs for the taking of animals or plants which pose a threat to human life or safety, and or to marine or island ecosystems;

research, including manipulative research;
education programs;

camping permits required under the Central Section Zoning Plan;

private camping permits on national parks;

traditional fishing and traditional hunting and gathering;

the operation of a landing area or facility for aircraft except for the installation of a new facility;

the operation of a structure including for the discharge of waste except for the installation of a new structure

line fishing using more than 6 hooks per line;

commercial pole and line tuna fishing;

collecting;

if the purpose is merely for uninterrupted passage through the planning area by the most direct and expeditious route

for the purposes of management of the marine park consistent with the objective of the zone;

for the purposes of management of national parks and;

small scale commercial photography, without structures in national parks.

3. & 4. Cardwell properties has approached both Department of Environment and the Federal department for likely concessionaires at Oyster Point to be granted permits for their activities so they can place orders for necessary equipment sure in the knowledge their activities will be approved. Cardwell Properties claims a long delay on deliveries of such equipment makes it necessary to place orders well in advance of the opening of the Oyster Point development. The request has not been granted.

5. I am advised that the Department of Local Government and Planning has received a request from Buckley Vann Town Planning (consultants for Mr Williams) to waive the requirement for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed developments on properties south of Stoney Creek which are within the Port Hinchinbrook site. The proposed development is for waterfront industry associated with boating and marina activities at an adjacent site; ancillary resort uses; and additional resort accommodation for up to 300 people.

6. Such a decision is up to the Department of Local Government and Planning.

933. Rosalie Customer Service Centre

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to recent concerns, particularly by driving schools, that the Rosalie Branch of Queensland Transport's customer service centre will be closed during the next twelve months—

Will he unequivocally confirm that the Rosalie centre will not be closed?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): When considering the future of the Rosalie Customer Service Centre, a number of issues are being taken into account:

The demand for transport services in the Rosalie area has significantly reduced, this is demonstrated by the steady decline in the number of business transactions conducted at the centre over the past few years. This decline is apparent across the full range of services provided at the centre.

The Rosalie centre now conducts the lowest number of business transactions in the Region, even when compared to the transaction levels of centres which provide a similar range of services.

Due to the age and configuration of the facility at Rosalie a considerable level of capital funds would need to be expended to upgrade the centre to meet corporate standards of service amenity. Given the steady decline in business being transacted at the centre such a level of expenditure of public funds cannot be justified.

It is necessary for transport services to be provided to the public in such a way that maximises their quality and accessibility, while at the same time delivering best value for money. The current centre at Rosalie does not meet these criteria.

Because of these reasons the Rosalie Customer Service Centre will be relocated to address the considerable growth in demand for transport services in the Indooroopilly/Taringa area. The relocation will take place within the next twelve months when a suitable site has been identified for the centre in or around Indooroopilly/Taringa

The relocation of the Rosalie Customer Service Centre will result in an increase in the quality and accessibility of transport services to a vast number of Queensland Transport's customers.

934. Emergency Accommodation Services, Pine Rivers Area

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (26/8/97)—

What emergency accommodation services are available to young people in crisis in the Pine Rivers Shire?

Mr Lingard (8/9/97): My Department funds a number of services for homeless young people in the Pine Rivers Shire and surrounding areas, for example, Youthcare Pine Rivers, Orana Youth Service located at Bald Hills, Tandarra House at Redcliffe and North-West Boarding in the northern suburbs of Brisbane.

935. One Nation Party Rally at Mount Gravatt Showgrounds

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the One Nation Party rally held at the Mount Gravatt showgrounds on the night of 24 August—

- (1) Were police officers directed to record names, addresses and occupations of protesters who attended the rally; if so, by whom?
- (2) If no such direction was given, why did police require protesters to supply their names, addresses and occupations when asked, and for what purpose?
- (3) Why was a police photographer present at this rally and who did he take photographs of?

- (4) Where is the information and photographs gathered by police at this rally now located?
- (5) Who requested that the police attend the rally at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

- (1) No such direction was given.
- (2) I am advised that protesters were not required to supply these particulars.
- (3) It is the usual procedure for police photographers to be present at police operations. Photographs can be used for evidential and intelligence gathering purposes.
- (4) Information is held at both the South Brisbane District Office and the Public Safety Response Group Office. The photographs are stored at the Photographic Section, Police Headquarters.
- (5) No specific request was made for police to attend this rally. It is standard procedure for police to attend this type of incident to ensure that no breaches of the peace or criminal activities occur.

936. One Nation Party Rally at Mount Gravatt Showgrounds

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the One Nation Party rally held at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on the night of 24 August—

- (1) What was the purpose of police recording the names and addresses and photographing protesters who attended the One Nation Party rally?
- (2) Do the protesters concerned have the right to inspect the information gathered at this rally to ensure its accuracy and relevance?
- (3) When protesters were unable to satisfy police as to the information provided when asked to supply their names, addresses and occupations, why then were they requested to be interviewed by the officer in charge at the rally?
- (4) Is this the usual operation mounted by police at such rallies and do police currently have the right and power to request such information from citizens who attend protests at One Nation gatherings or other rallies?
- (5) Why did police refuse a member of the Mt. Gravatt Showground Trust access to the One Nation Rally and under what authority was this decision made?
- (6) How many crimes against the person and property were reported in the South Brisbane Region to police on 24 August?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

- (1) Police did not record the names and addresses of protesters at this rally. Photographs were taken for evidential and intelligence gathering purposes.
- (2) Any person can request access to this information.

(3) No protester was requested to be interviewed by the officer in charge at the rally. Only one male person was interviewed by the officer in charge. He was not a demonstrator. His unusual behaviour resulted in him being questioned by police. He was seen behind police lines conversing with a person who had been amongst the demonstrators. He claimed to be a member of the Mt. Gravatt Showgrounds Trust and was there as an observer on behalf of the Trust. His behaviour raised doubts about his claim. The officer in charge took his particulars and confirmed that he was a member of the Trust.

(4) This will be the usual operation mounted by police at these rallies until the actions of demonstrators dictates otherwise.

Generally, police may ask any person for their personal details in the same way as any person may ask another for those same details. However, if police reasonably suspect any person of committing or intending to commit an offence, they are empowered to demand name, address, or any other relevant information as defined by the statute appropriate to the unlawful activity.

(5) This person was not refused access to this rally. He could have entered the hall or joined the demonstrators or remained in the general area as an observer.

(6) A total of 28 crimes against the person and property were reported to police in the South Brisbane District on 24 August 1997.

937. One Nation Party Rally at Mount Gravatt Showgrounds

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the One Nation Party rally held at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on the night of 24 August—

- (1) How many police were in attendance at this rally?
- (2) How many of these police officers, who were directed to attend this rally, were ordinarily rostered on duty on the night of 24 August and what stations were they drawn from?
- (3) How many police officers were recalled to duty on overtime to attend the rally at Mount Gravatt on the night of 24 August and what stations were they usually rostered at?
- (4) What was the total overtime bill paid to police officers who attended the One Nation Party rally on 24 August?
- (5) How many police vehicles were used at the One Nation Rally at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds on 24 August?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) Thirty-six police officers were available for attendance at this rally. However, a maximum of approximately twenty-two police would have been present at any one given time.

(2) The twelve members of the Public Safety Response Team who attended are ordinarily rostered to attend these meetings.

Other police officers who were rostered on duty on this night were:

- South Brisbane District Traffic Branch—11
- South Brisbane District Inquiry Office—2
- Upper Mount Gravatt Station—2
- Dutton Park Criminal Investigation Branch—2
- South Brisbane District Scenes of Crime—2

Not all of these officers were present at any one given time as some were on normal duties and remained "on call".

(3) No officers were recalled to duty on overtime.

(4) No overtime was incurred by any police officer who performed duty at this rally.

(5) Five police vehicles were used at the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds, namely: two prison vans, two Public Safety Response Group station sedans and one sedan as the command vehicle. Other police vehicles were used to transport police to and from the Showgrounds.

938. Tree-clearing Permits

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (26/8/97)—

With reference to proposals being considered by the State Trees Group and MRMAC to give the tree clearing permits perpetual status and make them compensatory—

- (1) Has he received recommendations on these matters from either or both of these groups yet and what were the recommendations?
- (2) How does he see such a scheme for tree clearing permits operating?
- (3) What is wrong with the present scheme that warrants this change and where is the pressure for such change coming from?
- (4) What decision has he made regarding scrapping of the tree clearing permit system in favour of vegetation management plans and when are we likely to see this change made?
- (5) Does he believe these changes continue to take him towards "world's best practice tree clearing"?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

(1-3) There has been no recommendation to me from either group to give tree clearing permits perpetual status. The State Trees Group has analysed proposals relating to the concept of Tree/Vegetation Management Plans and recommended to my Ministerial Resource Management Advisory Council that the concept be further assessed. While the results of these investigations will not be available for some time, the concept will be explored in full and open consultation with the appropriate stakeholders.

I make it clear that the tree clearing guidelines are not perpetual.

(4) No decision has been made to replace tree clearing permits with tree management plans. My Ministerial Resource Management Advisory Council has merely asked for the concept of tree/vegetation management planning to be explored to determine whether we can improve on the already impressive results being achieved as a result of the process applied to date.

(5) The Coalition Government does not have a closed mind to new ways of improving management of our natural resources. A "planning" approach has been widely accepted by both industry and responsible conservation interests as the best means of achieving sustainability for our forest and water resources. It is important that we explore this approach for tree management so that Queensland can continue to set the standard with regard to sustainable use of our natural resources.

939. Women's Historical Sites

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Environment (26/8/97)—

With reference to the 28 women's historical sites identified by his department in the last 14 months—

- (1) Will he detail the exact location of these sites and their significance as women's historical sites?
- (2) Will he explain how the general public is being made aware of these sites?
- (3) What plans does his department have for the future identification of women's historical sites?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

(1) The response to this part of the question is shown on the attached schedule.

(2) The Queensland Women's Heritage Inventory has been established as a data base, and the Department is liaising with the owners of the places that have been identified as being associated with women.

Following the completion of this consultation process, the Department plans to produce material focusing attention on women's heritage places for International Women's Day, 6 March 1998. This publication will also include the places identified prior to the past 14 months.

(3) Part of the work of the Department involves identifying and assessing places of cultural heritage significance.

Identification of places associated with women is one of the historical themes of this ongoing program. Places are identified by various strategies including:

- Regional heritage studies
- Thematic heritage studies
- Nomination to the Heritage Register
- Places reported to the Department.

Answer (1) The following table lists the women's historical sites identified during the past 14 months.

PLACE—LOCATION—SIGNIFICANCE

Queensland Country Women's Association—Atherton Road, Yungaburra—Important for its association with the Country Womens' Association.

Former Lady Bowen Lying-In Hospital—Wickham Terrace, Brisbane—Built in 1889 and became the most well-known of the charitable lying-in hospitals for women.

Bedford Playground (former Spring Hill Playground)—Love Street, Spring Hill—Important for its association with the Playground Association by providing recreation for women and children.

Neal Macrossan Playground (known as Paddington Playground)—Caroline Street, Paddington—Important for its association with the Playground Association by providing recreation for women and children.

Fortitude Valley Child Health Centre—112 Alfred Street, Fortitude Valley—First purpose-built maternal and child welfare clinic in Queensland after the introduction of the Maternity Act 1922.

Paddington Child Health Centre—Given Terrace, Paddington—Important as one of the clinics built to improve health facilities for women and children.

Rockhampton Oral Health Building (former Rockhampton Baby Clinic)—Fitzroy and Denison Streets, Rockhampton—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Maryborough Child Health Centre—445 Kent Street, Maryborough—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

The child health centre within Charters Towers Hospital—Gill Street, Charters Towers—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Bundaberg Child Health Centre—5 Maryborough Street, Bundaberg—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Warwick Health Services Centre (former Warwick Baby Clinic)—70 Percy Street, Warwick—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Ipswich Child Health Centre—16 Wharf Street, Ipswich—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Child health Mackay—55-57 Gregory Street, Mackay—Important as one of the clinics built in the 1920s to improve health facilities for women and children.

Mt Isa Child Health Centre—Isa Street, Mt Isa—Important as one of the clinics built to improve health facilities for women and children.

Nurses' Quarters—Louise Street, Atherton—Important as the type of quarters built for nurses as a result of the Nurses Award 1921.

Edith Cavell Block, Royal Brisbane Hospital—Royal Children's Hospital, Brisbane—Important as the type of quarters built for nurses as a result of the Nurses Award 1921.

Staff Quarters (former Nurses' Quarters), Barcaldine Hospital—Oak Street, Barcaldine—Important for its association with nursing in central west Queensland.

Staff Quarters (former Nurses' Quarters), Babinda Hospital—126-130 Munro Street, Babinda—Important for its association with nursing in north Queensland.

Staff Quarters (former Nurses' Quarters), Bundaberg Hospital—Bourbong Street, Bundaberg—Important as the type of quarters built for nurses as a result of the Nurses Award 1921.

Freshney House Toowoomba, Toowoomba General Hospital—Pechey Street, Toowoomba—Important as the type of quarters built for nurses in the early twentieth century.

(1) Blood Bank (former Nurses' Quarters), Rockhampton Hospital and (2) RMO Club, Rockhampton Hospital—Canning Street, Rockhampton—(1) Important as an unusual example of quarters built for night nurses. (2) Important as an unusual example of a building constructed as sisters' quarters.

Maternity Wing, Aramac Hospital—Lodge Street, Aramac—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Director of Nursing Residence, (former maternity ward), Isisford Hospital—St Agnes Street, Isisford—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Former Maternity block, Ingham Hospital—McIlwraith Street, Ingham—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Community Services Building, (former maternity ward), Mundubbera Hospital—Leichhardt Street, Mundubbera—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Former maternity ward, Gin Gin Hospital—Elliott Street, Gin Gin—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Millaa Millaa Community Health Centre (former Millaa Millaa Maternity Hospital)—Palm Avenue, Millaa Millaa—Important as one of the maternity facilities built to improve health for women and children following the Maternity Act 1922.

Main Block Royal Women's Hospital—Bowen Bridge Road, Herston—The largest and most prominent building constructed as a result of the Maternity Act 1922, designed to improve facilities for mothers and babies in the state.

940. Mr G. Maskill; Gang Killings

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the murder of Gavin Maskill in my electorate on the night of 22 August, as this homicide bears all the marks of a Chicago-style gang killing and as it is a phenomenon that is becoming all too common—

What special efforts are being implemented by the police to take community and preventive measures to deal with this phenomenon?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97): The murder of Gavin Maskill is currently under full investigation by Logan Detectives with the assistance of the Homicide Squad, State Crime Operations Command. To say that this incident has the hallmarks of a Chicago-style gang killing is very presumptuous at this stage of the investigation.

Since 1993 there have been three murders which may be loosely interpreted as being gang oriented in that each incident involved members of motor cycle gangs. It is not considered that these types of murders are a prevalent or common phenomenon in the Logan Police District. The majority of murders being committed in the Logan Police District would be considered as being crimes of passion and assaults on persons where excessive force has caused the unlawful killing of a person.

Police in Logan are working with the community by providing education and public awareness with regard to personal safety. Crime Prevention initiatives are of great assistance in this regard. The Queensland Police Service is committed to and heavily involved in the Government's Firearm Buyback scheme in an endeavour to reduce the number of illegal firearms within the community which should make the commission of this type of crime more difficult.

Safety issues are also addressed through the Local Media outlets, Neighbourhood Watch meetings, Community Consultative meetings and other public forums.

The Logan District Intelligence Office collates information concerning criminal activity within the District and is in a position to offer advice on any perceived threat.

941. Rural and Regional Airports

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

- (1) When does he expect to receive a report on the state of the infrastructure at Queensland's rural and regional airports?
- (2) Will any State Government monies be expended upgrading rural and regional airports in 1997-98; if so, will he provide details?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

- (1) A major infrastructure review of airports was carried out last year for the Queensland Commission of Audit. This review recommended an evaluation of the ownership of all airports in the context of a State wide aviation infrastructure and services plan. Queensland Transport is due to release a discussion paper this week towards the Queensland Aviation Infrastructure and Services Plan (QAISP). This plan will provide the overarching policy and planning framework for Queensland government responsibilities with regard to the provision of aviation infrastructure and services for the next 10 to 15 years. QAISP should be developed by the end of 1997.

(2) As part of its accelerated capital works program, the Queensland government approved expenditure for the following:

Longreach—\$600,000

Windorah—\$200,000 (completed in June 1997)

Bedourie—\$200,000 (completed in June 1997)

In 1997/98, a further \$800,000 will be spent by the State government (\$600,000 by Queensland Transport) on an upgrade of the Cloncurry airstrip. Over \$1.3 million will be expended in 1997/98 on aviation facilities in the Torres Strait at Darnley Island and Yorke Island, plus \$400,000 for maintenance at other airstrips in the outer islands.

942. Proposed Bruce Highway/Kerr Road Interchange

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to a public meeting held in Kallangur during the week ending 23 August seeking the opinion of residents regarding the proposed Bruce Highway/Kerr Road Interchange, at which the majority of people in attendance voted overwhelmingly not to support such a proposal—

Will he give an undertaking to the residents of Kallangur that the Department of Transport and Main Roads will reconsider the proposed interchange?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): At Mango Hill, Lend Lease has plans for the development of a community of some 25,000 people and also incorporating a large retail and employment centre. The Government has agreed to the construction of a new interchange on the Bruce Highway in the vicinity of Kerr Road, at the developers cost.

The approval for the interchange, however, is subject to certain conditions being met by the developer. The Government will continue to ensure that appropriate levels of public consultation are undertaken to ensure all issues are properly managed.

943. Construction of Prisons

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to fulfil the pre-election guarantee 'that the Coalition will not be constructing any prison buildings closer to our suburbs than currently exist' and to resite SEQ1 and SEQW approximately two kilometres from residents' homes—

- (1) What was the cost of plan preparation, site preparation, drainage works, etc. on the original site chosen by the Coalition Government for the two prisons?
- (2) What was the total amount budgeted for the two prisons to be constructed on the original site?
- (3) What is the total amount budgeted for the two prisons to be constructed on the new site?

(4) Is the land on which the prisons are now to be constructed presently owned by the Health Department?

(5) What is the purchase price of the land?

(6) What additional costs are associated with the resiting of the prison facilities?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) The cost of plan preparation and sewer diversion work on the QCSC owned prison site for the two prisons was \$2,351,785. Any future development constructed on this land would require the sewer diversion work. This figure includes \$499,000 for the sewer diversion work. The remaining sum is the cost of the Stage I and Stage II tender process and is a tendered management fee cost that would apply regardless of the changed site.

(2) Prior to going to the construction industry an initial project budget of \$81.5 M was set in 1996. The total amount budgeted for the two prisons to be constructed on the original site, which was set after advice was received from the construction industry, was \$107.68 M.

(3) The total amount budgeted for the two prisons to be constructed on the new site is \$107.68 M.

(4) The land on which the prisons are now to be constructed is presently under the control of Queensland Health.

(5) A purchase price has yet to be determined.

(6) Additional costs associated with the resiting of the prison facilities are those costs associated with industry related rise and fall costs, some re-documentation costs, some earthworks costs and some costs associated with services to the new site. These total costs have been absorbed into the original project budget and have had a nil impact on the budget which remains at \$107.68M.

944. Environmental Code of Practice for Agriculture

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (26/8/97)—

With reference to a Code of Practice for Agriculture—

- (1) At what stage of preparation is this code?
- (2) When will it be finalised?
- (3) What legal standing will it have and will it be enforceable?
- (4) If it is not legally enforceable by the Department of Environment, what subordinate legislation will apply to farmers under the Environmental Protection Act and when will this come into force?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

(1) The Environmental Code of Practice for Agriculture (the Code) has been drafted by the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF), in conjunction with its commodity specific industry groups. The QFF has submitted the Code for approval under section 219 of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act).

(2) As Minister I may approve the Code when satisfied that the Code meets the requirements under section 219 of the EP Act.

In addition to finalisation of the Code, the QFF has agreed that the commodity specific groups should prepare separate Codes for ratification under the EP Act. The QFF has also agreed that the Code should be reviewed after a period of two years.

(3) Section 219 of the EP Act states that the Minister may, by written notice, approve codes of practice stating ways of achieving compliance with the general environmental duty for any activity that causes, or is likely to cause, environmental harm. The notice is subordinate legislation.

The Code provides a defence to a charge of unlawfully causing environmental harm if the defendant proves (amongst other matters) compliance with the Code.

(4) The Environmental Protection Act 1994 has applied to all Queenslanders (including farmers) from 1 March 1995. Subordinate legislation including regulations and the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy which commenced on 1 July 1997, also applies.

945. Used Motor Vehicles, Odometer Readings

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

When second-hand vehicles are registered with his departments, what checks are carried out within his departments when vehicles are sold to ascertain whether the kilometres shown on the forms are more or less than originally stated in order to prevent wind-backs of odometers; if nothing, what measures will he put in place to protect consumers against fraudulent wind-backs?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): Queensland Transport has been recording the odometer reading of motor vehicles on application for registration and transfer of registration since 1992. This information is mainly obtained from the Roadworthiness Certificate and is used to assist investigations into reported cases of possible wind-backs of odometers.

Legislation is already in place under the Auctioneers and Agents Act which outlaws the practice of winding back odometers. If any consumer has a complaint regarding the winding back of odometers, then they should contact the Office of Consumer Affairs to have the matter investigated. Queensland Transport assists the Office of Consumer Affairs by providing vehicle particulars and information such as odometer readings from the department's vehicle registration database.

I would encourage, as does my department, prospective purchasers of used vehicles to obtain independent advice about the vehicle before they purchase. While a Roadworthiness Certificate can attest that the vehicle meets basic safety requirements, an independent check by a qualified mechanic can assess the overall condition of the vehicle and provide advice on whether or not the odometer matches the vehicle's general condition.

Queensland Transport is also looking at providing the motoring public and motor vehicle industry with greater access to details of registered vehicles, including the odometer reading, within the next 12 months. For example, the department is looking at using the Internet for this purpose. With appropriate safeguards, easy access to this type of information would be of benefit to buyers of used vehicles.

946. Speed Cameras

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to media reports that eight speed cameras are raising \$1.2m per week in fines, with police unable to keep up with the paperwork, and as thirty speed cameras will be available by the end of the year and those thirty speed cameras will be capable of raising \$4.5m per week—

- (1) How does this increased revenue relate to the budget prediction of just over \$90m for all fines and forfeitures?
- (2) Doesn't this demonstrate that the Police Service is being used as a major revenue raiser to such a degree that they can't keep up with the paperwork?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) It was originally estimated that revenue from speed camera fines for their first year of operation would be in the vicinity of \$30 million. However, speed camera detection rates are considerably lower than was first expected. The following is a break down of results for the 3 month period May to July:

Month: Tickets issued—Cameras in operation

May: 2,712—3

June: 5,904—3 cameras operating until 23/6 and then 8 cameras for the remainder of the month

July: 10,851—8

With fines averaging \$100 per infringement notice, the amount of revenue being generated by speed cameras is far less than the figure suggested by the media.

It must also be remembered that Section 44T.(1) of the Traffic Act 1949 deals with use of penalties collected for camera detected offences. It states:

44T.(1) All money collected for penalties imposed for camera detected offences in excess of the administrative costs of collection must be used for the following purposes—

- (a) road safety education and awareness programs;
- (b) road accident injury rehabilitation programs; and
- (c) road funding to improve the safety of the section of State controlled roads where accidents most frequently happen.

(2) No. Queensland Transport has undertaken a media campaign widely promoting the presence of speed cameras which included an education and awareness program. The Government also, at the

commencement of the program, approved of a moratorium where advertising and publicity was heavily relied upon to inform motorists of the introduction of speed cameras. Consequently the detection rate has dropped from 10% in April to 2.44% at present. The Queensland Government has been successful in changing the attitude of motorists towards speeding and with continued publicity and education it is proposed to further reduce casualty accidents. The Queensland Police Service, in conjunction with Redflex Pty Ltd, a Melbourne company, is currently developing a new computer processing system which will expedite the operations of the Traffic Camera Office.

947. Youth Suicide, Wide Bay Region

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (26/8/97)—

With reference to the above average rate of youth suicide in Wide Bay, which is 30 percent higher than the State average, and in view of his statements to form Community Support Networks—

- (1) Will he make it a priority for Bundaberg to significantly increase funding (a) for adolescent and youth mental health services that are virtually non-existent in the Bundaberg district, (b) for alcohol and drug services for adolescents which is currently understaffed and (c) referral services and skilled counsellors for youth?
- (2) Will he make urgent representations to the Family Services Minister to provide further funding for greater youth crisis and supported housing options programs and counselling for children suffering physical and sexual abuse which is seriously underfunded?
- (3) Will he make urgent representations to the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations to provide priority training for Bundaberg, which has a youth unemployment level of double the State average, so that a real effort is being made by the Government to reduce youth suicide in our region?

Mr Horan (24/9/97):

(1) I thank the Member for Bundaberg for drawing my attention to the obvious fact that youth suicide cannot be tackled as a problem in isolation. The Coalition Government has produced a comprehensive State Strategic Plan and a Youth Affairs statement as well as a Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. Each document knits with the others to provide a comprehensive response to the expectations and major concerns of the citizens of Queensland.

Youth Suicide is but the tip of the iceberg of what has been termed "the wider malaise affecting today's youth". The Strategy is designed to stem the rising rate of suicide, attempted suicide, and serious self-harming behaviour among teenagers and young adults.

(2) The Coalition Governments Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy's focus is on a holistic response to the causes and effects of the problem.

Various youth support programs and projects have already been launched by government agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs).

The Statement on Youth Affairs makes it clear that valuing youth, employing youth, supporting them in their health and well being, and involving them in community life are key issues for Queenslanders.

(3) Refer to (2) above.

948. Highway Upgrade, Cloncurry-Mount Isa

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to the increase in heavy transport vehicles from Cloncurry to Mount Isa—

- (1) What plans does he have to improve the highway?
- (2) What action, if any, does he propose to take to ensure that the Federal Government makes its fair contribution, as previously promised?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) Work is currently under way to upgrade a 13.2 kilometre section of the Barkly Highway between Cloncurry and Mt Isa east of the Corella River to provide a sealed 9 metre formation, including provision of two overtaking lanes. The estimated final cost of the project is \$6.1 million and is anticipated to be completed in early 1998.

In terms of addressing the remaining narrow bitumen sections on this road and provision of additional passing lane opportunities, Main Roads is seeking a firm funding commitment in future years from the Federal Government for works to be accelerated to allow as-of-right use by Type 2 road trains earlier than otherwise would be possible within current road funding constraints.

(2) As the Barkly Highway is a National Highway, the full cost of upgrade works would be met by the Federal Government. As indicated above, action is being taken to obtain Federal agreement to accelerate funding so that required works can be undertaken as soon as possible.

949. School Grants

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (26/8/97)—

- (1) Will he provide a detailed list of funds which are provided to schools via school grants and the formulae which are used for each element?
- (2) What additional financial responsibilities have been devolved to schools over the period 1990s-1997?
- (3) How will the school grant formulae which apply to leading schools differ from those which apply to other schools?
- (4) Will the additional amounts of funding made available to pilot leading schools be available to other schools as they become leading schools?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1) Funds provided via school grants are as follows:

General component
 Resource Centre Maintenance component
 Grounds Care component
 Swimming Pools—Chemicals and Cleaning components
 Tractor/ride-on Replacement component
 Learning support staff grants
 School Improvement Assistance Scheme grants
 Administrative Assistance Enhancement Program

The formulas used to calculate the above grant components are detailed in the Resource Allocation Queensland State Schools booklet. This booklet has been updated and distributed to State Schools for the last four years.

(2) The School Grant was introduced in 1989 replacing a number of individual grants and allocations and increasing the flexibility of schools to direct funds towards local needs.

The total government allocation to all the grants and allowances included in the School grant in the year prior to its introduction was some \$20 million. Since that time there have been significant changes to the levels of funds provided. There have also been changes in the scope of the grant.

The most significant changes in the scope of the School Grant include:

schools have assumed responsibility for professional development, carpet cleaning, pest control, piano tuning, filling and rental of gas cylinders, registration of tractors, replacement of janitor/groundspersons equipment, secondary consumables, payment of travel related to banking and mailing, washing towels

Sun Smart funding, tractor/ride-on mower replacement funding, school based routine works and school improvement assistance scheme funding has been devolved to schools.

Pilot Leading Schools have received teacher relief scheme funding and a facilities grant for routine maintenance and minor works.

(3) Leading Schools will continue to receive the normal range of recurrent grants to which they are entitled.

(4) All future Leading Schools will receive the same level of grant funding as the pilot schools.

950. Primary Industries Department, Scientists and Extension Staff

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (26/8/97)—

With reference to the number of scientists and extension officers employed in his department—

How many of each of these employees were employed in (a) 1989-90, (b) 1990s-91, (c) 1991-92, (d) 1992-93, (e) 1993-94, (f) 1994-95, (g) 1995-96, (h) 1996-97 and (i) 1997-98?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. Before giving detail on the number of staff employed it is necessary to explain what these figures represent. The Honourable Member has asked for numbers of scientists and extension staff. This requires some definition, for example scientific support staff, experimentalists, laboratory technicians and scientists in managerial positions may or may not be included. Detail on numbers for any group is usually collated from position titles as stored on the staff data base. This can also create problems when the position title does not fully reflect the actual nature of the work involved as per a broad definition.

2. In addition to this there is the impact of major organisational restructuring. This commenced with the merging of the old DPI, Water Resources and Forestry to form the new DPI in 1990s, continued with significant internal restructuring, the absorption and subsequent loss of the Office of Racing and ended with the transfer of 1800 staff to establish the Department of Natural Resources in 1996. Because of this a simple year to year comparison can be very misleading.

3. The question also required that staff be grouped as scientists and extension staff. This assumes that there is a distinct divide between the two. In many cases this distinction is blurred, with scientists involved in extension and extension staff involved in research. In many projects research and extension components are completely integrated.

4. In view of this some judgments need to be made about who and what should be counted. In order to give a proper reflection of the number of scientists and extension staff employed by the department I have concentrated on what I would term core scientific and extension positions servicing primary industries as per position titles. This excludes Forestry staff, Water Resources staff, other functions that were eventually transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, regulatory staff, management staff, and scientific and technical support staff. This has been done in order to eliminate the fluctuations in staffing levels that have been caused by the factors I have previously mentioned and allows some degree of comparison over the period in question.

5. These details are:

Year	Scientist	Extension	Total
1989-90	498	155	653
1990s-91	471	147	618
1991-92	526	155	681
1992-93	510	141	651
1993-94	487	113	600
1994-95	461	108	569
1995-96	445	124	569
Current	551	200	751

951. WorkCover

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/97)—

With reference to master-servant personal injuries claims and their administration by WorkCover—

- (1) Is it true that in all cases (with the exception of motor vehicle accidents, the excess period and certain employer misconduct) WorkCover Queensland is responsible for payment of the entirety of any personal injuries award to an injured employee?
- (2) As such, to what extent does WorkCover seek instructions from the insured employer in the course of particular common law proceedings?
- (3) Does the policy with respect to seeking instructions from insured employers vary between different employers or are all afforded the same level of input?
- (4) Is it the case that if there is any conflict between the wishes of an insured employer and the advice that WorkCover Queensland receives from its retained solicitors and barristers for a particular claim, that it will adopt the views expressed by the insured employer?
- (5) Are there any occasions where offers of settlement made by an injured plaintiff have been recommended for acceptance by the solicitors and barristers engaged by WorkCover Queensland but have been subsequently rejected by WorkCover Queensland after the insured employer has expressed a contrary view?
- (6) On how many occasions referred to in question (5) above (where WorkCover has rejected its lawyers advice) has a court judgment subsequently been delivered for an amount greater than offered by the plaintiff by way of settlement and how much is the total of such excess?

Mr Santoro (25/9/97):

- (1) No. Where WorkCover is joined in a common law action, recovery of amounts from another responsible party or parties is sought by WorkCover.
- (2) WorkCover does not take instructions from employers.
- (3) WorkCover does not take instructions from employers.
- (4) No. WorkCover will consider employer input regarding the case, however, the final decision on a common law proceeding remains with WorkCover.
- (5) No. WorkCover's decision on negotiation offers is not made on the basis of the employer's views.
- (6) This information is not readily available.

(N.B. Original Question on Notice No. 951 was ruled out of order by the Speaker on 27 August 1997, p. 3277. Mr Lucas was subsequently given permission to submit an amended question on notice No. 951.)

952. High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed HOV transit lanes on the South East Freeway and major concerns being shown by the Logan City Council in regard to management of these laws—

- (1) Where will the HOV lanes be located—on the shoulder side of the carriageway or the median side?
- (2) Will he consider running the HOV lanes into the city, as all research shows that running HOV lanes into congested general purpose lanes does not work and the HOV lane will fail?
- (3) Will he confirm what number of passengers HOV lane vehicles will be allowed to carry, as this will be critical to the success of the HOV lanes as studies have shown?
- (4) As policing abuse of the HOV lanes by non-eligible drivers will be critical to the success of HOV lanes, will he inform the House how that will be done?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

- (1) The high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, now referred to as transit lanes, will be located on the median side of the carriageways, but will be separated from the median by a three (3) metre wide shoulder.
- (2) The South East Transit Project will provide transit lanes that extend from Loganholme to Upper Mt Gravatt. There is no current proposal to extend the transit lanes into the city. The main focus will be on the busway and bus services for commuters to the CBD.
- (3) To use the transit lanes vehicles will be required to have three or more people in the vehicle.
- (4) Enforcement and policing of transit lanes will be done by the most efficient means available. Initially it is likely to be done by police stationed in the enforcement bays which will be located at intervals along the corridor. The strategy will have an appropriate emphasis on random enforcement to support compliance by transit lane users. Police will observe vehicle occupancy and non-eligible drivers will be fined by mail. In the longer term the enforcement process may be done by remote detection means, if appropriate technology emerges.

There will also be a community education program developed to assist the motoring public in the use and management of transit lanes, as well as the busway, prior to operation. Based on experience with transit lanes in Brisbane and overseas, we believe an appropriate mix of education and random enforcement will achieve a very high compliance rate by motorists using the corridor.

953. Police Staffing Model

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

With reference to the issue of police staffing and his comments in the Parliament on 30 April, where he said "The member opposite has got his mitts on some new staffing model which is free for anyone to have a look at and which maps out where the service is going to allocate the additional police manpower"—

- (1) In light of his comments, will he provide a copy of the current police staffing model showing model, allocated and actual police numbers for

every police station, district and region, as well as any additional information available such as target numbers for coming months?

- (2) Will he provide the information in the same format as the document to which he refers in his above comments?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) A copy of the current Regional Allocation Model at 1 September 1997 is attached. The Regional Allocation Model sets out the initial model staffing distribution (column E). This distribution is then subject to adjustment (within the overall number of positions available) by Region and District management to reflect local priorities and needs as identified by them (column F). This adjustment to the model distribution becomes the "authorised strength" (Column G). The actual strength is indicated in column H.

The current model distributes some 5453 positions of which 61 are civilian support officer positions (communications room operators).

The funded police strength of the Service for the 1997/98 financial year will be increased by 252 police officers.

The number of additional police positions to be allocated to each Region/District for the 1997/98 financial year has yet to be determined by the Commissioner of Police. [The distribution of positions to regions takes into account (amongst other factors) population statistics for the State. These statistics are provided by the Government Statistician. Advice received is that updated population statistics will not become available until late November.]

The number of unsworn (civilian) positions will increase by 200 positions during the 1997/98 financial year. (Civilianisation—communication Rooms x 68, other civilianisation x 83, and general growth x 49). The creation and filling of the 151 civilianisation positions will enable the release of 151 police officers to perform direct service operational duties.

- (2) Yes.

954. Roadworks, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (26/8/97)—

With reference to the construction of an underpass at the Pappas Way intersection and an overpass at the Nerang-Broadbeach Road intersection on the Pacific Highway at Nerang—

Will he provide details on progress of both these projects, including estimated dates of completion?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): The upgrading of the Pacific Highway through Nerang is being built as two distinct projects.

Gold Coast City Council is project managing the construction of the Pappas Way underpass and associated roadworks to allow removal of traffic signals at Pappas Way. Work has already commenced on site and it is expected to be completed by March 1998.

The Pacific Motorway project team recently completed detailed design for the Nerang River to Pappas Way section including replacement of the traffic signals at the Nerang-Broadbeach Road and Grenfell Street. Tenders were invited for the works on 3 September 1997. Main Roads expects to award a tender for the works in November 1997, with the section opened to traffic by Christmas 1998 and completed by March 1999.

The contract provides for substantial monetary incentives for early completion of the works; likewise the contract contains substantial penalties to discourage late completion.

955. National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (26/8/97)—

With reference to her election promise to support the National Institute of Indigenous Performing Arts (NIIPA) in Queensland and to her failure to honour that promise—

- (1) What steps has she taken in recent months to support the establishment of NIIPA in Queensland?
- (2) Will she publicly condemn the Federal Government for its disgraceful withdrawal of support for NIIPA?

Mrs Sheldon (25/9/97):

(1) Over the past nine months, discussions have been held with key stakeholders regarding the establishment of a dedicated Aboriginal Performing Arts training institution in Queensland. The State Government has recently approved funds to undertake further planning of this significant cultural project.

(2) The Aboriginal Community has remained vocal about the need for such an institution in Queensland since funding for the National Institute for Indigenous Performing Arts (NIIPA), proposed in Brisbane, was withdrawn by the Federal Government and the National Aboriginal and Islander Skills Development Association (NAISDA) was relocated within Sydney.

956. Indian Myna

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Environment (26/8/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that Indian Mynas are rapidly colonising the southern suburbs of Brisbane, with colonies of up to one hundred birds occupying individual trees?
- (2) Is he aware that these birds are aggressively displacing many native species from their natural breeding sites and are annoying many residents with the noise they create, so much so that I have heard suggestions that approaches should be made to the Member for Oxley for action?
- (3) Will he consider this matter to see if any action is available to him?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97):

(1) I am aware that the Indian Myna has been introduced into Australia and is now spread widely along Australia's east coast. It is now found in large numbers in the vicinity of Melbourne, Cairns to Townsville, southeast Queensland, and central coastal New South Wales.

(2) It is possible that the Indian Myna is having adverse impacts on native species and I am aware that many members of the community are concerned about its introduction.

(3) The problem of eradicating this species has been assessed in other states where the species has established in the wild. I am advised that in practice it would be impossible to eradicate such a widely spread species with such obvious reproductive capacities and ability to spread into new areas.

957. Police Resources, Deception Bay

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (26/8/97)—

- (1) How many police officers are appointed to the Deception Bay Police Station?
- (2) What is the police/population ratio in Deception Bay?
- (3) What is the current police/population ratio in Queensland generally?

Mr Cooper (25/9/97):

(1) The authorised strength of the Deception Bay Police Station at 1/9/97 was 19 police officers. Currently there is the full complement of 19 uniform officers at Deception Bay, plus 4 JAB and 5 CIB officers stationed at the Deception Bay Police Station—giving a total of 28 police.

(2) The general duties police/population ratio for Deception Bay Division is estimated to be approximately 1:1647. However this ratio is calculated on the basis of general duties officers only, giving an unreliable indicator of total policing services provided to the Deception Bay community as Deception Bay general duties police are supplemented by officers fulfilling district functions in Deception Bay.

That is, the general duties police strength at Deception Bay is augmented by the policing services and duties performed by officers attached to district functions—eg. District Traffic Branch, Juvenile Aid Branch and Criminal Investigations Branch. Officers attached to all district functions perform operational duties throughout the Redcliffe Police District which includes Deception Bay Police Division.

The police/population ratio for the Redcliffe Police District as at 30 June 1997 was 1:828.

This compares with a police to population ratio for the Redcliffe District inherited during the last full year of the previous Labor regime of 1:916 (at 30/6/95). This figure was brought back to 1:878 at 30/6/96 under the Coalition Government and subsequently to 1:828.

(3) The current total police/population ratio in Queensland is 1:524—which includes every sworn police officer in the State.

958. School Capital Works Projects, Ipswich

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Education (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Building Better Schools program in the following Ipswich schools (a) Blair State School, (b) Bremer State High School, (c) Bundamba State School, (d) Claremont State School, (e) Ipswich Central State School, (f) Ipswich East State School, (g) Ipswich Special School, (h) Ipswich West State School, (i) Ipswich West Special School, (j) Raceview State School and (k) Silkstone State School—

- (1) What has been the cost of works completed to date, and the description of those works?
- (2) What works are currently in progress, and the value of those works?
- (3) What works are to be undertaken, and the estimated cost of those works?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): (1), (2) & (3) Please refer to the attached table.

959. Illegal squatters on Government Land, Moreton Island

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to the "Squatters Camp" on former Federal Government owned lighthouse land on Moreton Island, which is about to be taken over by the State Government—

- (1) Will this area of land be declared national park?
- (2) Will he remove the illegal squatters?
- (3) Is he being lobbied by a prominent Liberal Party Solicitor to lease back the squatters' area for the benefit of the illegal squatters?
- (4) Will he honour the promise of the former Minister for the Environment to establish this area as a camping site for the benefit of all users of Moreton Island?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

(1) Yes, with a small area possibly declared as conservation park to facilitate development of appropriate camping and day-use facilities.

(2) and (3) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to a submission received from an association based in his electorate of Redcliffe. The association did make an application for lease and management rights over an area of land within the reserve taken over by the State Government. I advised that the application could not be supported for several reasons including the policy on unauthorised occupation of State land, provisions both of protected area legislation and of the

agreement between the Commonwealth and the State for handover of the land.

(4) The North Point area is regarded by the Department of Environment as a potential site for camping and day use facilities for the use of all visitors to Moreton Island. This option is being closely considered in the Department's planning for the transferred land.

960. Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Community Noticeboard section of the Courier-Mail, which recently carried a departmental notification that the Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme had ceased as of 8 August—

- (1) Why did he allow this very positive initiative in promoting alternative energy to lapse?
- (2) How many applications were received during the course of this scheme, and what was the total amount paid out by way of subsidy under the scheme?
- (3) What does he intend to replace the scheme with; if nothing, should we assume the Coalition Government has no interest in the promotion of alternative energy use for household purposes?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

	EstExp 97/98	Ant tender acceptance	Ant physical completion
Runcorn State High School			
Hearing Impaired Replacement Building	944,262	15/4/97	Nov 97
Sports Complex contribution	160,000	commence 16/2/96	Nov 97
Sunnybank Hills State School			
Relocatable Classroom Building (2 space)	94,198	7/7/97	Aug 97
Special Education Unit by Remodel & Glhb	505,226	18/7/97	Oct 97
Sunnybank State High School			
Replacement Manual Arts block	768,264	29/8/97	Dec 97
Warrigal Road State School		ant commence	
Modular Building by Transfer	80,000	1/9/97	Oct 97

962. Fish Habitat, Murray Darling System

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (27/8/97)—

With reference to a New South Wales Fisheries Department report which found that almost 50 per cent of the native fish species that should exist in the Murray Darling system could not presently be located—

- (1) As many of Queensland's freshwater rivers drain into this system, and these streams are upstream of where the New South Wales study was undertaken, could it be possible a similar situation exists in these waterways?
- (2) What studies has his department done in Queensland's inland waterways to determine their native fish diversity, distribution and abundance, and what were the results?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97):

(1) The current scheme introduced in 1996-97 provided \$1.8 million for subsidies to householders who purchased a solar hot water system. These funds have now been fully used.

(2) There were 7,972 rebates provided at a cost of \$3.3 million since the rebate scheme was first introduced in 1995-96.

(3) Whilst no specific scheme has been agreed to at this time, the Government is committed to increased energy efficiency and use of renewables and as part of its ongoing energy policy development, both in context of Queensland Greenhouse Strategy and the possible establishment of a renewable energy research and development fund, such specific initiatives will be seriously considered.

961. School Capital Works Projects, Sunnybank Electorate

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Education (27/8/97)—

What is the nature and cost of capital works projects at each school in the Sunnybank electorate for 1997-98, when will each of the projects commence, and when is it proposed they will be completed?

- (3) Is he aware that the once plentiful Murray cod and catfish have disappeared from the Murray Darling system covered by this report?
- (4) What parts of Queensland's inland waterways are off limits to anglers in an attempt to give these native fish species some form of sanctuary?
- (5) Does he believe Queensland's extensive network of inland national parks could provide such sanctuaries?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

1. I am aware of the results of the New South Wales Rivers Survey undertaken by the New South Wales Fisheries Department. The results of this survey have indicated that fish are in severe decline particularly in the Murray River region, which has no connection with Queensland rivers. The results also indicate that

the Darling region, which connects with Queensland rivers such as the Condamine, Balonne and Paroo Rivers, produced almost ten times as many native fishes.

Whilst there are areas of concern in the Queensland portion of the Darling River, in relation to habitat degradation and the presence of pest species such as carp, the situation is not the same as New South Wales. The abundance and diversity of native fishes is generally higher with some species such as the eel-tailed catfish being present in much higher numbers.

There is clearly an opportunity to learn from the mistakes made in other States and ensure the long-term sustainability of our native fish stocks in Queensland.

2. My Department has undertaken a number of surveys in inland waters to determine the abundance, distribution and diversity of native fishes. These have largely been project related including surveys of river systems related to proposed water infrastructure development. The only systematic survey of inland waters in Queensland was of the rivers and wetlands of the Cape York region undertaken as part of the Cape York Land Use Planning Study. The results of this survey indicated a high abundance of native fishes with several new species being recorded.

To date there have been no state-wide surveys similar to the New South Wales Rivers Survey undertaken in Queensland. In relation to the Murray Darling system I am aware that the Department of Natural Resources is currently undertaking systematic surveys of fish species, large invertebrates and habitat conditions in the Queensland portion of the Darling system. I would refer you to my colleague, the Honourable H W T Hobbs, MLA, Minister for Natural Resources for more information on the results of these surveys.

3. Yes I am aware that Murray Cod and eel-tailed catfish were not captured in the Murray region over the two year period of the New South Wales Rivers Survey. I am also aware that Murray Cod are still present, if not abundant, in Queensland and that eel-tailed catfish are relatively abundant in some sections of the Darling River system in Queensland. Officers from my Department are members of a team together with officers from New South Wales and Victoria, working at action required to ensure the long term sustainability of both eel-tailed catfish and silver perch, another species which has shown a dramatic decline in the Murray-Darling system. Clearly with populations of both these species occurring in Queensland we have a key role to play in the recovery process.

As part of the development of a Management Plan for Freshwater Fisheries, the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority is considering changes to size limits and bag limits for recreational angling for Murray Cod to better protect the species. It should be noted that unlike New South Wales there is no commercial fishing for this species in Queensland.

4. At present the main areas closed to fishing under the fisheries legislation in Queensland's inland waterways relate to areas upstream and downstream

of various dams and weirs where fish are known to congregate and hence are susceptible to angling pressure. There are currently nineteen of these and they are reviewed regularly. There are also three small sections of rivers, the Condamine River, the Severn River and the Barron River which are closed to fishing. In general, fishing closures have only been implemented where fish are particularly susceptible to fishing pressure as habitat degradation is considered to be a greater threat.

Fishing pressure can generally be controlled by the implementation of bag and size limits and seasonal fishing closures, e.g., for spawning if necessary.

5. There is a need to provide a system of protected areas across the State that encompass representative fish communities. Some National Parks could contribute to this protected area network. However it must be remembered that the issue is much larger than the provision of protected areas. There is a need to implement measures across the State to protect fish communities and their habitats. The Fisheries Group of my Department is actively working with other agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environment, and the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks across the State.

963. Children's Commission

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (27/8/97)—

With reference to the provisions of the Childrens Commissioner and Children Services Appeals Tribunals Act which provide for the establishment of an appeals tribunal and the appointment of official visitors to institutions and care providers—

- (1) What progress has been made on either of these initiatives?
- (2) When does he anticipate the finalisation of these initiatives?
- (3) How many staff are employed by the Children's Commission and at what levels are these staff employed?
- (4) How many, if any, positions are vacant in this Commission at the present time?

Mr Lingard (8/9/97):

(1 & 2) A panel of members has been appointed from which three person Appeals Tribunals will be selected to hear appeals of decisions under the Children's Services Act 1965, the Child Care Act 1991 and the Adoption of Children Act 1964. Guidelines for the appeals and review processes are being developed and the first appeal under the Act is being progressed.

The appointment of Official Visitors has not been progressed as yet but will be undertaken as soon as several imminent appointments are concluded.

(3 & 4) The Children's Commission has an approved establishment of 14 which includes the Children's Commissioner.

Establishment Position—Current Position

Executive Director (Appeals Review) SES2—Position Advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Short listing of applicants pending.

Director Corporate and Strategic Planning SO2—Appointment made.

Manager, Review Unit AO8—Position advertised. Applications closed 25/8/97. Short listing of applicants pending.

Senior Review Officer AO6—Position Vacant.

Review Officer AO4—Position Advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Interviews planned for week commencing 8/9/97. Temporary officer acting in position.

Manager, Research Unit AO8—Position advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Short listing of applications pending. Acting manager in place.

Senior Research Officer AO6—Temporary Officer acting in position.

Research Officer AO4—Casual officer acting in position two days per week.

Senior Appeals Officer AO6 —Position advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Short listing of applicants pending. Seconded officer in place.

Senior Policy and Legislation Officer —Position Vacant.

Executive Assistant AO4—Temporary officer in place.

Administration Officer AO3—Position advertised. Applications closed 4/8/97. Interviews planned for the week commencing 16/9/97. Temporary officer in place.

Administrative Officer AO2—Two casual officers job sharing in this position.

964. Air Quality in Brisbane

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to Brisbane's periodically appalling air quality—

- (1) Is he aware of growing emissions from various point sources in the inner city area; if so, what are the sources of these emissions?
- (2) What are the sources and nature of the emissions from (a) BP House, (b) National Australia Bank, George Street, (c) Police Headquarters and (d) Forbes House, respectively?
- (3) Does he consider these emissions acceptable in light of the growing residential population of the inner city?
- (4) Why has he failed to act on these concerns despite having his attention drawn to them by inner city residents as long ago as October 1996?

(5) What is the status of the long-promised South East Queensland regional air quality strategy?

(6) Why, despite repeated promises by him that the EPP for air would be issued "within a few weeks", does the Air EPP continue to languish in a black hole in his department?

(7) When will the air quality strategy and Air EPP be finally issued?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97): Firstly, it is irresponsible to say air quality is "periodically appalling". Occasionally the level of pollution is "medium" and on rare occasions "high", usually because of factors such as forest fires and the winter-time inversion effect.

(1) I am unaware of any increase in emissions from point sources in the inner city area.

(2) Large commercial buildings of the size and type of those named usually have internal environmental management systems which control heating and cooling and these will result in the emission of steam during cold weather. As well, they are usually equipped with standby power generation equipment. This equipment is used in the case of electricity supply failure and for periodic test running only.

(3) As the emissions from standby generators are either subject to limits set on the basis of preventing environmental harm or have a fuel burning capacity below the threshold limit for licensing, there would seem to be no basis for regarding them as unacceptable.

(4) The Department of Environment has not recorded any complaints from residents of the inner city about emissions from the named or other city buildings in recent times.

(5) The South East Queensland Regional Air Quality Strategy (SEQRAQS) is being developed in consultation with all stakeholders. An issues and options paper has been released prior to preparation of a draft strategy. The Honourable Member would be welcome to make a response along with other Members, departments, local authorities, landholders, industry, interested groups and members of the public generally.

(6) The EPP for Air is in the process of finalisation and submission to Cabinet for approval, following an extensive period of consultation with key stakeholders—much more consultation than undertaken by the Goss Government which began this policy.

(7) The issuing of both the Regional Air Quality Strategy and the EPP for Air depend on a decision of the Government.

965. Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Riversdale-Murray Valley Water Management Scheme and the wholesale clearing of lowland forest habitat and flood plains around Euramo, south of Tully—

- (1) Have mapping projects shown that only 25 per cent of this area's natural vegetation remains intact; if not, what amount of natural vegetation does remain?
- (2) What environmental impact assessment of this scheme has been undertaken and what impacts have been identified?
- (3) Will these impacts include a heightened risk of pesticide and nutrient run-off, erosion and siltation of river estuaries?
- (4) Is he aware of a study revealing the presence of potential acid sulphate soils up to 20 kilometres inland; if so, what will be the impacts of the leaching of acid sulphate soils on fish habitat and populations when soil substrates are disturbed by drainage earthworks?
- (5) What consultations have been held with commercial and recreational fishing organisations in relation to these impacts and what are the attitudes of such organisations?
- (6) Did any environmental impact assessment include an economic cost benefit analysis; if so, did the cost benefit analysis include an assessment of downstream impacts?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

(1) Information related to vegetation mapping associated with natural habitat preservation can be most comprehensively accessed through the Department of Environment.

However, a total of 70% of the Tully Murray catchment is in its natural state, and protected by the declaration of a World Heritage Area.

(2/3) A draft Impact Assessment Statement (IAS) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) has been completed for the scheme.

Ongoing issues primarily relate to the demonstration of environmental sustainability of cane land expansion and the means to ensure protection of key conservation/environmental values of areas affected by the scheme.

The following impacts have been identified

- (i) the extent and pattern of development of new cane land on remaining natural vegetation and habitat;
- (ii) exports from the catchment e.g. sediment, nutrient, herbicides, on downstream ecosystems; and
- (iii) economic impacts of cane land development on other values associated with the floodplain, such as recreational and commercial fishing and tourism.

Issues relating to the draft IAS and EMP are currently being addressed in a supplementary report to the IAS and EMP. Advisory bodies will provide comment on the supplementary report when it is completed.

(4) Areas of potential acid sulfate soils have been identified as part of the Impact Assessment Statement (IAS), and addressed as part of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The impacts on fish habitat will be addressed in the supplementary report to the IAS and EMP.

Areas of potential acid sulfate soils within the scheme will be subject to detailed testing to determine the potential problem, before any scheme works are carried out. Where possible, scheme works will be relocated to avoid problems. Any scheme works which cannot be relocated will be subject to the requirements of the Environmental Management Plan. The ongoing monitoring program will identify any future problems which may arise. Furthermore, any remedial action required will be undertaken as part of the requirements of the Environmental Management Plan

(5) Consultations have been held at a local and regional level with a range of organisations. Subsequent to these consultations it has recently been agreed by the relevant interest groups that the Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme should go ahead providing the concerns of the fishing organisations and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority were adequately addressed in the supplementary report.

(6) An economic cost benefit analysis was carried out as part of the Impact Assessment Statement. This is currently being reviewed to include downstream effects.

966. Maryborough Regional Office of Education

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Education (27/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed splitting of the Maryborough Regional Office of Education—

- (1) What is the cost to the taxpayer going to be to set up another office of education?
- (2) If that office is to be at Hervey Bay, what will be the extra costs incurred by the taxpayers for the additional fuel and travel expenses?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1) The establishment and fitout costs of all district offices will not be a cost to the taxpayer but will be met from the sale of assets across the State which are surplus to requirements. Even after all district office establishment costs have been met, it is anticipated that there will be a substantial surplus from asset sales.

(2) There will not be a District Office of Education Queensland in Hervey Bay.

967. Expo 2002 Site, Coomera; Mr F. Maybury

Mrs BIRD asked the Premier (27/8/97)—

With reference to plans to stage an Expo in 2002 in the Coomera area—

- (1) Does a Mr Fred Maybury, or a company with which he is associated, own land either on or adjacent to the proposed Expo site; if so, (a) what area of land is involved, (b) what is its real property description and (c) when did Mr Maybury or his company acquire this land?
- (2) Is this the same Fred Maybury who was a leading light with the Queensland Events Corporation and the Indy Grand Prix under the National Party Government in the late 1980s,

and is presently in charge of the Dreamworld Theme Park situated close to the proposed Expo site?

- (3) Is he satisfied that Mr Maybury's land dealings in this area are above board and he is in no way benefiting from "inside knowledge" to profit personally from post Expo development of this site?

Mr Borbidge (26/9/97):

(1) Dreamworld Pty Ltd, a company of which Mr Fred Maybury is a Director and the Chief Executive Officer, owns land immediately to the south of the proposed Expo 2002 site.

- (a) The area of the land is approximately 89.3ha.
 (b) The real property description of the land is:
 Lot 4 on RP 816959
 Lots 2 and 3 on RP 138841
 Lots 1 and 2 on RP 186505
 Lot 12 on RP 864318
 Lot 1 on RP 816960
 Lot 1 on RP 816958
 Lot 3 on RP 816959

all of the Parish of Coomera, County of Ward.

- (c) Dreamworld Pty Ltd, formerly known as Janola Dale Pty Ltd, purchased the land from Dreamworld Productions Pty Ltd (Receivers and Managers Appointed) by Contract of Sale dated 13 November 1995 and took possession of the land on 15 January 1996. The formal transfer was registered in the Land Registry on 11 April 1996.
- (2) Mr Fred Maybury was a Director of the Queensland Events Corporation from February 1989 to April 1990s and the General Manager of the Gold Coast Motor Events Company, trading as Gold Coast Indy Car Grand Prix, from June 1990s to December 1990s.
- (3) Yes.

968. ARCO Coal; Stanwell Power Station

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (27/8/97)—

With reference to Stanwell Power Station coal which demands are currently met through contractual arrangements with Arco Coal's Curragh Mine, and as Arco Coal has signalled its intent to remove itself as a coal producer from all Arco operated coal mines in Queensland by the end of 1997—

What mining company is being considered as the alternative supplier of coal to Stanwell Power Station and is it true that AUSTA Electric is negotiating with Arco Coal for a coal mine power station joint venture?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97): Curragh coal mine is currently contracted to supply approximately 3 million tonnes of coal per annum to Stanwell Corporation Limited (SCL). Some 2 million tonnes of this is delivered to Stanwell Power Station and the remainder is on-sold to Gladstone Power Station.

This in effect provides for approximately 50% of Stanwell's coal requirements.

ARCO Australia have advised SCL that Curragh mine is not among the assets they are currently considering for disposal.

SCL is not negotiating with ARCO to joint venture Curragh coal mine and Stanwell Power Station.

969. National Competition Policy, Federal Payments to Queensland

Mr ARDILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (27/8/97)—

What are the total funds which will be paid to Queensland by the Federal Government in 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 solely as a direct result of the National Competition Agreement with Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon (26/9/97): Queensland expects to receive National Competition Policy Payments of \$39M, \$41M and \$84M in 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-00 respectively. Because the actual payments are determined on the basis of movements in the Consumer Price Index, the final receipts may vary from the current estimates.

970. Refundable Deposit System on Bottles and Cans

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Gold Coast Bulletin report on 18 July that the annual conference of the State National Party endorsed a policy to introduce a refundable deposit system on bottles and cans—

- (1) When will this system be introduced?
- (2) What will be the amount of the levy?
- (3) Will it apply equally to both recyclable and non-recyclable containers?
- (4) Will the system be based on the South Australian model or some other model?
- (5) How would the levy be enforced in the light of the recent High Court decision striking down State franchise fees?
- (6) Does the Government intend to waste the same amount of taxpayers' funds promoting this new scheme as it wasted on promoting the oil and tyre taxes?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): As far as I am aware, the government has no plan to introduce such a scheme.

971. Land Valuations; Commercial Tenants

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/97)—

With reference to land valuations and the rights of commercial tenants, many of whom are small business people struggling to meet ends in today's economic environment—

- (1) How many (or what proportion of) commercially and industrially zoned properties in Queensland

- are not actually occupied by the landlord (i.e. they are leased to a tenant)?
- (2) Does he acknowledge that in almost all leases of commercial property, the terms of the lease make the tenant responsible for payment of local authority rates assessed against the property in question?
 - (3) Given the local authorities use the unimproved land valuation as the basis for calculating their rates, does he acknowledge that tenants have a legitimate commercial interest in decisions made about the unimproved valuation of the property which they are renting?
 - (4) Will he undertake to amend the Valuation of Land Act to (a) require notification of valuations to be forwarded to tenants of commercial properties and (b) allow tenants of commercial properties the right to object to the proposed valuation?

Mr Hobbs (10/9/97):

- (1) While leases on individual titles may be registered in the Land Registry freehold lease registration is not compulsory. There is no search facility to allow statistics to be calculated for leases over commercial and industrial zoned lands.
- (2) The leasing agreement between landlords and tenants is a private commercial arrangement. Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 the owner is liable to pay the rates levied by a local government.
- (3) The quantum of rates would be one of many outgoing considerations in the private commercial arrangements between a landlord and a tenant. However, as previously mentioned the owner of the land is ultimately responsible for the payment of rates.
- (4) No. Only registered owners receive valuation notices and can object to a valuation because it is the registered owner who is responsible under statute for the payment of rates. Lessees are already able to obtain valuation details by searching the valuation roll.

972. Sale of Access and Camping Permits by Barge Operators, Fraser Island

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to allow Fraser Island barge operators to sell access and camping permits to visitors to the island—

- (1) What prompted this decision, and what contact did he or his office staff have with the barge operators Syd Melsham and Angela Burger in relation to this decision?
- (2) As these people are being paid a 15 per cent commission for selling these permits when the shop at River Heads is only receiving 10 per cent commission, is he aware of the disastrous financial effect this decision will have on this River Heads small business, and what consultation has occurred with this company?

- (3) Is any departmental office ceasing to sell these permits; if so, why and which one?
- (4) As the barge operators are not prepared to guarantee full compliance with permit possession by visitors, what level of additional compliance has been negotiated, and does he regard this as acceptable?
- (5) What will be the reduction in departmental revenue from Fraser Island permits as a result of this move and can he guarantee that the supposed additional compliance achieved will match or exceed this loss; if not, how does he intend to convince Treasury of the wisdom of this move?
- (6) Does he still believe the regional director "took a long time to resolve this matter"?
- (7) As the barge operators initially refused to sell the permits unless they gained a monopoly over all permit sales (including those by the department), can he give a guarantee that they will genuinely attempt to increase compliance, and what was offered to the operators to get them to shift from their original intransigent position?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): It is worth noting that the Honourable Member sat on his hands and held his tongue during the term of the Labor Government when the Great Sandy area was so badly mismanaged and millions of dollars mis-spent and wrongly allocated in an immoral vote buying exercise. Since the Coalition Government came to power he has been continually negative and critical in cheap political point-scoring, while the Government gets on with the job. I am advised:

- (1) The Department of Environment believes there will be greater convenience to visitors and increased visitor compliance with purchases of the required access permits if those permits were to be sold on the barges, with associated compliance checks. The arrangements were discussed and developed between regional officers of the Department and the barge operators.
- (2) The commission arrangements agreed are based on those already in place between the Department and barge operators accessing Moreton Island. Permits are sold from a number of other non-Departmental outlets, as well as the River Heads Store, which remains very well situated to attract Fraser Island visitors before they reach River Heads. The proprietor of the River Heads Store was advised at the time he was acquiring his business that the possibility of selling permits from barges was a continuing possibility.
- (3) No
- (4) The barge operators have agreed to check all motor vehicles on their barges to ensure that they are displaying valid windscreen permits, and to advise Departmental rangers on the island immediately, per telephone from the barge, if a vehicle has not complied.
- (5) It has long been evident from ranger patrols and a continuing series of concerns expressed by a number of tourism operators and constituents of the

Hervey Bay electorate that numbers of visitors do avoid obtaining the required permits. This is not surprising considering the size of the island, the many destinations, and the thousands of kilometres of roads on the island.

All permit revenue is returned direct to recreation management of Fraser Island, so the lost revenue by permit avoidance disadvantages all visitors.

The Department would not have pursued these arrangements if it was not confident of net benefits.

An arrangement whereby private industry conducts compliance checks is undoubtedly far more efficient and in the public interest rather than for example diverting rangers to formal check points at each barge landing location, 7 days per week, for all hours of barge operations.

(6) In relation to an extension of permit sales, I have been briefed on the extended discussions between Departmental officers and the barge operators, and am well satisfied regarding their conduct.

(7) Regional officers of the Department discussed potential arrangements with the barge operators over a period of several months, maintaining the consistent lines that no monopolies would be contemplated, and that compliance checks were an essential component of any potential agreement.

973. Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Riversdale-Murray Valley Water Management Scheme and the wholesale clearing of lowland forest habitat and flood plains around Euramo, south of Tully—

- (1) What is the total amount of taxpayer subsidy being contributed to this scheme and other projects associated with sugar cane farm expansion in this region?
- (2) What advice has the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority provided in relation to the potential impacts of this land clearing and drainage program on the ecological sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef?
- (3) Is he aware of the environmental audit of the Queensland Cane Growing Industry commissioned by the Cane Growers' Association; if so, does he acknowledge that report states that draining of wetlands and modification of the natural course of creeks should be banned in cane growing areas?
- (4) Is he aware that 36 per cent of farms in the region have modified natural water courses?
- (5) How are the current proposals for clearing and drainage consistent with the advice of the environmental audit, and what features of these proposals contribute to ecologically sustainable development?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

1. The Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme is part of the Sugar Industry Infrastructure

Package approved by the former State and Commonwealth Labor Governments in 1993. The Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package is an industry restructuring package which made available State and Federal funding in return for tariff reductions and other changes. Projects under this Package are generally funded 33.33% from each of Commonwealth, State and local contributions. Of the local contributions, an equal share is being contributed by the Cardwell Shire Council, Tully Canegrowers, Tully Sugar Mill and land holders in the scheme area.

The total cost of the Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management scheme is estimated at \$5.65 million with contribution from the two Governments amounting to around \$3.77 million.

2. The Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme is not a land clearing and drainage program. It is a Water Management Scheme.

It provides an opportunity for sensible development in line with ecologically sustainable development principles.

If not implemented, the development of agricultural land will continue, with no requirement for development to take downstream impacts into account.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority has provided a wide range of information on the project, and particular concerns are being addressed in the design of the Scheme. The Authority is on record as supporting the scheme provided there is satisfactory resolution of the Impact Assessment (IA) process and the concerns they raised being adequately addressed in the supplementary report.

3. Yes. I am aware of the audit which was commissioned by the proponents, namely the Queensland Canegrowers. Details of this report should most appropriately originate from the Queensland Canegrowers Association.

4. Development on the Tully Murray floodplain has been happening for more than 100 years.

The Government, through the Riversdale Murray Water Management Scheme is determined to ensure ongoing development will occur in line with ecologically sustainable development principles. One of the primary objectives shared by the scheme and ecologically sustainable principles which apply in this regard, is to restrict ad hoc modifications of natural water courses which have occurred in the past. This will help ensure continued agricultural development in the area is more ecologically sustainable.

5. The environmental aspects of the project are being addressed via the IAS process which requires the approval of the Department of Environment and Environment Australia at the Commonwealth level. The primary objectives of the scheme are all derived from a desire to apply ecologically sustainable development principles to this agricultural area.

974. Proceeds from Sales by Naturally Queensland Outlets

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to the trust fund the department operates to receive monies raised from the sale of posters, postcards, books etc., from its Naturally Queensland outlets, and some national parks—

- (1) Was a sum of \$150,000 recently drawn from this trust fund and transferred to Treasury; if so, why and when was this done?
- (2) Isn't the department supposed to retain these funds to fund the production of further similar items for sale, and to support some research projects?
- (3) How and when does he intend to make up the shortfall in this fund?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): (1) There is no such trust fund. No funds derived from the sale of posters, postcards, books, etc, have been transferred to Treasury in my term as Minister.

975. Brochures Regarding Changes to Juvenile Justice Act, Penalties and Sentences Act and Criminal Code

Mrs ROSE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (27/8/97)—

With reference to a memorandum to electorate officers from Paul Edwards, Senior Media Adviser to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, advising that a maximum of 500 brochures relating to recent changes to the Juvenile Justice Act, the Penalties and Sentences Act and the Criminal Code will be made available to each electorate office—

- (1) What is the total number of brochures to be distributed?
- (2) What is the cost of each brochure?
- (3) What is the total cost of production, printing and distribution for all the brochures?
- (4) Has any electorate office received more than 500 brochures?
- (5) Have copies of this brochure been distributed in any manner other than through electorate offices?
- (6) Is there any electorate in Queensland that has had more than 500 brochures distributed or available to residents?
- (7) Can Members of Parliament purchase additional brochures?
- (8) Have all electorate offices now received the allocation of 500 brochures?

Mr Beanland (23/9/97):

- (1) 50,000 copies of the brochures have been distributed.
- (2) Each brochure cost 19 cents to produce.
- (3) Total cost of production, printing and distribution of the brochures was \$9,639 plus normal postage and handling.
- (4) The following electorate offices received more than 500 brochures—Burleigh (530), Mansfield (1800), Springwood (600) and Toowoomba North (600).

(5) Yes. Brochures are being distributed throughout the courts system and through the Queensland Police Service. Brochures were also distributed at the 1997 RNA Government Pavilion in August. A total of 2,000 were distributed to Ministerial Offices.

(6) See (4).

(7) Yes.

(8) No. Not every office asked for 500 copies.

976. Youth Suicide

Mr FOURAS asked the Premier (27/8/97)—

With reference to his Youth Suicide Initiative which will result in 100 community networks across Queensland specifically to provide access, advice, education services, and better coordination—

- (1) Does he not realise that this will be ineffective unless he accepts (a) Government responsibility to provide youth employment support programs, a responsibility his Government abrogated by completely shutting the YES program, (b) that there is a serious lack of drug and alcohol detoxification centres and rehabilitation programs, (c) that there is a severe shortage of resources in the youth mental health, family support and child protection areas and (d) that the establishment of a common youth allowance will place an unnecessary burden on families and lead to an increase of dysfunctional relationships?
- (2) If he does not intend to address these issues, is he not in fact dumping the youth suicide problem onto the community to solve without attacking these serious structural problems which are leading our youth to a sense of alienation and hopelessness and, unfortunately, a sinister preoccupation with suicide?

Mr Borbidge (26/9/97):

(1)(a) The State and Commonwealth Commissions of Audit clearly identified that the provision of employment programs was a Commonwealth responsibility. The decision to withdraw from provision of employment programs represented a refocusing of the Government's activities to Vocational Education and Training and allowed the Government to make additional training places available for young Queenslanders, 16,000 in 1996/97 and a further 14,000 in this financial year. The Queensland Government's responsibilities are to contribute to the creation of circumstances which foster growth and development and to make sure that industry can access the skills it needs to grow.

Changes to the Industrial Relations System introduced earlier this year and changes currently occurring to the Training System will make the work place more flexible and responsive to Industry's needs.

The additional training places, the Government's Capital Works Program and other initiatives announced in the State Budget by the Treasurer further enhance prospects for employment growth.

The former Labour Market Programs worked from the basis that the needs of an individual could be shaped

to fit within one of a number of defined programs. In many instances what an individual ended up with was a short term job with no training and no future.

International and Australian research has shown that a one-to-one approach is more appreciated by job seekers than that just described. It is also more effective assistance because the real and enduring problems can be addressed.

The intensive employment assistance program introduced by the Commonwealth Government takes an approach which assesses the holistic employment and training needs of each individual and then designs a program of activities to meet those individual needs.

The Government in turn is meeting its responsibilities by providing safe, fair workplaces and creating an environment that is conducive to growth. The combination of our efforts will help unemployed people into sustainable jobs.

The Government will ensure that vocational education and training is of the highest quality, is flexible and adaptable, is more cost effective and is pivotal to a strong training culture in industry.

The Government has responded to the problems facing young people with a Whole of Government Youth Development Initiative. As part of this initiative the Department of Training and Industrial Relations will deliver a "Work Skills for Youth" program.

This program will build on the successes of the Young Offenders Program and provide training linked to real labour market opportunities to 250 young people aged 15-24. The Young Offenders Program has demonstrated that, if given vocational training that leads to real jobs, many young people who have previously been in trouble with the law change their way.

As a general rule, young people in real jobs with a future are less likely to get involved in criminal and other anti-social activities.

The theme for the Workskills For Youth program is for young people to achieve employment through training. It is an example of how this Government works with communities to resolve community problems.

(b & c) This Government, wherever possible, will work in partnership with families and communities, to support families as the primary and best source of support for children and adolescents. Enhancements in this area during the term of this Government have included:

The Queensland Government is the first government in Australia to establish an office of the Children's Commissioner. The independent Children's Commissioner:

- monitors and reviews the provision of children's services and makes recommendations for improving their quality, adequacy and effectiveness;

- deals with complaints from children, young people and adults and will assist them by seeking to remedy their grievances and promote their interests; and

- is responsible for establishing Appeals Tribunals to hear appeals of reviewable decisions specified in children services legislation.

The Family Support Services initiative is a component of the Family Care and Support Program (FACSP) and was established in 1996/97. The aim of this initiative is to strengthen families by providing assistance and support before problems become insurmountable. Family Support Services will complement the statewide Parentline and the services provided through departmental offices. The main target group is parents and care providers with children under 17 years of age.

\$3.1 million has been allocated over 3 years to establish the Family Support Services initiative. Funding is available under this initiative for approved community agencies to employ Family Support Workers. Thirty five services have been funded during the 1996/97 financial year and a comprehensive network of services is now being established across Queensland.

Funds from this initiative have allowed Family Support Workers (FSWs) to be employed and located in existing community organisations and therefore able to respond to particular issues concerning parents and families within that community.

Funding was provided in 1996/97 under the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP) to 19 services. This included funds of \$304,800 for Boystown National Community Projects to operate Parentline, a statewide, toll-free telephone counselling service established to assist parents.

The 1996/97 State Budget provided for increased allowances of up to 40% for care providers and other approved persons for the care of children placed with them. This initiative included increases in the basic allowance for care providers as well as the introduction of additional allowances for care providers caring for children with high support needs.

The Government has developed a range of responses to young people who have complex care and support needs including those with multiple disabilities, who are exhibiting severe behavioural difficulties, and are either at imminent risk of admission to care; or have been subject to multiple placement breakdowns, or are particularly difficult to place. These responses include individualised care packages which provide accommodation and 24 hour support and the establishment of five Assessment Services across the State.

Parent support programs have recently been funded to target young parents in particular. \$0.16 million was allocated to a pilot project based at Anglicare's St Mary's, Toowong, to support young women who are parents, and their children.

Funds of \$25,000 have also been made available to assist with a Queensland conference to be run by Lifeline and held in November 1997 on Suicide and Families which will explore the issues which lead to high levels of stress on families, children and young people in an effort to identify effective measures in assisting families to cope.

The 1996/97 State Budget designated \$1.07 million over three years for Out of School Hours Care programs for adolescents aged 13 to 15 years. This is over and above the \$4.3 million also announced in the 1996-97 State Budget as a three year commitment to upgrading outside school hours care facilities.

Two new initiatives, the Youth Support Coordinators and the Rural Youth Workers programs were announced under the Youth Services Development Grant in the 1996-97 budget:

\$834,000 was allocated to fund 22 Rural Youth Worker positions for each of three financial years;

\$750,000 was allocated to fund 13 Youth Support Coordinator positions for each of three financial years.

These positions provide invaluable youth support infrastructure both in rural and urban areas and enable the identification and support of at risk young people and their families.

To underpin the above a community information system has been developed to enable the public to gain access to information on disability, child care, youth, Seniors Card services and other departmental services through the Internet. Information on local services is available to all inquirers throughout the State. Development of this system has involved expenditure of \$120,000.

(d) In regard to the Common Youth Allowance, it is my understanding that the Commonwealth is seeking to streamline a number of allowances for young people into a one common allowance. This may simplify the process for those seeking allowances and assist young people and their families to access appropriate allowances.

(2) It is an obvious fact that youth suicide cannot be tackled as a problem in isolation. The Government has produced a comprehensive State Strategic Plan, Economic Development Strategy and a Youth Affairs statement as well as a Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy. Each document knits with the others to provide a comprehensive response to the expectations and major concerns of the citizens of Queensland and confronts the major structural problems which give rise to youth suicide.

Youth Suicide is but the tip of the iceberg and a manifestation of what has been termed "the wider malaise affecting today's youth". The Strategy is designed to stem the rising rate of suicide, attempted suicide, and serious self-harming behaviour among teenagers and young adults.

Various youth support programs and projects have already been launched by government agencies and non-government organisations (NGOs), but it is obvious that these cannot succeed in isolation. We need community networks to tackle the problem in a coordinated way across a wide front. These networks will form their "real life" views on what needs to be done by the community as a whole through parents, peer groups, NGOs, and government agencies working together. This is not a problem that is going to be solved by a few more publicly funded youth workers or an enhancement of institutional services. This is the whole point of having the Strategy with its focus on a holistic response to the causes and effects of the problem.

The Statement on Youth Affairs makes it clear that valuing youth, employing youth, supporting them in their health and well being, and involving them in community life are key issues for Queenslanders. The problem is not simple and it is not solved by the time-honoured method of funding a few more youth workers.

977. Public Housing, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (27/8/97)—

Will he advise (a) the number of public dwellings and units, by classification built in Bundaberg in 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and budgeted for in 1997-98, (b) the number of public dwellings and units purchased in Bundaberg for these years and (c) the resulting stock of public dwellings and units by classification in Bundaberg as at 30 June 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997?

Dr Watson (26/9/97): The table attached lists the public housing stock by classification for each year June 1994 to June 1997 which reflects construction completions, purchases, sales and demolition changes in Bundaberg.

978. Sunday Trading by Large Retailers

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Premier's statement that the Government will side with small business by opposing Sunday trading by large retailers—

- (1) What has he done to ensure that the Government puts forward the strongest case possible to the Industrial Relations Commission to ensure that large retailers will not be able to trade on Sundays?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking that small business will be protected and that large retailers will not be permitted to trade on Sundays?

Mr Santoro (25/9/97):

- (1) The Government has made it clear that it considers that small business is "doing it tough" and that extension of trading hours for large business is not in the interest of small business. Small business is an integral part of the Queensland economy and the position taken by the Government is important for the continuing viability of small business in

Queensland. The words of support have been supported by application to the Industrial Registrar for leave to be a party to the proceedings before the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, which has the legislative responsibility to determine trading hours.

Leave to appear has been granted.

The Government is committed to continued involvement throughout the hearing process and will consult with small business representatives during the course of proceedings and make submissions opposing the application which will affect small business not only in the area directly affected by the application, but also those areas adjacent to it.

I do not intend prejudicing the Crown's case by making details of it public before the hearing.

(2) Both the Premier and I have consistently said that the Commission is the appropriate body to determine trading hours and that this Government will abide by the umpire's decision.

979. Natural Heritage Trust Fund

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Environment (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Natural Heritage Trust Fund—

- (1) Is he setting up an advisory group to determine which projects gain funding from this trust fund?
- (2) What State Government departments are involved in this group and what environmental groups are involved?
- (3) What are the terms of reference for this advisory group?
- (4) Why wasn't the much vaunted EPCQ capable of handling this task?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97):

(1) Advice to Government on Natural Heritage Trust funding applications in Queensland is provided by a State Assessment Panel which in turn receives advice from five Regional Assessment Panels. These panels were originally established in 1991 to process applications for the Commonwealth's National Landcare Program. All have majority community membership and an independent chair.

(2) The membership and terms of reference of the panels are currently the subject of review following extensive public consultation which commenced in April of this year. The 1997 State Assessment Panel included representatives of the Queensland Conservation Council, Greening Australia (Queensland) Inc., the Queensland Landcare Council, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Queensland Farmers Federation, the Department of Environment, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Primary Industries Fisheries and Forestry, the Department of Local Government and Planning and the chairs of the Regional Assessment Panels.

(3) The terms of reference for the 1997 State and Regional Assessment Panels were as follows:

Provide advice on eligibility and priority of projects by:

giving priority to projects producing the best natural resource management, nature conservation, biodiversity and sustainable production outcomes;

reviewing progress and endorsing funding of eligible continuing projects which are making satisfactory progress;

ensuring all new projects which are recommended meet NHT guidelines;

advising on funding priorities within and between regional scale projects;

using a systematic, equitable, documented selection process which includes consideration of relevant expert and technical advice.

Encourage opportunities for projects to link positively with goals and activities of all NHT funded programs and other programs dealing with natural resource management, nature conservation, biodiversity management and sustainable production.

(4) The Natural Heritage Trust is directed at projects which integrate a broad range of environmental protection, sustainable agriculture and natural resource management outcomes. The Environment Protection Council of Queensland (EPCQ) has terms of reference specifically directed at activities within the Environment portfolio and has a particularly heavy workload to deliver advice in this area. To ensure that detailed attention could be given to the 797 project applications received this year covering the range and breadth of programs under the Natural Heritage Trust, specially constituted State and Regional Assessment Panels were considered to be more appropriate. The EPCQ, established by the Coalition Government, has been a most successful initiative. However, the Member is showing a lack of understanding of the role of this body in suggesting it should handle such a task.

980. Construction of Prisons

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to fulfil the pre-election guarantee 'that the Coalition will not be constructing any prison buildings closer to our suburbs than currently exist' and to resite SEQ1 and SEQW approximately two kilometres from resident's homes—

- (1) What will be the future use of the land on which SEQ1 and SEQW were to be sited prior to his capitulating to demands from local residents to resite the prisons?
- (2) Is it the intention that the land continue to be owned by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission?
- (3) Will he give a guarantee that no prison will now ever be constructed on the land which was initially intended for SEQ1 and SEQW?

Mr Cooper (17/9/97):

- (1) No decision on the final use of the Moreton A Correctional Centre land has been taken.
- (2) No decision on the future ownership of the QCSC land at Wacol has been taken.
- (3) It is not my intention to construct a Correctional Centre on the originally proposed site.

981. Construction of Prisons

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to fulfil the pre-election guarantee 'that the Coalition will not be constructing any prison buildings closer to our suburbs than currently exist' and to resite SEQ1 and SEQW approximately two kilometres from residents' homes and to his commitment to River Hills residents that the existing Moreton A and Moreton B prisons are to be demolished within a twelve month period—

- (1) Will he reiterate that commitment to demolish Moreton A and Moreton B within one year?
- (2) Will he give a commitment that no further prisons will be built in their place on the site on which Moreton A and Moreton B are presently located?

Mr Cooper (17/9/97):

(1) The original commitment to demolish Moreton A and Moreton B Correctional Centres was given on the proviso that the replacement prisons (SEQ1 and SEQW) were to be built on the Wacol Prison Reserve. That is no longer the case. However, the demolition of existing accommodation and some other infrastructure associated with Moreton A will proceed within a year of the 1999 completion of SEQ1 and SEQW. Moreton B is still a serviceable public asset. It has potential to be used as either the WORC headquarters or as a replacement for the West Brisbane Community Corrections facility. Following completion of SEQ1 secure prisoners will no longer be held at Moreton B.

(2) This is the last correctional centre to be built in the metropolitan area in the foreseeable future. Plans are under way for the construction of another male prison (SEQ2) and the Government will be considering expressions of interest from local authorities who have expressed an interest in having a correctional centre in their region.

982. Aboriginal Welfare Fund

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Aboriginal Welfare Fund and especially to a significant amount of work done by officers of his department in recent years to identify people who may have a legitimate claim on the fund—

- (1) How much money is currently held in the Aboriginal Welfare Fund and how is it administered?

- (2) How much, if any, of the fund has been expended in the calendar years 1996 and 1997 and what has this money been used for?
- (3) What efforts are currently under way to return money to those people who have a legitimate claim on the fund?
- (4) What does the Government intend to do with any balance in the fund, when will a decision be made and how will funds be disbursed and to whom?

Mr Lingard (8/9/97):

(1) As at 2 September 1997, the balance of the Aborigines Welfare Fund is \$6.9M.

The Aborigines Welfare Fund ("The Fund") forms part of the Public Accounts Central Ledger at Queensland Treasury where it is recognised officially as a fund of the Public Accounts under s.10 the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977.

(2) No monies have been expended from the Fund during the calendar years 1996 and 1997.

(3) In order for the Department to respond to an individual claim on the Fund or the Accounts, specific details should be forwarded to the Department. For example,

The amount being claimed and the reasons why this is owed;

Documented details regarding the claim such as employment details including dates of employment and amounts paid, and savings bank balances;

Any other relevant information that might verify the amount of money an individual believes is owed to them by the Department.

To assist individual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons to provide the Department with this information, an Aborigines Welfare Fund Records/Research Room has been established so that an individual or their representative may access and research records that may be relevant to their claim and which are held by the Department. Staff of the Aborigines Welfare Fund Branch will assist individuals or their representatives to access these records. Research assistance is not provided.

The Department has prepared a Location Guide, which outlines where records are located, and a Records Guide, which is a guide to Department records.

Records may also be held by a number of other agencies, including the Queensland State Archives and on various Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities.

(4) Before the Government is in a position to consider the future management of the Aborigines Welfare Fund the Department currently is researching the history of the Fund and the Accounts.

983. Police Resources, Boondall and Clayfield Police Divisions

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Boondall and Clayfield Police Divisions respectively—

- (1) How many operational police officers are/were based in these divisions in 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (2) What is/was the police:population ratio in each division for 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (3) What is/was the police:population ratio for Queensland for this same period?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) The Metropolitan North Region has been trialling the concept of Divisional Policing over these years and as such the organisational structure has undergone substantial changes. The organisational structure of the Boondall and Clayfield Divisions is such that all police officers attached to the divisions in the Metropolitan North Region are classed as operational police officers.

	Boondall	Clayfield
1994-95	76 (est)	80 (est)
1995-96	75	80
1996-97	82	94
1997-98 *	not yet determined	not yet determined

Based on actual police strengths at 30 June of each year.

*1997-98 staff allocations have not yet been determined by the Commissioner of Police. The Service is awaiting statistical information from the Government Statistician.

(2) The Metropolitan North Region has been trialling the concept of Divisional Policing over these years and as such the organisational structure has undergone substantial changes. The ratios have been calculated on the basis of actual police officers attached to the Boondall and Clayfield Divisions only. When considering policing services provided to the Divisions within Metropolitan North Region (including Boondall and Clayfield), the duties performed by officers attached to the Metropolitan North Support Functions and Regions Functions should be taken into account. Officers attached to all these functions perform operational duties throughout all divisions. In 1994-95 year it is estimated that some 113 officers were attached to the Metropolitan North Support and Region Functions. In 1995-96 year 132 officers were attached to Support and Region Functions. In 1996-97 year 80 officers were attached to Support and Region Functions.

The police:population ratio is as follows:

	Boondall	Clayfield	Region
1994-95	1:1126 (est)	1:875 (est)	1:579
1995-96	1:1183	1:883	1:584
1996-97	1:1121	1:759	1:583
1997-98 *	not yet determined		

(3) Police:Population Ratio for Queensland.

1994-95	1:521
1995-96	1:524
1996-97	1:524

1997-98 1:516 (estimated).

984. Police Beat Shopfront, Moorvale Shopping Centre

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (27/8/97)—

With reference to the proposal for a Police Beat Shopfront at Moorvale Shopping Centre at Moorooka—

- (1) What steps are currently being taken to progress this proposal as an important initiative in community policing?
- (2) Will he ensure that there is a full complement of police at the Moorooka Police Station so as to enable police to carry out their community policing responsibilities, including regular attendance at Neighbourhood Watch meetings?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) Forward planning, in relation to the need to establish new police stations and police beat shopfronts as well as upgrade existing police stations, is continually undertaken as a matter of Police Service process.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Metropolitan South Region, is presently conducting a strategic resource evaluation for the entire Metropolitan South Region. This evaluation is to include the future locations of police stations and police beat shopfronts within this Region. When this evaluation has been finalised, he will arrange a meeting with all Members of Parliament, who have electorates within the Region, to discuss any proposals arising from it. No decisions have been taken contrary to the advice provided to the Member in response to his question on this issue of 9 May 1997.

(2) Twenty-one (21) police officers are presently allocated to the Moorooka Police Station. Presently, there are four (4) vacancies, however two (2) surplus police officers are also presently allocated to this police station.

All police officers throughout the Metropolitan South Region are encouraged to attend to community policing functions, such as Neighbourhood Watch. Participation of police officers in Neighbourhood Watch is seen as an integral part of implementing the Commissioner's vision statement for the Police Service, i.e. "A Service dedicated to excellence and committed to working in partnership with the people of Queensland".

Whilst every effort is made to keep staffing numbers at Moorooka Police Station as near as possible to a full complement, leave, transfers, and promotions affect the maintenance of such a quota.

985. Construction of Dam, Seven Mile Lagoon Area

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/97)—

With reference to the Water Infrastructure Task Force report and, in particular, to plans for dams in the Lockyer Valley—

- (1) What plans does he have for a dam in the Seven Mile lagoon area between Lowood and Gatton?
- (2) When is work on this dam likely to start, and what funding has been set aside for the work?
- (3) What consultation has occurred with local residents, particularly those whose properties will be inundated, in recent times?
- (4) Was planning for this dam abandoned at some stage and then reactivated; if so, why?

Mr Hobbs (16/9/97):

(1-2) The Water Infrastructure Task Force received two submissions proposing the construction of an off-stream storage at Seven Mile Lagoon: one from the Atkinson Buaraba Catchment Landcare Group Inc; and one from the Department of Natural Resources. I understand that local consultation occurred during the preparation of these submissions which were based on preliminary technical assessments by consulting engineers.

The Task Force considered these submissions as part of its Statewide assessment of development opportunities. However, based on the estimated costs and returns for the proposal, compared with other proposals around the State, it was not accorded a priority for development within the next 15 years.

3. The proposal was not included in the Water Infrastructure Planning and Development Implementation Plan—1997/98 to 2001/02 which was endorsed by Government in June. Consequently, my Department has no plans to proceed with the construction of a storage at Seven Mile Lagoon. The Atkinson Buaraba Catchment Landcare Group Inc. have been advised accordingly.

4. The only planning and investigative work undertaken in relation to the Seven Mile Lagoon off-stream storage by the Department of Natural Resources was to develop a submission for consideration by the Water Infrastructure Task Force during 1996.

The assessment by the Task Force that the proposal submitted was not a priority for development by the Government within the next 15 years was the outcome of this process. That is, the planning process was advanced to a point where a decision about the future of the project could be made. No furtherance of the project was deemed necessary because of the decision by the Taskforce not to recommend this project for prioritisation over the next fifteen years.

It is understood that a group of local landholders may be seeking to develop a further proposal for development of an off-stream storage in the Seven Mile Lagoon area. However, the Department has not been involved with this group or its proposal at this stage.

986. South East Transit Project

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/8/97)—

- (1) What will be the impact on vehicle movements at interchanges at Mains Road, Marshall Road, Cornwall Street and Stanley Street on the South East Freeway when the eight lane Pacific Motorway project and the additional lanes provided by the South East Transit Project are fully operational?
- (2) In particular, what will be the impact on access at these interchanges during peak hours?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97):

(1) The operation of the interchanges nominated by the Honourable Member are under increasing pressure from the growth of traffic using this important corridor. This does not usually present any problems off-peak but the growth of traffic in peak hours and the spreading of these peaks will continue to present problems for these intersections, with or without the South East Transit Project. However, the South East Transit Project aims at combating the trend for increasing single occupant vehicle travel and declining public transport patronage by mode share and hence will provide a relative improvement to conditions at these intersections in the longer term compared with current trends.

(2) The South East Transit Project will not provide any instantaneous changes to the operations of the interchange in peak hours but, in the longer term, will provide relative improvements compared with the existing trend. Because of the South East Transit Project's emphasis on the movement of people, not just vehicles, the people moving capacity of the system will be greatly increased and the sustainability of the corridor will be substantially enhanced.

987. Upgrading of Bruce Highway between Boundary and Uhlmann Roads, Burpengary

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (27/8/97)—

With reference to the identification in 1995 by the Department of Transport of a need to upgrade the Bruce Highway between Boundary Road, Dakabin and Uhlmann Road, Burpengary to at least six lanes by the year 2000, and as significant local congestion around the highway's service roads in this area means that some of the present exits and entries to the highway are potentially unsafe, in particular the Deception Bay Road, Station Road and Uhlmann Road points—

Will he advise what the current plans and time-frame are for the upgrading of the main highway, intersections and associated roads in this vicinity?

Mr Johnson (16/9/97): Concept Planning was carried out by consulting engineers Maunsell Pty Ltd in 1995 on the future six-lane upgrading of the Bruce Highway between Boundary and Uhlmann Roads. As the Bruce Highway forms part of the National Highway Network, funding is generally provided by the Federal Government. The Federal Minister for Transport has given his approval for the planning and necessary land acquisitions for the Bruce Highway between the Gateway Interchange and Caboolture. This activity has a total approved allocation of \$5 million over the period to 1999-2000. This planning

activity will identify in greater detail the extent of future upgrading necessary in this area. This will enable Main Roads to be in a position to take advantage of any construction funding that is made available by the Federal Government.

988. Funding of Criminal Justice Commission

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (27/8/97)—

- (1) Is it correct that financing arrangements to the CJC have been altered such that all, or most, of the CJC funds are being allocated on a month-by-month basis?
- (2) What difficulties is this posing the CJC with respect to cash-flow and the CJC's ability to pay wages and accounts?
- (3) What other Government agencies have been changed to a month-by-month funding basis, or is this another example of the Government's political revenge against the CJC for daring to investigate the secret Memorandum of Understanding she made with the Police Union?

Mrs Sheldon (26/9/97):

- (1) & (2) The timing of grant payments is a matter for the Department responsible for providing the grants.
- (3) Government agencies and non-government organisations receive their funding on various bases—monthly, quarterly, in advance, in arrears, depending on the appropriateness of the timing of payments for the particular circumstances.

989. Promotion of State Schools

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Education (27/8/97)—

- (1) Has he seen the Courier-Mail supplements advertising and promoting private schools to parents of prospective students?
- (2) Why is the Education Department not promoting public schools in the same way?
- (3) Would he agree that there are many State schools of similar excellence?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Education Queensland is sponsoring presently the Out in Front media campaign which seeks to promote teaching in state schools as a rewarding profession. This promotion is supported by a dedicated information hotline which provides an information and referral service directly to the public. To date, there has been a strong and positive public response to this campaign.

Education Week, which is usually held in May each year, is another means by which Education Queensland seeks to promote the excellent work being done in state schools. Promotion for this event was achieved through statewide media coverage, including a high-profile feature in the Sunday Mail, and a range of public events such as shopping centre displays.

State schools are also encouraged to promote themselves wherever possible. The Leading Schools initiative will ensure that schools have the potential to compete on a level playing field with private schools, by ensuring the promotion of the many excellent educational opportunities available in state schools.

(3) Absolutely.

990. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Removal of "Dressers"

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (27/8/97)—

With reference to many elderly males who have atonal bladders following surgery for prostate and/or bladder problems and as these bladders need (a) emptying by catheter several times per day and (b) maintenance by dilation at regular intervals to keep clear of obstruction—

- (1) How many extra day surgery procedures have been created by the removal of "dressers" at the Princess Alexandra Hospital who used to perform this procedure (balloon catheter dilation) as a simple out-patient procedure without delay?
- (2) What is the waiting time for these procedures?
- (3) How many dressers and which hospitals have been affected?
- (4) Is he aware of the increased pain incurred during insertion of the catheter during these unnecessary delays?

Mr Horan (24/9/97):

(1) No patients have been added to the day theatre lists by the removal of 'dressers'. The proposal is to cease an out patients clinic which has previously been run by the dressers. Most patients will be dealt with in their own homes or nursing homes by the transitional care team. Only those who have difficult procedures will be done in the procedure room of the day surgery by a registered nurse.

(2) There is no waiting for these procedures as they will be done on a regular appointment or needs basis. The scheduling of the procedure room allows for this.

(3) Very few hospitals in Queensland have ever employed dressers. These functions are a recognised nursing core skill and the work is performed by registered nursing staff in the majority of Queensland Hospitals.

(4) Refer to (2) above.

991. Speed Cameras

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to reports that the introduction of speed cameras is resulting in Queenslanders paying up to \$1.2m per week in speeding fines—

- (1) Is all of this \$1.2m attributable just to the 8 speed cameras currently in use?

- (2) To what will this unexpected cash bonanza be diverted?
- (3) How much are the extra shifts and additional temporary staff that have had to be put on to clear the backlog of speed camera fines costing the Police Service per week?
- (4) Does he still maintain that the introduction of speed cameras to Queensland is not just a revenue raising exercise, or can he point to an equally impressive drop in road fatalities or accident incidence as a result of this introduction?
- (5) Doesn't this enormous cash windfall prove that speed cameras are not acting as a deterrent to speeding drivers?
- (6) Are senior police astonished by this cash windfall?
- (7) Does he stand by his praise of speed cameras when they showed less than 2 per cent of drivers exceeded speed limits?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97): It is extremely disappointing that the tenor of these questions indicates a grossly irresponsible attitude towards road safety in general and a callous indifference to the suffering caused to innocent victims by reckless drivers.

However the answers to these facile questions are as follows:

- (1) It was originally estimated that revenue from speed camera fines for their first year of operations would be in the vicinity of \$30 million. However, speed camera detection rates are considerably lower than was first expected. The following is a breakdown of results for the three month period May to August:

Month: Tickets Issued—Cameras in Operation

May: 2,712—3

June: 5,904—3 cameras operating until 23/6 and then 8 cameras for the remainder of the month

July: 10,851—8

August: Detections for the month of August are still being processed—8 cameras operating until 18/8 and then 10 for the remainder of the month

With fines averaging \$100 per infringement notice, the amount of revenue being generated by speed cameras is far less than the figure suggested by the media.

It must also be remembered that Section 44T(1) of the Traffic Act 1949 deals with the use of penalties collected for camera detected offences. It states:

All money collected for penalties imposed for camera detected offences in excess of the administrative costs of collection must be used for the following purposes:

- (a) road safety education and awareness programs;
- (b) road accident injury rehabilitation programs; and
- (c) road funding to improve the safety of the section of State controlled roads where accidents most frequently happen.

- (2) See above.

- (3) The average weekly overtime cost over a period of eight weeks is \$2419.14. Part of the management and budgetary process of speed cameras was the introduction of additional staff and resources as further cameras were introduced. This course of action is consistent with the original implementation process.

The employment of staff and resources is an administrative cost and as such this expense is met from the penalties imposed for camera detected offences.

- (4) It is anticipated that speed cameras will have a significant impact on reducing injury accidents and road fatalities. To date Queensland Transport have not released any statistics on the impact of speed cameras due to the short time frame cameras have been in use.

In addition, since the very unfortunate death of Constable Gill whilst working radar on the Bruce Highway near Caloundra, the use of slant radar by police on dual carriageways where the speed limit is in excess of 90 kph has been stopped. This policy was effective as from 10 January 1997. In accordance with workplace health and safety issues, this Government has a 'duty of care' and the introduction of speed cameras has allowed police to effectively police dual carriageways in a safe working environment.

With the detection rate of speeding drivers passing speed camera sites at 2.44 percent for the first three months of operation, the speed camera program is achieving this Government's objective to change the attitude of motorists towards speeding.

- (5) As previously stated in the response to question (1), the amount of fines being generated from speed cameras is far less than reported in the media. The low incidence of motorists being detected is very encouraging and is testimony to the fact that the speed cameras are deterring many motorists from speeding. The detection rate has dropped from 10% during the moratorium to its present rate of approximately 2.44%.

- (6) I am advised that senior police are extremely pleased with the results of the speed camera program to date. Relatively low detection rates and anecdotal evidence suggests that motorists have slowed their driving which will surely have an impact on reducing injury accidents and carnage on our roads.

- (7) Approximately 2.44% of vehicles checked by speed cameras are travelling at a speed which would result in an infringement notice. This is evidence that speed cameras are achieving an effect of reducing the travel speed of many drivers. The use of speed camera enforcement, coupled with appropriate education and publicity, is producing positive results in deterring drivers from speeding. It is too early yet to determine the net effect of speed cameras on the road toll. Queensland Transport will undertake extensive research and analysis in due course to gauge the effect of the speed camera program on serious and injury accidents on our roads.

992. Public Housing, Redcliffe

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/8/97)—

- (1) What is the total number of units of public housing in the Redcliffe Electorate?
- (2) How many units of public housing have been commenced and completed in the Redcliffe Electorate since 1 March 1996?
- (3) How many units of housing in the Redcliffe Electorate have been purchased by the department since 1 March 1996?

Dr Watson (29/9/97):

- (1) As at 30 June 1997, there were 950 units of public housing in the Redcliffe Electorate.
- (2) In relation to public housing construction commencements and completions, from 1 March 1996 there were 17 construction commencements in the Redcliffe Electorate, of which 1 dwelling was completed before June 30, with the remainder to be completed in the 1997-98 financial year.
- (3) My department purchased 4 public rental dwellings in Redcliffe Electorate from 1 March 1996 to 30 June 1997.

993. North Ipswich Railway Workshops

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/8/97)—

With reference to plans to establish a Rail Heritage and Technology Museum on the site of the North Ipswich Railway Workshops—

- (1) When will the last of the workshop operations be moved to Redbank?
- (2) How many Queensland Rail employees are to remain at North Ipswich in order to maintain the site for the museum project?
- (3) What funds and other resources are being made available by QR for the museum project?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of the project?
- (5) What other financial support will be made available through the Queensland Government to establish this important heritage project?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97):

- (1) Air Brake and Refrigeration Shops will be transferred in October 1997 completing the transfer of operations to Redbank.
- (2) It is anticipated that between 40-60 employees will remain at Ipswich supporting the 'Steam Train' upgrade, blacksmith work and a few miscellaneous elements which will not be transferred to Redbank.
- (3) Queensland Rail has allocated funding to appoint a consultant to seek expressions of interest from the market towards the redevelopment of the North Ipswich yards including the Australian Rail Technology Centre.

Funding has also been committed towards the preparation of a land use study for the development of the entire North Ipswich site.

The amount of future funding by QR towards the project will be decided after more detailed analysis of

the outcomes of the land use and marketing studies have been completed.

(4) Preliminary estimates indicate a minimum cost of \$15 million is required to proceed with the Australian Rail Technology Centre. A clearer estimate will be known after preferred design for the centre and surrounding areas has been agreed.

(5) Financial support for this project will be determined after consultation with the people of Ipswich, the Council, QR and the Government.

994. TAFE Queensland, VERS

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (28/8/97)—

With reference to redundancies being offered to TAFE staff—

- (1) Who is being targeted by the department to receive redundancies under the Voluntary Early Retirement Scheme (VERS)?
- (2) What criteria is being used to determine who is eligible to receive VERS?

Mr Santoro (29/9/97):

(1) TAFE Queensland is offering VERS to teachers, wages and public service staff as it reassesses its business focus requiring TAFE to review its current staffing levels and mix.

VERS are being applied where surplus positions have been identified and expressions of interest called or where individual employees have become surplus to requirements through their position being redundant.

(2) The criteria under which TAFE Queensland employees are offered a VER are built on a business case and made in accordance with the Public Sector Management Standard for Organisational Change.

The VERS being offered in relation to teaching, wages and public service positions are as a result of the duties and functions of these positions being identified as no longer needed in the current form, and hence redundant. Other avenues, including redeployment and/or retraining, are explored together with the offering of VERS.

995. QEII Hospital, Staff Resignations

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health (28/8/97)—

With reference to press reports that key medical staff have resigned from QE II Hospital—

Will he reassure Parliament and the residents of the region that all possible steps will be taken to replace staff who leave as a matter of urgency to keep up patient care, and that inquiries will be made to ensure that dissatisfaction does not play a part in staff leaving QE II Hospital?

Mr Horan (24/9/97): Three doctors have decided to move from QE II Hospital for the purposes of career advancement, not staff dissatisfaction. Queensland Health would not consider hindering these doctors' personal career decisions. The important role these doctors played during the redevelopment of the QE II Hospital is

very much appreciated and they are wished every success in their future careers.

The change over of medical staff has not compromised patient care and the following actions have been taken in relation to the filling of these positions:

Interviews for the Medical Superintendent position were held on Friday 22 August 1997 and an announcement regarding the new appointee is expected before the end of September 1997. In the interim, there has been an Acting Medical Superintendent.

Following the departure of the Director of the Emergency Department, QE II Hospital has restructured the position and from 13 October, 1997 will have a Director of Critical Care Services, in charge of the Level one Intensive Care Unit, Emergency Department and the observation beds.

Interviews for the Director of Medicine will be conducted in mid-September 1997. The current Director of Medicine initially came to QE II Hospital for 12 months but is remaining longer, approximately 16 months, to work with senior District staff, including the District Manager, to ensure a suitable replacement is found.

Also, it is important to note the Coalition's numerous improvements, made at the QE II Hospital since coming to power in March 1996.

These achievements include:

A \$11 million capital works allocation to refurbish the hospital, including redevelopment work to upgrade outpatients, allied health areas, refurbish hospital foyer and day surgery. This extensive redevelopment program also includes increasing the number of operating theatres from four (4) to six (6), refurbishment of the CSSD, establishment of a preadmission clinic, upgrading of the rehabilitation treatment area and establishment of a new 30 bed medical ward. About \$1 million of this capital works allocation was provided for the relocation of the aged care services unit, and improvements to community health and breast screening facilities.

A \$9.5 million recurrent funding increase in the Coalition's 1996/97 State Budget.

A \$6.103 million recurrent funding increase in the Coalition's recently announced 1997/98 State Budget.

A recent announcement of \$450,000 of new money specifically earmarked to assist the hospital in reducing elective surgery waiting lists.

Opened an acute 30 bed medical ward, providing 24 hour, 7 day-a-week service with appropriate medical officer support.

Opened a new 24 bed short Stay Ward.

Opened a new Day Therapy Centre.

Opened the upgraded five (5) bed Intensive Care Unit with the ability to ventilate patients for short periods and treating many patients

who would previously have been transferred to another Brisbane tertiary hospital.

Opened the upgraded Emergency Department, with now accepts major injuries, acute cardiac conditions, serious fractures, workplace injuries and drug and alcohol related conditions

Addition of another rehabilitation unit to complement the existing neurological rehabilitation unit.

Re-equipped the Radiology Unit.

Opened the new state-of-the-art Urology Services Unit.

QE II Hospital staff numbers have increased by 164 full-time equivalents, including an increase to 54 full-time equivalent doctors and specialists and 193 full-time equivalent nurses. This has included the employment of 33 additional full-time equivalent doctors and over 102 full-time equivalent nurses.

Staff increases in a number of key specialities since September 1996 include:

Division of Surgery

Nurses: increased by 38 full time equivalents

Doctors: increased by 17 full time equivalents

Division of Medicine

Nurses: increased by 64 full time equivalents

Doctors: increased by 16 full time equivalents

Division of Allied Health

Physiotherapists: increased by 3 full time equivalents

Speech Pathologist: increased by 1 full time equivalent

Occupational Therapists: increased by 1.5 full time equivalents

Occupational Therapy Assistant: increased by 1.5 full time equivalents

Other support staff increases since September 1996 included an additional 17 full time administrative officers and 3 full time executive staff officers

Appointed a Director of Surgery

Commenced a new ophthalmology service.

The new specialist services offered by the hospital since the redevelopment include intensive care, gastroenterology, cardiology, respiratory and ophthalmology.

QE II Hospital now has 161 beds available for use at the hospital, with the number of admissions at the hospital increasing by three (3) times within 12 months. At one stage during 1995 under the previous State Labor Government QE II Hospital had only nine (9) beds occupied.

In January 1997 QE II Hospital had a total of 443 admissions with 1,526 occupied bed days.

By June this year (1997) this number had increased to 823, an increase of 380 admissions, with 3,186 occupied bed days.

I believe, that the Coalition Government's commitment to the QE II Hospital now stands for the entire community to see and the numerous improvements we have made at this hospital are now very much on the public record. QE II Hospital is now back in business, staff morale has returned and the community is now once again proud of this wonderful hospital.

996. Wahrenonga

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/8/97)—

With reference to the plan to build 16 new pensioner units to replace the 54 units and cottages at Wahrenonga—

- (1) Will the residents have their new units cleaned and have three meals a day provided, as is currently the case?
- (2) Will he confirm that the new accommodation will be free to residents as he stated in the Maryborough Chronicle on 13 August, and I quote, "You will have bigger, better accommodation and it will not cost you anything"?
- (3) Will he confirm that additional units to the 16 new units will also have services and conditions as currently provided to elderly residents such as meals, cleaning and emergency alarm?

Dr Watson (29/9/97): It is disappointing that the Member appears to be trying to alarm residents at the centre by suggesting that they will lose services or have to pay more, particularly when he conspicuously failed to have the Labor government of which he was a member do anything about the sub-standard condition of the accommodation of his constituents at Wahrenonga.

- (1) The Department of Health currently supplies these services to the existing tenants in the existing senior unit cottages, not the Department of Public Works and Housing. The Department of Public Works and Housing will supply the standard public sector senior unit accommodation with respect to the new 16 units.
- (2) The current tenants in the existing cottage accommodation pay a weekly rent to the Department of Health for the accommodation, services and care they receive. When the residents move to the new accommodation, they will not pay any more than the current rental they pay and this will be paid to the Department of Health.
- (3) This issue falls within the responsibility of the Minister for Health.

997. QEII Hospital, Surgical Procedures

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Health (28/8/97)—

- (1) What are the numbers of surgical operations and, separately, day surgery procedures

performed at the QE II Hospital on a monthly basis for the year ending June 1997 and for July 1997?

- (2) What are the relevant categories of surgery for the total procedures ie. orthopaedic, ENT, gynaecological and so on?

Mr Horan (24/9/97):

- (1) The breakdown of these activity statistics can be found in the attached table.

It is important to note the Coalition's numerous improvements, made at the QE II Hospital since coming to power in March 1996.

These achievements include:

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(2) Refer to (1) above.

998. Mt Archer National and Environmental Parks

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment (28/8/97)—

With reference to the Mt Archer National and Environmental Parks and general Berserker Mountains area—

- (1) What portion of Mt Archer is currently gazetted as national park?
- (2) What portion is gazetted as environmental park?
- (3) What areas are reserved as forestry leases?
- (4) Are there any plans to have these relinquished?
- (5) Does he intend to have the entire Mt Archer area gazetted as a national park; if so, when?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

- (1) There are two protected areas in the Mt Archer area. These are:

Mt Archer National Park of 3 610 ha; and

Mt Archer Resources Reserve of 638 ha.

- (2) There is no longer an environmental park at Mt Archer. The previous Mt Archer Environmental Park was regazetted as Mt Archer National Park in 1994. An additional area that was previously part of Timber Reserve 46 was added to Mt Archer National Park in 1996.

- (3) Timber Reserve 46 now covers an area of approximately 1 921 ha of the Berserker Range.

- (4) This Department has no current proposals to have any leases or permits relinquished.

- (5) There is no certainty about future gazettals in this area and no dates have been set. In addition, the type of protected area that may be gazetted will depend on resolving the issues of native title and mining.

999. WorkCover

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (28/8/97)—

With reference to master-servant personal injuries claims and their administration by WorkCover—

- (1) Where a Court judgment is obtained by a plaintiff in excess of the amount of the plaintiff's offer to settle (and where WorkCovers' lawyers have previously recommended acceptance and the insured employer recommended rejection) is the additional contribution being recovered from the insured employer; if not, why not?
- (2) Without the necessity of providing identifying information, for each master-servant common law claim that went to trial in the District Court in Brisbane, Toowoomba, Ipswich and Rockhampton in the last year (a) what was the amount of damages ordered to be paid by the defendant to the plaintiff exclusive of costs, (b) what was the final offer to settle by the plaintiff, (c) was this offer recommended for acceptance or rejection by the legal representatives of WorkCover and (d) what was the final offer to settle made by WorkCover on behalf of the defendant?

- (3) What methods has WorkCover employed to insure that (a) its retained legal representatives and (b) insured employers in cases where they are allowed to decide on the acceptance or rejection of any offer are held responsible to WorkCover for any increased charges/payouts that WorkCover incurs as a result of inappropriate recommendations on the making, acceptance, or rejection of settlement offers?

Mr Santoro (29/9/97):

(1) WorkCover is responsible for the final decision regarding common law proceedings. Employers may provide advice regarding the matter however WorkCover retains conduct of the matter. No monies are recovered from the employer in this situation, because a workers' compensation policy provides full indemnity to an employer.

(2) This information is not readily available.

(3) WorkCover retains and monitors solicitors in those areas where writs are served. Employers are not given the final decision making powers regarding common law proceedings. Again, as I have stated earlier, WorkCover has conduct over these matters and has, as prescribed by the WorkCover Queensland Act 1996, the final decision on common law proceedings.

1000. Police Beat Shopfront, Strathpine

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to community safety in Kurwongbah—

Will he explain why the offer by Westfield to provide shop space rent free for the establishment of a Police Beat Shopfront at Strathpine has been rejected?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97): In July 1997 a proposal for the establishment of a Police Beat Shopfront was forwarded by the State Leasing Manager, Westfield Shopping Centre Management, to the State Co-ordinator, Police Beat Shopfronts for consideration.

Westfield Shopping Centre Management's proposal centred around the establishment of a temporary Police Beat Shopfront in the former St George Bank branch. These premises were to be utilised for a period of approximately eighteen (18) months, after which time it would be relocated to yet to be identified new premises at the completion of planned extension works at the Shopping Centre.

The proposal was for the cost of the initial fit out of the temporary Police Beat Shopfront and subsequent relocation and fit out to the proposed new Police Beat Shopfront to be met by the Queensland Police Service. The cost of each Police Beat Shopfront fit out is substantial and varies depending on the dimensions of each location.

The Police Beat Shopfront budget for the financial year 1997/98 is \$1.4 million. Taking into account recurrent costs for the existing 25 Police Beat Shopfronts, a surplus of approximately \$300,000 remains for the development of new Police Beat

Shopfronts and upgrading of existing facilities throughout the State.

The Queensland Police Service is in the process of developing a priority list, according to need and demand, for 1997/98 in relation to future Police Beat Shopfront development. A final decision on the future placement of Police Beat Shopfronts is dependent on the finalisation of this priority list. The actual number of shopfronts established will, in turn, be dependent on set up costs and availability of residual funding.

It is with these factors in mind that the Queensland Police Service has decided to hold determination of the proposed Police Beat Shopfront at Westfield, Strathpine, in abeyance pending the identification of a suitable permanent location.

1001. Government Apprenticeships Department

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (28/8/97)—

With reference to all Government departments and Statutory Authorities (including Government owned corporations and Government business enterprises) respectively—

(1) How many new apprentices were engaged or commenced during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

(2) How many new apprentices are to be engaged or commenced for 1997-98?

Mr Santoro (29/9/97):

(1) During the period 1995-1996, 399 apprentices and 499 trainees commenced training with Government departments and Statutory authorities. In 1996-1997, 233 apprentices and 514 trainees commenced training with Government departments and Statutory authorities.

(2) As a major employer, the State Government accepts its responsibility to train its workforce. This is both an economic and social responsibility. Within this context I have requested my Ministerial colleagues to ensure that previous apprenticeship and traineeship commencements are maintained.

1002. Police Resources, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

(1) What are the staffing levels for the Bundaberg Police District for commissioned and non-commissioned officers at 30 June 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997, including all positions and vacant positions as at those dates?

(2) How many police staff members were on sick leave as at those dates?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) As at 30 June each year:

YEAR	*INSP	S/SGT	SGT	S/CON	CONST	TOTAL
1994	1	2	25	35	30	93
1995	1	2	25	31	31	90
1996	1	2	24	28	28	83
1997	1	2	23	29	36	91

*plus an additional Inspector as R.D.O.

As at 30 June each year:

VACANCIES—NUMBER

1994—9

1995—11

1996—12

1997—6

- (2) 1994—1 member on sick leave.
 1995—5 members on sick leave, including 1 on alternate duties.
 1996—2 members on sick leave, including 1 on alternate duties and 1 on long term sick leave.
 1997—6 members on sick leave, including 1 on alternate duties and 3 on long term sick leave.

1003. Land Clearing, Tully Region

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (28/8/97)—

With reference to the wholesale clearing of lowland forest habitat and flood plains around Euramo, south of Tully—

- (1) How much land clearing, and at what rate is clearing occurring in the delta of the Hull, Tully and Murray Rivers?
- (2) Is this part of the so-called Riversdale-Murray Valley Water Management Scheme?
- (3) Will this involve lowering the water table on some 3,400 hectares of existing cane fields, and allowing for a further expansion of 3,600 hectares of existing cane field, and allowing for a further expansion of 3,600 hectares?
- (4) Is the cane industry, State-wide, devouring 20,000 hectares a year for expansion; if not, at what rate is expansion occurring?
- (5) Why is expansion being allowed in the lowlands south of Tully, which include remaining patches of mahogany glider habitat and habitat for endangered cassowary?
- (6) Does he acknowledge that even Barretts Lagoon area, the site of the rediscovery of the mahogany glider in 1989, will become part of the drainage network provided by the scheme?

Mr Hobbs (18/9/97):

(1) Currently there are no tree clearing permits that have been issued for leasehold land in that area. The majority of land included in the area is freehold. I have recently approved Local Tree Clearing Guidelines which will cover leasehold land in this area when and if application for clearing is made. I understand the Department of Environment in the past has undertaken surveys of land clearing and details of this survey are most appropriately dealt with by the Minister for Environment.

(2) The Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme does not involve wholesale clearing of land. It is a water management scheme.

(3) The direction of the question is confused as there is no clear delineation as to what the Honourable member is referring to—be it tree clearing activity or the scheme itself. However I presume the

Honourable Member is referring to the proposed management scheme. The proposed Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme will limit drain depths to a maximum of one metre to avert the possibility of lowering the water table.

Without the proposed scheme there would be no control on the depth of private farm drains, as has been the case in the past.

(4) Expansion of the sugar industry is managed under the Sugar Industry Act 1991, which the previous State Labor Government introduced. It was then and still is administered by the Minister for Primary Industries to whom this question is subsequently best referred.

(5) Questions regarding the Mahogany Glider and the Cassowary are best referred to the Minister for Environment.

(6) Barretts Lagoon and the surrounding area are part of the natural hydrological network of the floodplain and will remain so. This lagoon is at the downstream end of the Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme.

Barretts Lagoon is recognised for its aquatic values and for its hydrological effects within the floodplain system. The Riversdale Murray Valley Water Management Scheme will provide a mechanism for protecting those values. It is concentrated on water management rather than drainage. The scheme includes the restoration of a previous flow path, with resultant benefits to fish migration and habitat.

1004. Class Size Statistics

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (28/8/97)—

- (1) Will he provide class size statistics (State-wide and by region) for 1996 and 1997 as follows (a) pupil/teacher ratio and number of oversized classes for years 1-3, (b) pupil/teacher ratio and number of oversized classes for years 4-7, (c) pupil/teacher ratio and number of oversized classes for years 8-10 and (d) pupil/teacher ratio and number of oversized classes for years 11-12?
- (2) Will he provide these statistics for (a) primary single teacher, single level classes, (b) primary single teacher, composite classes, (c) primary multiple teacher, single level classes, (d) primary multiple teacher, composite classes, (e) secondary English classes and (f) all single teacher, single subject secondary classes?

Mr Quinn (3/10/97):

- (1)
- (a) July 1996—23.3
February 1997—23.4
- (b) July 1996—26.9
February 1997—27.2
- (c) 1996—23.2
- (d) 1996—18.3

Please note:

Regional information in relation to these queries is being compiled and is not yet complete.

An analysis of the primary classes above target size for February 1996 shows that 2.6% were above target size for reasons other than school choice.

An analysis of secondary classes above target size for February 1995 shows that 0.7% were above target size for reasons other than school choice.

To reduce the administrative burden on schools, schools have been spared the task of identifying the reasons for classes above target size. Advice from regions is that the staffing situation is similar to previous years.

The secondary class size statistics for February 1997 are not yet available due to a change in collection methodology. As for primary schools, advice from regional offices is that the secondary class size situation is similar to February 1996.

(2)

- (a) The average class-size for primary single teacher, single level classes is 25.4.
- (b) The average class-size for primary single teacher, composite classes is 21.8.
- (c) The average class-size for primary multiple teacher, single level classes is 19.6.
- (d) The average class-size for primary multiple teacher, composite classes is 21.
- (e) The average class-size for secondary english classes in 1996 was 23.5.
- (f) The average class-size for all single teacher, single subject secondary classes in 1996 was 21.6.

1005. Shelters for the Homeless

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (28/8/97)—

With reference to his assurances early in 1996 that he would clean up the streets of Cairns, and to his announcement in June 1996 that \$200,000 would be made available for the establishment of a night shelter, and to his statement in November 1996 that the shelter was to open soon, and the subsequent claim by his Parliamentary Secretary that there was now a "light at the end of the tunnel", and as the only tangible change in the situation in relation to homeless persons in Cairns in the 20 months of this Government has been the closure of the Bama Diversionary Centre—

Will he advise when the light will become a reality?

Mr Lingard (25/9/97): My commitment of \$200,000 recurrent funding for a night shelter in Cairns remains absolute. Design work for a shelter in Quigley Street is complete and construction is expected to begin shortly. Construction costs will be met by Department of Public Works and Housing through the Crisis Accommodation Program. The new shelter will commence operation in February or March 1998. It is envisaged that a Cairns Diversionary Centre will be operational again in mid October 1997.

1006. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Mr WELLS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (28/8/97)—

As at the date that this question is answered, and since the motion of no confidence in him, how many times has he exercised the functions of First Law Officer in respect of (a) granting indemnities, (b) being consulted by the DPP regarding the commencement of prosecutions or the granting of a nolle prosequi, (c) applications for a fiat, (d) making a determination in respect of a charitable trust and (e) any other First Law Officer function in respect of which he cannot by convention be directed by Cabinet?

Mr Beanland (23/9/97): From 20 August 1997 to 22 September 1997 I have granted two indemnities and initiated six appeals. No other decisions of the type referred to have been taken.

1007. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (28/8/97)—

With reference to the coal-loading terminal at Dalrymple Bay—

- (1) Is he aware of dust and noise nuisance caused by the terminal to neighbouring Hay Point residents?
- (2) How much has the Ports Corporation of Queensland spent on (a) dust and noise monitoring, (b) purchasing land and houses at Louisa Creek and (c) building unsightly bund walls?
- (3) Does he consider that the Parliamentary Public Works Committee made any relevant recommendations in this regard in its inquiry into the stage 3 expansion of the coal terminal; if so, which of the recommendations does he intend to act upon?
- (4) What benefits will this have for the residents of Hay Point and Louisa Creek, in particular?
- (5) Instead of spending money on efforts to "prove" that the nuisance does not exist, would it not be better to spend money on enclosing all conveyor belts, surge bins and other operational areas and wetting down coal stockpiles?
- (6) What technology now exists to reduce motor noise on conveyor motors and idlers?
- (7) What sensible reason is there for not insisting that the state of the art noise reducing technologies be applied?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97):

- (1) I am aware that a number of people who live close to the coal loading facilities at Hay Point have complained of dust and noise. These complaints have been thoroughly investigated by the Department of Environment and the operators of the facilities.

(2) Your questions regarding expenditure by the Ports Corporation of Queensland would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Transport.

(3) The two terminal operators have recently been issued with licences under the Environmental Protection Act by the Department of Environment. These licences contain conditions designed to, among other things, embrace the recommendations of the Parliamentary Public Works Committee.

(4) Each licence requires an Integrated Environmental Management System which will provide a solid basis for the management of impacts from the terminals. This improved management and technology will have obvious benefits over time for affected residents of Hay Point and Louisa Creek.

(5) It was necessary to carry out investigations into the causes of the environmental nuisances so that appropriate technology could be applied. I am informed that through the Integrated Environmental Management Systems, best environmental management practice is being applied at the terminals. This will allow progressive management of noise, water and air quality impacts and result in continuous improvement of the local environment.

(6) Low noise idlers and conveyor motor shrouding can assist to reduce conveyor operational noise. These technologies are being progressively installed at both terminals to assist in reducing the noise levels that are currently causing offence.

(7) I am informed that the current actions are using so called state-of-the-art noise reducing technology. This technology is being applied in a responsible way to these operations over time. Monitoring and reporting programs are in place to allow priorities in this area to be periodically assessed and any changes necessary to protect impacted communities will be adopted, also in a reasonable way.

1008. Southedge Road; Mr G. Quaid

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/8/97)—

With reference to moves by Mr George Quaid to have his infamous Quaid Road opened for public use—

- (1) What contact has he, his office or his department had with Mr Quaid over this road and what was the nature of Mr Quaid's representations?
- (2) What undertakings have been given to Mr Quaid by him, his office, or his department with regard to this road?
- (3) Does he believe Mr Quaid is correct in his belief that, because of the wording in his original agreement with the National Party, he can claim the \$25m costs involved in the road's original construction and maintenance since; if not, why not?
- (4) Does he believe that opening the Quaid Road would put a major traffic load on the section of the Cook Highway between Wangetti and Buchan Point, with implications for road safety

and access to Douglas Shire to the north; if not, why not?

- (5) Does he personally support the opening of this road to the public; if so, why?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97):

(1) Mr Quaid has approached departmental staff on a number of occasions over several years to discuss Southedge Road. The main outcomes sought by Mr Quaid were to ensure that departmental staff were aware of his long-term development proposals for the Southedge property and of the current condition and status of this road.

(2) No undertakings have been given to Mr Quaid with respect to this road other than to indicate that any consideration of the future of Southedge Road should take place within the framework of the Far North Queensland 2010 regional planning activities.

(3) Cabinet decision of 24 August 1987 authorised the construction of a road through State Forrest 1229 and Timber Reserve 315 to link the Peninsula Developmental Road and the Captain Cook Highway, north of Cairns.

There was an Agreement with the Conservator of Forests (representing the State) and Southedge Daintree Pastoral Company Pty Ltd for construction of the road. This Agreement provided, amongst other things, that the company would meet all construction and maintenance costs; that neither party would oppose the opening of the constructed road for public use; and that the Agreement would cease if the road was dedicated to public use.

(4) A detailed study would need to be undertaken to assess the impacts on the Captain Cook Highway of opening this road for public use.

(5) As indicated in my response to Question on Notice 1291 of 27 November 1996, raised by Member for Cook, Mr Bredhauer, I do not support the opening of Southedge Road for public use at the present time.

I have also made my position very clear in a recent media announcement.

1009. Dredging, Noosa River

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Environment (28/8/97)—

With reference to proposed dredging of the Noosa River estuary—

- (1) Has any application been received by the Government for dredging of the Noosa River; if so, what is the nature of the application, and what is the purpose of the dredging?
- (2) How much and how often is it proposed that sand be dredged?
- (3) What studies have been carried out by the Government, or any other person, regarding the likely effects or environmental impacts of proposed dredging?
- (4) What options has the Government considered to minimise estuarine damage, should dredging occur?

- (5) Has the option of pumping from Laguna Bay been considered; if not, why not?
- (6) Has the Government approved any application for dredging; if not, does it intend to?
- (7) What are his answers to questions 1 and 4 above, in respect of any similar situation affecting the Maroochy River estuary?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

- (1) Yes. To supply sand for replenishment of the southern beach area of Noosa Spit.
- (2) A maximum 100,000 cubic metres, permits remaining in force until 14 July 1999.
- (3) Computer modelling has been carried out by the Beach Protection Authority.
- (4) Monitoring will be carried out. Reference was made to a study undertaken in south-east Queensland in determining licence details, as well as ANZECC Guidelines. Limitations have also been placed on the permits with regard to fisheries resources.
- (5) A previous trial with regard to this option proved unsuccessful.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) The Maroochy Shire Council has received a consultant's report on the option of dredging, but I am advised no decision has been reached by the Council.

1010. Excise

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (28/8/97)—

With reference to an article in the Bulletin magazine on 2 September by Laurie Oakes in which the \$5 billion excise tax problem was discussed—

- (1) Was there only ever one plan put in place in anticipation of the High Court decision and was this plan put in place in Federal/State discussions well in advance of the High Court decision?
- (2) Was this plan not changed in even the slightest detail after the Premier's discussion with the Prime Minister?
- (3) Is it also true that as Mr Oakes claims "the Premier misunderstood the scheme"?
- (4) Is it also true that, as Mr Oakes claims, all the Prime Minister did in the phone conversation "was explain to an apparently slow-on-the-uptake Borbidge how the scheme worked"?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97): (1) to (4) Given the financial implications to State Budgets arising from an adverse decision in *Ha and Lim -v- NSW and Walter Hammond and Associates Pty Limited -v- NSW*, the States and Territories entered into discussions with the Commonwealth in the period prior to the decision on 5 August 1997 on appropriate mechanisms that may apply after the decision. These discussions canvassed a number of options for safety net arrangements.

Subsequent to the High Court decision, further extensive negotiations have been undertaken with

the Commonwealth Government and with industry to refine the safety net arrangements.

In these discussions, the Queensland Government has always sought an outcome that was in the best interests of all Queenslanders.

There will be no need for price increases in liquor or petroleum products in Queensland, with minimal price impacts for tobacco products, as a result of the implementation of the safety net arrangements. Importantly, Queenslanders will continue to benefit from the "no State fuel tax policy" of this Government.

1011. Water Supply, Gayndah

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Environment (28/8/97)—

With reference to the water supply for the township of Gayndah—

- (1) Is a new water purification plant being installed to serve the water supply needs of Gayndah?
- (2) What is the cost of this plant and what proportion of the cost is being paid by the Government (Queensland taxpayers)?
- (3) Is this plant being installed because of threats to the town water supply from pesticide runoff from surrounding farm lands?
- (4) What water quality inspection has been undertaken on the town water supply and what are the results of such testing?
- (5) Are tests being undertaken specifically to assess the extent of pesticide contamination of the town water supply; if not, why not and when will such tests be undertaken?
- (6) What capacity does the Burnett River have to support any additional fruit farming expansion in the region?
- (7) Have environmental flows of the river already been seriously depleted, and does he concede the environmental integrity of the river will be destroyed within five years unless there is a dramatic change in the current water use practices in this area?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97): (1) This matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of my colleague, the Honourable Howard Hobbs MLA, Minister for Natural Resources, to whom this question should be directed.

1012. State Crime Commission

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to his comments on the ABC's Anna Reynolds program on 26 August, where he said, "just as I did with the police powers, the public will be very heavily involved in discussion as far as the State Crime Commission is concerned"—

- (1) Do his comments mean that he will be holding a series of public forums in major Queensland centres throughout Queensland in the same

format as those which he held in relation to the police powers legislation?

- (2) Where will public forums be held?
- (3) On what dates will he be holding public forums?
- (4) Will Bob Bottom be accompanying him?
- (5) Will the Opposition be invited to participate in public consultation?

Mr Cooper (25/9/97):

(1) A series of public forums will be held in major centres throughout Queensland in a similar format to those held for police powers.

(2) and (3) Please refer to attached.

(4) No.

(5) Public consultation is an open invitation to all members of the community to contribute.

1013. Regional Libraries

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (28/8/97)—

With reference to the pre-election promise of the then Opposition Leader Rob Borbidge of an extra \$5m for Queensland regional libraries—

- (1) Why has she failed to honour this promise?
- (2) What steps has she taken to ameliorate the damage to regional library services caused by the cuts in the 1996-97 budget?
- (3) Does she intend to honour this pre-election promise during the term of this Government; if so, when and in what way?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97):

(1) I am delighted to report that this Government has delivered the best funding outcome for public libraries in a decade. The Coalition Government has committed \$1.7 million each year for the next three years to public library grants, resulting in an overall increase in the funding quantum of \$5.1 million by the year 2000. The Premier's pre-election promise has indeed been honoured.

(2) Regional library services have received increased assistance in several ways. There will be a major drive to connect public libraries to the Internet, totalling \$2.3 million in funding over the next three years, and the State Library has been funded to run Internet training courses in regional Queensland. The Coalition Government has also committed \$300,000 in recurrent funds to develop and deliver innovative library and information literacy programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in far north Queensland. I am pleased to announce that indigenous Australians will be employed as a result of this initiative, which has received widespread, enthusiastic recognition.

The Library Board will be introducing a new system of innovation grants to encourage public libraries to adopt new technologies and to facilitate the development of library services for geographically, socially and economically disadvantaged Queenslanders. For the first time, public librarians have access to relatively untied funds for innovation

and upgrading of services. In a separate advance, the Government has allocated a further \$1 million towards the replacement of the State Library's computer mainframe, benefiting both library users and the 94 libraries using the QUOLLS library management system.

(3) Our state is gaining in stature in the Australian library profession. All Queenslanders will benefit from our very substantial injection of funding to the State Library, honouring our pre-election promises.

1014. Electronic Navigation Charts

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (28/8/97)—

With reference to the requirement of the Federal Government that mariners purchase software from private companies before purchasing CD-ROMS for marine charts—

What action is his department taking with the Federal Government to ensure that software is user-friendly and able to be used by Queensland mariners in the interest of sea safety?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97): The Maritime Division of Queensland Transport has been following the development of electronic charts and specifically the progress made by the Federal Government—namely the Royal Australian Navy's Hydrographic Office (RAN).

The RAN initially began investigation into an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS) in response to its international obligations to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for safe navigation. Compilation of Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs) for ECDIS to international standards is the RAN's goal and it has embarked on a major project to fast-track this initiative. However, to satisfy the growing demand for electronic charts in the short term, the RAN released a raster chart series called "Seafarer", which is a digital reproduction of the paper chart on CD-ROM. When combined with appropriate "user-friendly" navigation software, Seafarer provides an inexpensive, real-time navigation capability.

To ensure that the Seafarer data is used correctly, the RAN set minimum display standards for the chart data and is licensing compliant companies. As the RAN's data is encrypted and relates specifically to the mariner's system, they must first purchase their navigation software before obtaining their permits for Seafarer charts.

Seafarer charts are available for all of Australia and can be purchased singularly or in packs.

Maritime Division has been approached by local companies to include the Queensland Boating Safety Chart series on a local CD-Rom. Private enterprise should undertake the hardware and software development and under licence from Queensland Transport would also be required to meet hardware and software standards for "user-friendliness". The standards would also include safeguards, such as encryption, so that the scanned charts cannot be tampered with and rendered unsafe.

In liaison with the RAN, Queensland Transport will formulate standards for scanning the Queensland Boating Safety Chart series. Indeed, with both the RAN CD-Rom charts and, at a later date, Queensland Transport's CD-ROMS charts all available on different hardware and software platforms which meet the required standards, the safety of Queensland mariners will be greatly enhanced.

1015. Turnbull Fox Phillips

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (28/8/97)—

- (1) Did his department recently award a public relations contract to consultants, Turnbull Fox Phillips?
- (2) Is this the same consultancy which was also recently awarded a public relations contract by the Government's communications division, CITEC, which also falls under his control?
- (3) Were these contracts awarded following public tenders?
- (4) What were the winning tender prices?
- (5) What are the activities being undertaken?
- (6) Is this the same consultancy which was sacked by the Treasurer in 1996 for non-performance in relation to the Suncorp-Metway merger at a time when he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer?

Dr Watson (29/9/97):

- (1) My department awarded a contract for a Communications Plan for the Housing Program to Turnbull Fox Phillips on 18 June 1997.
- (2) CITEC, a business unit of my department, has awarded two contracts to Turnbull Fox Phillips in the 1997 calendar year.
- (3) In all cases, the requirements of the State Purchasing Policy were adhered to. In two cases, offers were sought from three firms.

The other case was less than \$10,000 and only one bid was sought.

(4) Housing Program—\$17,525 (Stage 1); \$23,460 (Stage 2)

CITEC—\$22,667

CITEC—\$2,981

(5) Activities being undertaken were:

Housing Program—Draft communication program, portfolio of communication tools, presentation kits, etc.

CITEC—Promotion of CITEC's SAP Bureau Service

CITEC—Media release for CITEC's teaming agreement with MINCOM

(6) This falls within the portfolio of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts.

1016. TAFE Queensland

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (28/8/97)—

With reference to his support, on the night of 27 August, for an amendment which acknowledged the extreme unrest amongst TAFE staff caused by his incompetent handling of the portfolio and his support for immediate action to "address the uncertainty in TAFE Colleges across the State (caused) by the direct funding cutbacks and re-allocations" as he imposed the cutbacks and re-allocations on TAFE—

What immediate action will he be taking to solve the problems that he has now admitted to creating?

Mr Santoro (29/9/97): (1) Contrary to the claims of the honourable member for Chermide, this Government has not created any alleged problems concerning TAFE Queensland. In fact, when the Coalition took over the reins of Government in March 1996, it was well recognised that TAFE Queensland was seeking direction, support and leadership. TAFE Queensland has achieved significant progress under this Government but unfortunately the Opposition has yet again chosen to ignore these successes and refused to give credit where credit is due.

The issue of extreme unrest amongst TAFE staff does not accurately reflect the views of the many dedicated TAFE staff who are keenly responding to the rapidly expanding and changing vocational education and training market.

TAFE Queensland recognises that during this period of rapid change, there are staff who are having difficulty adjusting to the new direction. In response to this need, TAFE Queensland is currently allocating 2.5% of its salaries budget to the provision of training programs to enable staff to gain the new skills required to enhance services provided to industry and the community. Claims of so-called vicious funding cut backs are unfounded. In fact, TAFE Queensland greatly exceeded its revenue targets by 18% in 1996-97, generating more than \$121 million through revenue generation activities.

The TAFE Queensland Recurrent Budget is expected to increase. The budget estimates include growth in revenue earned. This is, in fact, the element of the TAFE Queensland budget which will expand further as TAFE becomes more successful in the competitive market. TAFE Queensland is expecting to increase its total revenue by at least 5% per annum.

A feature of the TAFE Queensland budget which is often overlooked, is revenue earned through commercial operations. TAFE Queensland has consistently outperformed budget in Revenue Retention Receipts over the past few years. Actual receipts for 1995-96 were \$11.5 million greater than budget and \$18.8 million greater than budget for 1996-97.

Clearly, then the concerns raised with respect to TAFE Queensland represent an amalgam of misinformation and misunderstanding. TAFE Queensland is a dynamic organisation with a dynamic and committed staff who are working in a rapidly changing training environment to ensure the best training possible for Queenslanders.

1017. Leading Schools

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Education (28/8/97)—

With reference to the leading schools proposal in which there is likely to be an increase in the number of teachers on contract, and as schools will no doubt maintain those teachers in short supply, e.g. maths and science, on their permanent staffs—

- (1) How then can he guarantee that the teaching profession will maintain (a) their professional standing in the community and (b) the security to conduct normal financial transactions, e.g. borrowing for home loans?
- (2) How can he guarantee this contract class will not be predominantly made up of women?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

(1) & (2) The Leading Schools program will not impact on the number of teachers in short supply, the number of temporary engagements, nor the gender of teachers employed.

Each year the Department has some difficulty in staffing some schools in rural/remote areas, particularly in certain subject areas such as maths/science. However, out of approximately 29,000 teaching positions, the Department would only have difficulty in placing teachers in less than 50 positions.

Temporary engagements are utilised to retain vacancies in the preferred locations, enabling the Department to transfer teachers who have served a number of years in rural/remote locations.

(2) Approximately 68% of the teaching workforce is female. Therefore there can be no guarantee that this gender representation would not occur with temporary engagements.

1018. Construction of Prisons

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to fulfil the pre-election guarantee 'that the Coalition will not be constructing any prison buildings closer to our suburbs than currently exist' and to resite SEQ1 and SEQW approximately two kilometres from residents' homes, and to his promise to residents some months ago that land at the rear of the affected River Hills premises would be landscaped and a bike track and shrubbery provided, and given that the new siting of SEQ1 and SEQW will also be visible from some residences in the River Hills area—

- (1) Will he give a commitment that this landscaping will proceed?
- (2) What form will landscaping take?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

(1) The landscaping for the purposes of buffering will proceed. However, as the correctional centres have moved to a new site the landscaping has also been relocated to achieve the best effect for neighbouring properties.

(2) The landscaping will be in the form of earth berms with tree plantings on the berms.

1019. One Nation Party

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (28/8/97)—

With reference to the presence in Beenleigh on the night of 27 August of more than 30 police equipped with riot equipment to protect a meeting of Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party at which Mrs Hanson was not present nor were any protesters—

- (1) On what basis of threat were so many police allocated to protect this meeting?
- (2) What was the cost of police overtime for this operation?
- (3) What is the Government's policy on allocation of police protection to branch meetings of political parties?
- (4) How many residents of Logan/Beenleigh were waiting for police assistance while police were protecting the One Nation branch meeting?

Mr Cooper (22/9/97):

(1) Only three (3) police attended the meeting; no extra police in the Logan District were rostered on for the meeting. Rostered police from Beenleigh, Logan, Slacks Creek, Browns Plains and police from Public Safety Response Team attended a briefing at the Beenleigh Police Station at 1800hrs in the event of possible protesters. Protesters had attended similar meetings at Mt Gravatt and Bulimba and public disorder occurred. After the briefing, all police except for the three police who attended the meeting, performed traffic enforcement duties in the Beenleigh Division. At no time were patrols issued with riot equipment for these duties.

(2) No overtime was incurred. All police were directed to return to normal duties at 2000hrs, when it was obvious that no protesters were in attendance.

(3) The Queensland Police Service has an obligation to the community to maintain public order and safety. In order that this obligation is fulfilled, strategies are implemented based on intelligence driven information. The Police Service does not discriminate in relation to the nature of the event and is committed to ensuring public safety.

(4) No resident of Beenleigh/Logan was disadvantaged as a result of the meeting, as all crews had resumed normal duties at 2000hrs.

1020. Mr F. Jackson; Commonwealth/State Relations

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Premier (28/8/97)—

With reference to an article in the Bulletin of 2 September by Laurie Oakes which quotes a letter from his media adviser, Frank Jackson, referring to a dishonest briefing from the Prime Minister's Office—

- (1) How are Queensland's interests being served by describing the Prime Minister's office as being dishonest?
- (2) Did Mr Jackson have his approval to send this letter to Laurie Oakes; if not, will he sack Mr Jackson for unnecessarily damaging relationships between Queensland and the Federal Government?
- (3) Is it permissible for his adviser to use abusive and four letter language in correspondence to journalists?

Mr Borbidge (29/9/97): (1-3) I am advised that the letter in question was intended as a background briefing to Mr Oakes and was not for on the record reporting. I do not believe that relations between the State and the Commonwealth have been affected in any way by the reporting of this matter.

1021. Education Capital Works Program

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Education (28/8/97)—

- (1) What is the nature and cost of (a) maintenance projects and (b) capital works projects carried out or planned at each school in the Everton Electorate?
- (2) What are the starting dates and projected completion dates of each of these maintenance and capital works projects?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): (1) & (2) Maintenance at schools is divided into two types, Planned and Unplanned Maintenance.

Planned Maintenance accommodates projects identified through a condition audit, as well as projects that have to be undertaken at regular intervals. For example the testing of fire hoses etcetera.

Unplanned Maintenance is for unforeseen events that occur at schools throughout the year, (eg. fire, vandalism, break and enter, and small maintenance issues such as broken locks). Due to the very nature of Unplanned Maintenance, identification on a project basis is not possible.

At this stage Planned Maintenance for schools in the Everton Electorate is as listed below, however it does not include the testing of fire hoses, etcetera, as these are undertaken by contracts, each of which covers many schools.

Planned Maintenance at the Albany Creek SS (a Leading School)

The School receives an allocation for its planned maintenance with the projects to be undertaken being at the discretion of the school. Hence information on Planned Maintenance projects at this school are unknown at this time.

Planned Maintenance at the remaining schools

Planned maintenance at these schools is currently the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and Housing, with the delivery of the program being through Q-Build.

Completion dates for these projects have not been determined. It should be noted that the listed projects are part of a state-wide program and are subject to change at any time throughout the one year life of the program.

SCHOOLS	BUILDING	DESCRIPTION	EST START	EST COST
Albany Creek SS and Preschool(Leading School)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Currently being determined
Albany Creek SHS	Student Centre (WIC 20974)	External Repaint	15/11/1997	\$10,543
Everton Park SS	Tuckshop (WIC 21185)	Replace Laminated Bench Tops	15/02/1998	\$4,025
Everton Park SS	Tuckshop (WIC 21185)	Internal Repaint	15/04/1998	\$1,035
Everton Park SS	Swimming Pool (WIC 21185)	Maintenance of Pool	Not Known	\$40,882
McDowall Preschool	Unit 1 (WIC 21592)	External Repaint	15/03/1998	\$5,276
Mitchelton Special School	Main Block (WIC 20205)	Replace Carpet to Rooms 1,2,3,4,5,6	01/07/97	\$18,466
Mitchelton Preschool	Unit (WIC 21589)	Repairs to downpipes	01/07/1997	\$977
Mitchelton Preschool	Unit (WIC 21589)	Replace ceiling tiles	01/07/1997	\$678

For details of the capital works program, please refer to the attached schedule.

1022. Exclusion of Domestic Animals from National Parks

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to the Cattlemen's Union Annual Conference in Toowoomba at which their resource management committee chairman said, "locking domestic animals out of fragile pastoral lands was a recipe for ecological disaster"—

- (1) Does he support these comments; if so, why?
- (2) If the potential for wild fires was the basis for these comments, is he satisfied that the current fire management policies and practices of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service are sound and working; if not, what weaknesses has he identified?
- (3) Who conducted the "four years of monitoring at Lakefield National Park" that were referred to in this address, and what were the results?
- (4) Does he agree with the contention made at the conference that this monitoring had resulted in "a living example of the fallacy that all will be well if you remove the domestic animals and the European invaders"; if so, why?
- (5) Is this monitoring at Lakefield part of the argument being used by Stanbroke Pastoral Co. to extend their grazing lease on Diamantina Lakes National Park, and does he support their argument?
- (6) Is he considering allowing grazing on Queensland's national parks; if so, why?

Mr Littleproud (26/9/97): I am not aware of any such comments, particularly of the context in which they were made.

1023. School Capital Works Projects, Rockhampton Electorate

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Education (29/8/97)—

With reference to capital works at schools in the Rockhampton Electorate—

- (1) How much will be spent in 1997-98?
- (2) What projects will be completed in 1997-98?
- (3) What is the cost and completion date of each of these projects?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

- (1) \$537,000
- (2) (i) Multi-purpose Covered Area—Glenmore State High School
- (ii) Additional Storage and Resource Room—Glenmore State School
- (3) (i) The current budget for this project is \$490,000 and the anticipated completion date is 31 March 1998.
- (ii) The current budget for this project is \$50,000 and the capital works programmer component was completed in July 1997.

1024. Recreation Reserve, Mount Molloy

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Natural Resources (29/8/97)—

With reference to the unlawful establishment of a pistol range on the public recreation reserve at Mt Molloy and his instruction some five months ago to the pistol club to remove its improvements from the reserve—

- (1) Why then is the area still fenced off, complete with signs, warning the public not to enter a public reserve?
- (2) What action has been taken to relocate the pistol range?
- (3) Has he been approached to reverse his decision on this matter; if so, on what basis and by whom?
- (4) What action has been taken to identify a management intent for the Mt Molloy reserves, based on the objectives and community expectations put forward in the RPAC regional framework and by reports and studies done by the Department of Environment in Cairns?
- (5) When can the community expect resolution of this issue and the establishment of proper management of the strategically and intrinsically valuable Mt Molloy reserves?

Mr Hobbs (10/9/97): (1-5) The Honourable Member asked the same question in Question on Notice 660 on 5 June 1997 and I refer him to my Answer published in Hansard on 19 August 1997 at page 2818.

Since that time my Department of Natural Resources has written to Mareeba Shire Council and the Pistol Club advising of the Department's leasing requirements for the club's improvements and a safety zone area.

Recently a draft trustee lease covering the club's improvements has been submitted by the Council's solicitors for "in principle" approval and an application has been received from the Pistol Club's solicitors for a Permit to Occupy over the safety zone. These applications are currently being considered by my Department.

1025. Kessels Road and Mt Gravatt/Capalaba Road

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/8/97)—

Will he take the 'Dangerous Goods Status' off Kessels Road and Mt Gravatt/Capalaba Road now that the Southern Bypass is opened; if not, why not?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97): Kessels Road and Mt Gravatt/Capalaba Road will retain the 'Dangerous Goods Status' they have at present. It will continue to be necessary for dangerous goods to be transported on these roads to serve the needs of Rocklea and the surrounding area for both business support and transport logistics reasons.

The opening of the Southern Brisbane Bypass is expected to result in a reduction of the number of heavy transport and dangerous goods carrying vehicles using these roads and further this Dangerous goods traffic will be encouraged to use the Southern Brisbane Bypass where appropriate.

1026. Annual Income, Logan Motorway and Southern Bypass

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/8/97)—

- (1) What is the current annual income from tolls on the Logan Motorway and the Southern Bypass?
- (2) What are the annual volumes of traffic, broken down by vehicle type and by toll booth?
- (3) What are the projections for these figures for five and ten years time?
- (4) When will the debt be paid off on both motorways?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97):

- (1) The Logan Motorway in its new configuration and the Southern Bypass have only been in operation since May 1997, hence annual income is not available.

However, projected revenue for the 12 months to June 1998 is \$18.43 million for both Logan Motorway and Southern Bypass.

- (2) Similarly, annual traffic volumes are not available. However, the most recent weekly figures are:

	Cars	Trucks	Total
Loganlea	78,226	8,172	86,398
Staplyton	89,541	12,035	101,576
Kuraby*	58,184	9,236	67,420
Total	225,951	29,443	255,394

* New toll plaza on Southern Bypass

- (3) Projections for total weekly traffic are as follows:

2002371,231

2007496,790

- (4) Based on predicted traffic growth and interest rates, current financial modelling indicates that the combined debt for Logan Motorway/Southern Brisbane Bypass will be paid off in 2014.

1027. Teachers

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Education (29/8/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that many female teachers who were disadvantaged during their careers by lower wages and discriminatory superannuation provisions are now in dire financial straits?
- (2) How many such female teachers are still employed by the department?
- (3) Will the department prepare a response for those female teachers who have been disadvantaged by the department's policy and are still employed?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97):

- (1) I am aware that the practices of the past may well have had an adverse impact on the financial situation of particular groups of female teachers who have already retired or who are approaching retirement at this time.

For many years the employment practices for female teachers differed from those for males in relation to: the policies governing recruitment, placement, promotion and remuneration. There appears to be direct linkages between the differing practices and

prevailing societal expectations of the roles played by men and women over the years.

During the period from 1860 to 1967 salaries for female teachers ranged between 75% and 90% of that paid to similarly employed males. The factors that influenced this salary disadvantage, for females included: economic and community expectations of marriage and families as well as the non-recognition of their careers.

Similarly, female access to adequate superannuation was also hampered by the rules which did not allow for patterns of broken service caused by marriage and child rearing responsibilities. These rules tended to affect female teachers much more than male teachers and were considered of little consequence as the prevailing attitude was that most women were dependent on their husbands for financial security.

- (2) An accurate statistical picture of female teachers who were disadvantaged during their careers by lower wages, broken employment conditions and superannuation provisions is difficult to obtain because of the lack of easily accessible data, with an additional problem that personal data is difficult to verify. In some cases there has also been a reluctance by employees to disclose personal information. Female teachers in the over 40 years of age category, in particular, may have been affected by lower wages and/or the prerequisite for continuous service to access full superannuation benefits. A myriad of factors would need to be kept in mind in relation to analysis of any data in relation to those teachers who fall in this category and therefore, again, it is difficult to ascertain exact numbers.

- (3) Over the past 25 years, a number of employment equity initiatives have been introduced to improve the employment condition of female teachers. Since 1969, women have been able to retain their teaching positions upon marriage; equal rates of pay were phased in over a four-year period starting in 1968; equal zonal allowances were brought in; and discriminatory practices in the areas of superannuation entitlements and teacher accommodation were abolished. Since the introduction of the Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Act 1992 (QLD) this Department has ensured that all policies, practices and procedures are equitable and non-discriminatory. Recent Enterprise Bargaining arrangements have brought about improved conditions for workers with family responsibilities, bringing benefits, particularly to women. The introduction in 1996 of paid maternity leave is a clear example of such an improvement.

1028. Police Resources, Maryborough

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/8/97)—

With reference to the long line of promises of more police for Maryborough dating back to prior to the last State election and to the latest promise of 20

new police for the region on 20 May as reported in the Fraser Coast Chronicle—

Will he explain to the citizens of Maryborough where those 20 new police are currently stationed?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97): The Maryborough Police District has received the following new positions since the release of the updated staffing Model in November 1996:

Establishment— Positions
Hervey Bay Water Police—1
Maryborough Prosecution—1
Maryborough Scenes of Crime —1
Maryborough Traffic—1
Maryborough District Community Liaison Officer—1
Maryborough Station—3
Hervey Bay Station—5
Maryborough District—9 First Year Constables

1029. Excise

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/8/97)—

With reference to the result of the Commonwealth increasing excise on fuel, liquor and tobacco and agreeing to hand over this additional revenue to the States as compensation for the loss of State taxing powers arising from a recent High Court decision—

What is the Queensland Government's estimated payment from the Commonwealth in respect of its additional excise on (a) fuel, (b) liquor and (c) tobacco sold in Queensland?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97): Before subsidy payments to industry, Commonwealth payments to Queensland, representing the full year effect of increases in excise on fuel and tobacco products, are estimated to be \$486M and \$567M respectively, while the payment representing an increase in the wholesale sales tax on liquor products is expected to be \$177M.

1030. Public Housing, Cook Electorate

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (29/8/97)—

(1) Will he provide details, including cost, location, housing type, start date and date of occupancy of all units of public housing constructed or approved for funding in the Cook Electorate in 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?

(2) What are the details of subsidy and/or funding for other bodies, including local government and community housing organisations, to provide housing in the Cook Electorate for the same financial years as in (1) above?

Dr Watson (29/9/97):

(1) In response to the Member's question the following information is provided:

Year	Dwelling Type	Dwellings	Total Cost
1993-94	Detached Houses	2	
	Apartments	6	
	Total Dwellings	8	\$1,047,389.00
1994-95	Detached Houses	5	
	Duplex Units	8	
	Senior Units	6	
	Dual Occupancy	2	
Total Dwellings	21	\$3,255,474.00	
1995-96	Detached Houses	6	
	Total Dwellings	6	\$867,399.00
1996-97	Detached Houses	3	
	Apartments	8	
	Duplex Units	2	
	Total Dwellings	13	\$1,364,427.00

(2)

Year	Crisis Accommodation Program	Long Term Community Housing Program	Community Rent Scheme
1993-94	\$11,500.00	\$566,249.00	N/A
1994-95	\$15,498.00	\$70,000.00	\$137,205.00
1995-96	\$14,040.00	\$415,000.00	\$664,915.00
1996-97	\$957,040.00	\$5,857,085.00	\$945,651.00

Final allocations for 1997-98 will not be available until the end of this financial year.

1031. Primary Industries Department Land, Salisbury

Mr FOLEY asked the Premier (29/8/97)—

With reference to Government deliberations concerning the future of Department of Primary Industries forestry land at Evans Road, Salisbury—

- (1) Is he aware of community concern over the possible sale of this land for the construction of a plastics factory and resultant loss of amenity for local residents?
- (2) Is he aware of the role of the forestry site as a buffer zone between local residents and nearby industry?
- (3) What is the estimate of the cost of re-locating the DPI forestry complex to another site?
- (4) Would not such a re-location prejudice the access by DPI forestry staff to university research expertise?
- (5) Will he give an assurance that this land will be retained as a DPI forestry site?

Mr Borbidge (29/9/97): The Government is giving due consideration to an approach by a Queensland owned and Brisbane based international acrylic company EGR, which occupies an adjacent site, to purchase 50 Evans Road Salisbury to allow expansion of its existing operations and to facilitate the introduction of a significant import replacement process.

As a direct result of the introduction of this import replacement process, which will allow the company to continue to compete successfully both within Australia and overseas, EGR plans to significantly add to its current level of 500 employees.

The Government is mindful of the concerns of local residents. It is understood that the Brisbane City Council has negotiated conditions for an acceptable rezoning application directly with EGR which includes a significant buffer zone and retention of the perimeter trees on the site. If a contract is entered with EGR the normal rezoning under the Brisbane City Council would need to be successfully completed.

In the event that negotiations between the Government and EGR result in an acceptable contract of sale, the Government will ensure the continuation of the excellent work undertaken by Forestry Research Facility in support of the timber industry at a nearby site.

The Government does not believe it would be appropriate to stand by and not support a most successful Queensland owned and Brisbane based manufacturing plant, that exports to over 30 countries and claims 80% of the automotive acrylic parts in Australia, in its endeavours to reduce its reliance on imported raw material and to expand and provide jobs for Queenslanders.

I am aware that a petition supported by the Honourable Member has been presented to the Speaker.

Yes.

There has not been a full design and costing for any possible relocation at this stage.

No. Any relocation of the Forestry Research Unit would be considered for a site nearby which would allow the same access by DPI staff to university research expertise.

I refer the Honourable Member to the above statement.

1032. Child Protection Strategy

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (29/8/97)—

With reference to his statement to the Parliament on 28 August regarding initiatives associated with Child Protection Week—

- (1) When will the senior practitioners provided for in the \$8m child protection strategy package allocated in the past two budgets be appointed in area offices to assist in case decisions?

- (2) If these senior practitioners are not to be appointed, how is that part of the budget allocation to be spent?

- (3) How will the total \$8m child protection strategy allocation be spent in 1997-98?

Mr Lingard (25/9/97):

(1) The role of senior practitioner has been incorporated into Regional Support Teams which are to be established in each region. Funds to establish these positions have been allocated to regions from the \$8m child protection strategy. Positions will be advertised in October 1997 in order to recruit people with the high level of skill and experience in working with children and families that these positions require.

(2) Refer to answer 1.

(3) In addition to the establishment of the Regional Support Teams, in 1997-98 the 8m child protection strategy funds will be allocated to meet the recurrent effect of the initiatives in the non-government sector and in area offices which were established during 1995-96 and 1996-97.

Funds have been used for statutory child protection service delivery, new information technology for area offices, and a range of parenting assistance and family support services in the non-government sector.

The initiatives include:

Funding for the Parent Helpline, providing 24-hour telephone counselling for parents (\$300,000);

Funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies to enable them to jointly work with area offices to assist indigenous children and families (\$600,000);

Funding to double the capacity of Shared Family Care agencies to provide out-of-home placements for children with protective needs (\$600,000);

Funding for Family Support Services to provide a "curtain of care" for Queensland families who are experiencing difficulty (\$1 million);

The new computerised Child Protection Information System for the storage and retrieval of child protection information was implemented. Expenditure this year will be in system maintenance for Families and Youth Area Offices (\$1 million);.

Funding for 37 permanent direct service delivery positions in area offices to meet increased workload and additional staff to ensure effective implementation of the new information system and other projects (\$3 million);

Upgraded classifications for Managers and Team Leaders to better reflect work value and demands (\$400,000);

Regional Support Teams (\$600,000); and

Area office upgrading and related costs (\$500,000).

1033. Funeral Industry

Mr ELDER asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (29/8/97)—

- (1) When will the amendments to the Cremation Act 1913 and the transfer of provisions into the Coroners Act 1958 contained in the Justices and Other Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1987 commence?
- (2) What consultation took place with industry in relation to these acts and what was the response from industry?
- (3) What consultation is being conducted, and with whom, in relation to the accompanying regulations and associated forms?
- (4) When will the consultation conclude and what has been the response so far?

Mr Beanland (29/9/97):

(1) The consultation on the forms associated with the legislation has highlighted a number of administrative difficulties with the transfer of the provisions of the Cremations Act 1913 into the Coroners Act 1958. For example, the transferred provisions do not contain a transitional commencement clause to deal with the situation that an Application for Permission and Certificate to Cremate may be made prior to the commencement date but the cremation occur following the commencement. These matters remain under consideration and the legislation will commence as soon as possible after these difficulties have been addressed.

(2) Both prior and subsequent to the introduction of the Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 1996 discussions were held with members of the funeral industry. Generally speaking, most of the local Queensland owned funeral businesses were supportive of the changes, whilst some crematoria, particularly those controlled by overseas interests, were not supportive. In particular the crematoria were concerned that under the changes, crematoria may not have direct contact with the family of the deceased.

(3) Copies of proposed new forms and a draft regulation have been sent to some 130 participants in the funeral industry throughout Queensland (including crematoria and funeral directors), and to the Service Corporation International Australia Pty Limited, the Australian Cemeteries and Crematoria Association, the Australian Medical Association (Queensland Branch), the Doctors Reform Society and relevant local councils.

(4) Consultation on the forms and regulation concluded on 25 August 1997 although a number of commentators requested, and were granted, an extension of time in which to respond. Broadly, the responses from the consultation process fall into two categories:

- (i) Concerns regarding the policy basis of the amendments; and
- (ii) Concerns regarding the practical difficulties resulting from last year's amendments.

1034. School Guidance Officers

Mr PURCELL asked the Premier (29/8/97)—

With reference to the National/Liberal Coalition Policy for "Quality Education in State Schools" where he promised to "overcome the severe shortage of guidance officers/student counsellors needed to assist with student behaviour and learning problems by doubling the number of these specialists in the first three years of Government"—

- (1) How many guidance officer/student counsellors has his Government employed in their term in office to date?
- (2) How many will his Government employ by the end of their current term in office?

Mr Borbidge (29/9/97):

(1) To date, this Government has employed 21 guidance officers to assist in the management of student behaviour in supportive school environments. In addition to these guidance officers, 45 alternative education officers have been employed to enable regions and clusters to develop effective localised solutions to the issues they are facing in regard to difficult behaviour. The Government has also appointed 132 support staff in direct response to identified school needs. This includes guidance officers, social workers, psychologists, behaviour management teachers and teacher aides. The support staff work with school personnel to assist in identifying behaviour difficulties as early as possible, and in developing methods for managing behaviour that fosters self-discipline.

(2) By the end of this Government's current term in office, it will have employed an extra 59.5 guidance officers, 45 alternative education officers and an extra 200 Full Time Equivalent support staff.

1035. Brisbane International Biennial Festival of Music

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/8/97)—

- (1) Has she received the final figures on whether the Brisbane International Biennial Festival of Music was a financial success; if so, did the festival run at a profit or a loss, and by how much; if not, on what date does she expect to receive a financial report and what efforts has she made to receive it?
- (2) If the festival ran at a loss, what were the main reasons for the loss?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97): (1) & (2) The accounting firm preparing the financial statements on behalf of the Biennial Festival Board has not finalised those accounts. The finalisation has been delayed awaiting the quantification of outstanding liabilities incurred by the Festival.

1036. Sandmining, Byfield National Park

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier (29/8/97)—

With reference to his much publicised ban on sandmining at Byfield in Central Queensland—

- (1) Why has no consultation occurred with the mining company holding mining lease applications in the area to determine an appropriate level of compensation owed to them?
- (2) Is the Government level of compensation likely to be paid in the order of \$2m-\$3m as opposed to the \$12m the company believes it is owed?
- (3) Why have letters from the company or its legal representatives not been answered or even acknowledged?
- (4) Why has the lease area not been added to Byfield National Park as promised by him and when will this addition occur?
- (5) What work has been done by the Department of Environment to advance the declaration of the area as national park; if none, why not?

Mr Borbidge (29/9/97):

- (1) The company holding the mining lease application has recently been invited to consult with the Office of the Co-ordinator General on a without prejudice basis with a view to consideration of negotiating a voluntary surrender of the application. The delay in initiating negotiations was largely due to the need to take legal advice to ensure that the company's rights to procedural fairness were observed in the negotiations.
- (2) No figure has been determined by the Government as a compensation amount. The figure of \$12m referred to has not been mentioned to date.
- (3) All correspondence addressed to me by the mining lease applicant has been answered. I am not aware of any correspondence from the company's legal representatives.
- (4) The lease area will be added to Byfield National Park as soon as the mining tenure has been cleared.
- (5) The Department of Environment is involved in discussions within Government prior to clearing the way for declaration of the national park as soon as negotiations with the company are concluded.

1037. Hamilton Cruise Ship Terminal

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (29/8/97)—

With reference to the \$250,000 he has set aside in the last State Budget for work on the Sugar Wharf to enable it to be used as a temporary berthing for South Pacific Cruise Lines—

- (1) About 18 months ago, were tens of thousands of dollars spent on this facility equipping it to handle cruise ship tourists for a Russian Cruise ship; if so, what work was done at that time on this facility?
- (2) What portion of the \$250,000 has been spent so far on providing additional facilities at the Sugar Wharf and on what, and when will the remaining amount be spent?
- (3) Has the \$30,000 contract let to the Sydney firm Taylor Made Marketing for a feasibility study on the suitability of the Sugar Wharf as a cruise ship terminal been completed; if so, what were

its findings and will he table the report resulting from this contract?

- (4) Why was it necessary to conduct a \$30,000 feasibility study into the use of the Sugar Wharf if it is only a temporary measure prior to completion of the Hamilton cruise ship terminal?
- (5) Has he received a request from the developers of the Hamilton cruise ship terminal for financial assistance of the kind he has given to South Pacific Cruise Lines; if so, what amount has been requested for what?

Mr Davidson (29/9/97):

(1) About 24 months ago, money was expended to improve the access to the cruise facility, install a traffic control system and erect fences to allow the facility to be used by cruise ships for stopover calls. The improvements undertaken at the time will be utilised by cruise companies in the period to December 1998. Additional improvements are required to handle base port operations, such as baggage handling, required by embarking and disembarking passengers.

(2) As at 9 September 1997, the only money expended has been \$22 500 for a feasibility study. Additional monies will be spent to meet the needs of cruise line companies in the period to December 1998.

(3) TaylorMade Marketing have completed their component of the feasibility study and a draft report has been received by the Queensland Government. Additional drawings, incorporating passenger flows and traffic logistics, require completion by the marine architects. The final report will be received by 12 September 1997. The broad findings from the draft report are that it is more cost-effective to use flexible demountable structures which can be either purchased or leased. The detailed findings of this report will be tabled in Parliament but the body of the report contains diagrams and costings which will not be made public. These detailed costings will be used to negotiate purchase or lease arrangements, according to appropriate Government purchasing policy.

(4) A feasibility study was required to ensure that, although the facilities are temporary, they should be able to handle passenger movements efficiently. It is important for the future of the Hamilton Quay project that Brisbane handles cruise ships visiting Brisbane as efficiently as possible so that cruise companies are encouraged to return to Brisbane. The feasibility study was also required to ensure that the temporary facilities met the requirements of the Queensland Sugar Corporation and the needs of the shipping agent, stevedores and customs agents.

(5) There has been no request for financial assistance from the developers of the Hamilton cruise ship terminal and no financial assistance has been given to South Pacific Cruise Lines.

1038. Allgas Energy Pipeline

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (29/8/97)—

With reference to the proposed Allgas Energy pipeline through Woombye and the Sunshine Coast areas—

- (1) What is the current status of this proposal?
- (2) Is he aware that the proposal includes directing the pipeline from Winston Road, near Woombye, through a patch of pristine rainforest, set aside and preserved by the owners of Garrads Nursery, through to the Bruce Highway?
- (3) Is he aware of any species classified as vulnerable under the Nature Conservation Act which rely on this rainforest as habitat?
- (4) Has an environmental impact study been undertaken with respect to the route of the pipeline; if not, why not?
- (5) Why is the option of routing the pipeline from Winston Road east to the junction of the Maroochydore Road/Bruce Highway interchange and then along the highway, not being considered?
- (6) Is this yet another example of the Government's routine exemption of major projects from proper environmental impact assessment so that private developers are subsidised by the destruction of community environmental value?

Mr Gilmore (23/9/97):

- (1) Allgas is still negotiating with landowners on the proposed gas pipeline route and on the specific easement conditions?
- (2) Yes, but as the member notes in his question this is a proposal only at this time and I am advised that Allgas are continuing direct negotiations with Garrads Nursery over the options available.
- (3) At this stage no. Until such time as a final pipeline route has been identified it is not possible to undertake the required environmental management plan, which would address such matters.
- (4) See answer to three above.
- (5) As noted in answer 2 above, all feasible options are being considered by Allgas. However, at the end of the day, the pipeline route will be determined on the basis of overall economics, technical and safety considerations as well as the outcome of public consultation.
- (6) No.

1039. Aquaculture

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (29/8/97)—

With reference to the plan to produce fish from Bundaberg irrigation channels as outlined in the Newsmail of 29 August—

- (1) What research has been undertaken to allow for aquacultural enterprises such as fish farming in irrigation channels?
- (2) Will he assure the public there will be no negative environmental impacts on water quality?

- (3) Will aquacultural pursuits in irrigation channels affect the provision of irrigation water to farmers?
- (4) Have economic feasibility studies been undertaken on this proposal; if so, what were the results?
- (5) What is the basis for the proposed 1,000 jobs and \$600m capital injection as a result of these projects?
- (6) Will this project interfere with the successful fish stocking undertakings by local fishing groups in the water balancing storage areas?
- (7) How many years does he expect before this project will be an economic reality?

Mr Perrett (18/9/97):

INTRODUCTION

I have been asked to address questions related to a proposal to stock the Isis/Bundaberg irrigation channel with species of freshwater fish for aquaculture. The proponents propose to invest considerable amounts of money into the project with the aim of producing quality table fish for the export market.

The concept was outlined by Isis Aquaculture Pty Ltd at a meeting in Bundaberg on 22 August 1997. At this stage full details are not available. I believe the proposal is worth investigating further and would like to see a fully integrated pilot study undertaken to investigate the farming concept and its environmental impacts.

Answer:

1. My Department has indicated that considerable research has been conducted with regard to using irrigation channels for aquaculture, particularly in countries like North America and Mexico. In Australia, farming fish in irrigation channels is being trialled in the Goulburn—Murray Irrigation district in Victoria. I am advised that, although final results have not been released for this project, some promising information supporting developments of this kind is being obtained. Of course, the outcomes from the pilot study the proponent of this project has agreed to undertake will assist in the assessment of the proponent's application for an aquaculture authority.
2. Like other applicants wishing to undertake developments of this type, the proponent will have to satisfy the requirements of all relevant authorities and will be subject to normal EIS processes, which can, if necessary, be triggered by state or local authorities. However, I am advised that, at this stage the proponents have only been requested to conduct a pilot trial. I have also been advised that water usage from the irrigation system is largely limited to irrigating sugarcane and other agricultural crops and any increases in the level of nutrients in this water from fish farming will be of benefit to farmers by reducing the amount of fertiliser they will need to apply to their crops. I am also advised that the proponents propose to treat all waters taken from the irrigation system for other uses to the standard of water quality required.
3. My advisers are confident that the use of irrigation water for aquaculture purposes will have no negative

affect on the quality of water supplied to farmers. With regard to affecting channel flows I have been advised that the proponents claim to have given special consideration to the design of screens and cleaning apparatus to ensure that channels remain unblocked. This will be monitored by DNR during the pilot study.

4. It is my understanding that the proponents have made investigations into the economic feasibility of the project. They believe they have a large and secure market capable of absorbing all the product they can produce. There has been no economic feasibility study undertaken by the Queensland Government.

5. The proponent has proposed that the development, at full operational capacity; including ancillary facilities like feed mills, transport networks, processing plants, etc., will directly create 1000 jobs and create substantially more jobs indirectly, causing a significant injection of capital into the local and state economy. However, the pilot study should give an indication of the veracity of claims regarding the jobs and investment created by this project if it proceeds to full development.

6. I have been advised that the proponents have only expressed an interest in using that part of the channel below and down stream from the Isis balancing storage area. They suggest this will minimise, if not eliminate, any potential impact on the storage area. It is hoped that mutually beneficial arrangements might be developed between local stocking interests and the proponents of this proposed development.

7. The proponent has indicated that, at this point in time, they expect the project will take five years before becoming fully operational but anticipate a substantial level of production to be achievable by the third year. The commencement date for the project is subject to the outcomes and timeframe set down for the pilot study. The commencement date for the pilot study has yet to be determined.

1040. Bramble Bay; Boondall Wetlands

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to the Bramble Bay area and reports of an apparently serious decline of macrobenthic invertebrates at Nudgee Beach and adjacent areas to the Boondall Wetlands—

- (1) What is the Queensland Government's level of managerial responsibility for the Ramsar site based at the Boondall Wetlands?
- (2) How often does the department undertake chemical analysis of water and sediments in this region?
- (3) Has the Government informed the Federal Government of the reported problems in Bramble Bay; if so, what has been the response of the Federal Government?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97):

- (1) Under the Ramsar Convention the Boondall Wetlands and the foreshores of Nudgee Beach are

included within the listing of Moreton Bay as a Wetland of International Significance. The Moreton Bay Marine Park, which was declared in 1993, includes tidal waters and tidal lands, but excludes freehold land. The Marine Park provides a mechanism to conserve and manage areas of high conservation value in accordance with the Australian Government's obligations under the Ramsar Convention.

A Zoning Plan has been developed for Moreton Bay Marine Park and is expected to be approved in the near future. Under the Zoning Plan, the area immediately adjacent to the Boondall Wetlands will be declared Conservation Zone, with sections west of Nudgee Beach becoming Habitat Zone. The purpose of the Conservation Zone is:

- (a) to conserve the zone's cultural and natural resources and amenity values;
- (b) to conserve the zone's natural condition to the greatest possible extent;
- (c) to allow members of the public to enjoy the relatively undisturbed nature of the zone; and
- (d) to ensure use of the zone's natural resources is ecologically sustainable.

To further meet obligations under the Ramsar Convention, the Zoning Plan manages activities throughout the Marine Park which are likely to cause undue disturbance of shorebirds and their habitat.

Freehold areas of the Boondall Wetlands are owned and managed by Brisbane City Council. The Council has declared the area to be a wetland reserve and manages the area with the assistance of the Boondall Wetlands Management Committee.

(2) The Department monitors water quality monthly and undertakes chemical analyses of sediments two or three times a year depending on the location.

(3) The Queensland Government has not informed the Commonwealth Government of the reported problems in Bramble Bay due to the need to firstly substantiate whether or not a problem exists and this requires a thorough investigation of the claims made. Until reliable data are available on the macrobenthic invertebrates of the Nudgee Beach area and their natural variability in space and time, it is not possible to indicate whether the reported decline is the result of natural fluctuations in population numbers or the result of human influences.

1041. Coal Haulage Lines

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to the fact that some coal trains hauling coal to Gladstone from the coal fields west of Rockhampton are causing a significant dust nuisance to the public living adjacent to coal haulage lines—

Is he prepared to ignore the impact on the quality of life caused by this dust problem and will he allow coal from the Curragh Mine near Blackwater to be hauled to Stanwell Power Station without first going through the mines wash plant?

Mr Littleproud (26/9/97): A Gladstone dust study was conducted jointly by Queensland Rail, BHP Transport, the Gladstone Port Authority,

Queensland Alumina, the Gladstone Power Station and the Department of Environment.

Queensland Rail has arranged to meet with the Department of Environment to examine relevant issues and any potential solutions.

The Member may wish to raise this matter further with the Honourable Tom Gilmore MLA, Minister for Mines and Energy or the Honourable Vaughan Johnson MLA, Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

1042. Dugong Protection Areas

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to the recent backdown by Federal and State Ministers over the boundaries of dugong protection areas—

- (1) Does he support the changed boundaries; if so, why did he agree to the boundaries as initially announced?
- (2) What financial and other impacts does he now concede that the original boundaries would have caused commercial fishing operators?
- (3) What financial impact does he consider the revised dugong protection areas will have on commercial fishing operators?
- (4) What protection will be retained for dugong grazing or moving through areas protected under the original boundaries but now excluded from protection under the revised boundaries?
- (5) Will he now confess publicly that he is ashamed and embarrassed by the stinging defeat he has suffered at the hands of the Minister for Primary Industries?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97):

(1) There has been no back down over the boundaries of the dugong protection areas. The boundaries of the protection areas have been agreed in accordance with advice from the Dugong Protection Area Advisory Group, which included representatives from the Commonwealth and State Governments, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland Commercial Fisherman's Organisation and eminent scientists.

(2) It has been estimated that up to \$4M will be required to compensate commercial fishers when implementing the dugong protection areas. There have been no other estimates of compensation prepared for Ministerial Council.

(3) The implementation of net closures in dugong protection areas will affect the holders of in excess of 180 commercial fishing licences. Analysis of Queensland Fisheries Management Authority's Fisheries Logbook Program database identified approximately \$2.3m in gross value of production was derived in 1996 from within or directly adjacent to the proposed Dugong Protection Areas.

(4) Outside the protection areas, dugong will be afforded the full protection given under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

(5) There has been no defeat by the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry. In fact, the Honourable Trevor Perrett and I have worked closely together to ensure that the final dugong protection strategy has been developed as an effective and innovative solution in full consultation with all interested parties. Unless the new Member has suddenly developed an interest in this subject, I imagine that she was given this question by the Member for Everton, your party's shadow spokesman on environment. He apparently is shy about coming out with views on dugong in fear of a party-room rebuff from his "comrade", the Member for Rockhampton and opposition spokesman on the issue of fishing.

1043. Commonwealth/State Tax Relations

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (29/8/97)—

With reference to an article in the 2 September edition of the Bulletin magazine in which the political columnist Laurie Oakes reports on correspondence he received from the Premier's Press Secretary criticising the Federal Treasurer—

- (1) Does she agree with Mr Jackson when he states that "Costello started abysmally with State leaders at the first Premier's Conference with the nature of his plans to lumber them with as much of the inherited Federal deficit as he could"?
- (2) Does she agree with Mr Jackson when he states that "he (Costello) behaved like a bovver boy and got State hackles up at the time"?
- (3) Does she agree with Jackson's description of Costello's plan to resolve the High Court's decision outlawing State taxes on liquor, petrol and tobacco as a "politically Baldrickian plan"?

Mrs Sheldon (29/9/97): The Queensland Government has consistently and publicly called for a reform of Federal-State tax relations. The Queensland Government has also negotiated with the Commonwealth over ensuring that our state maintains its low tax status following the recent High Court decision on tobacco, fuel and liquor excises. It is our intention to fight for the very best deal for Queensland and Queenslanders, and the Government will not resile from that stance.

1044. School Capital Works Projects, Currumbin Electorate

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Education (29/8/97)—

With reference to capital works programs for Queensland schools in 1997-98—

What are the details of any projects planned for schools in the Currumbin Electorate including commencement and completion dates?

Mr Quinn (30/9/97): The following capital works projects are planned for schools within the Currumbin electorate during the 1997-98 financial year:—

School	Project Description	Commencement Date	Completion Date
Palm Beach-Currumbin SHS	replace admin block	18/07/97	15/12/97
Palm Beach-Currumbin SHS	convert old admin to GLAs	15/12/97	30/06/98
Currumbin SS	amenities block (non standard)	12/5/97	17/10/97
Tallebudgera SS	general learning block	28/11/97	30/3/98
Tallebudgera SS	relocate existing modular	12/8/97	1/12/97

1045. Police Resources, Sandgate

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (29/8/97)—

- (1) What are the police numbers for Sandgate Police Station in the following areas (a) CIB, (b) JAB, (c) Traffic Branch and (d) daily operational police?
- (2) Are there any plans to increase numbers in all or any of these areas?

Mr Cooper (12/9/97):

- (1) The approved strength of Sandgate is as follows:
 - (a) CIB—1 Sergeant, 1 Senior Constable, 2 Constables: 4
 - (b) JAB—1 Sergeant, 1 Senior Constable, 1 Constable: 3
 - (c) Traffic Branch—2 Sergeants, 2 Senior Constables, 1 Constable: 5
 - (d) General Duties—1 Senior Sergeant, 6 Sergeants, 7 Senior Constables, 16 Constables—30
 - (e) Administration—1 Inspector, 1 Senior Sergeant: 2
 - (f) Surplus to approved strength—1 Detective Senior Constable, 2 Sergeants, 1 Senior Constable, 3 First Year Constables: 7
 - (g) Support Staff—6 Staff Members: 6

Total: 57

(2) In the new year it is intended to provide an additional staff member position for a Property/Rosters Officer. The human resource allocation model will be rerun soon and it is anticipated that some additional police positions will be allocated to Metropolitan North Region. The Inspector, Sandgate, has been asked to bid for extra positions and the Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan North Region, will allocate the additional positions when all bids are considered. Because the number of additional positions are unknown at this stage no estimate of any increases to Divisions in Metropolitan North Region can be given.

1046. Mr F. Jackson; Commonwealth/State Relations

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to an article in the Bulletin of 2 September by journalist, Laurie Oakes—

Does he agree with the Premier's Media Adviser, Frank Jackson, referring to his Federal counterpart Robert Hill as a John Faulkner impersonation in relation to Hinchinbrook; if not, what action is he taking to distance himself from Mr Jackson's comments?

Mr Littleproud (11/9/97): Labor Members would be well aware of Senator Faulkner's negative attitude to the Hinchinbrook project. They will recall that the Goss Government undertook an advertising campaign to counter his involvement. As far as Senator Hill is concerned, I have a harmonious and positive relationship with him.

1047. Motor Vehicle Registration

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (29/8/97)—

What proposals is he considering in relation to twice-yearly payments of vehicle registration and will any such proposals involve fee increases or is he simply going to give up on this issue as too hard?

Mr Johnson (24/9/97): I am well aware of the difficulty that some vehicle owners face with paying their registration and view six monthly payments as an option that will provide vehicle owners with substantial assistance.

Officers of Queensland Transport are currently investigating the option of introducing six monthly registration payments for all light vehicles including cars, utilities, motorcycles and small buses.

The investigation is examining the best way to introduce this option so that it meets customer needs and keeps costs to a minimum. Consultation with customers and the Compulsory Third Party insurance industry is currently occurring. Once the investigation is complete, I intend to take a proposal to Cabinet for consideration.

I would not envisage that there would be any increase in annual registration fees if this initiative is introduced.

However, there will obviously be a need to send out additional registration renewal notices, registration certificates, labels and so on if we proceed with the six monthly payment option. Likewise, the CTP insurers will also incur some additional costs. As a result, I would envisage that vehicle owners who take up the six monthly payment option will pay an administration fee to meet the additional costs incurred by offering this option. This is the same approach that is taken in other States/Territories which offer six monthly payments. However, as I have said, I have asked Queensland Transport to keep any fee to a minimum.

I would also point out that Queensland Transport has recently introduced credit card payments by telephone which is already proving to be a very popular option with motorists.

1048. Non-Government Agency Funding, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (29/8/97)—

With reference to funding from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Services to non-Government agencies (NGAs) (29/8/97)—

For those NGAs within the Lytton Electorate (a) what NGAs receive funding and what is the physical location where those funds are allocated to be spent, (b) for each NGA under which program(s) and in what amount are these funds allocated to be spent and (c) what is the nature of the expenditure (e.g., support workers, capital purchases etc.) funded for each program at each NGA?

Mr Lingard (17/9/97):

(1) In the Lytton electorate there are four organisations to provide a total of 11 funded services in the area. These are:

1. Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc.
2. Uniting Church in Australia
3. Qld Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association
4. Silky Oaks Children's Haven

The funds are allocated to be spent primarily in the Wynnum Manly area, however, referrals for these services extend to surrounding suburbs, Redlands Shire and the Bay Islands.

(2) Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)—\$192,273

Family Support Worker Program (FSWP)—\$48,875

Youth Services Development Grant (YSDG)—\$60,000

Uniting Church In Australia

Partners In Parenting

Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program (ACISP)—\$130,750

Family Support Program (FSPF)—\$2,069

Unicare Community Accommodation Network

Disability Funding Program—\$113,927

Qld Police Citizens Welfare Association

Vacation Care Program (VCP)—\$31,200

Silky Oaks Children's Haven

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)—\$134,458

Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program (ACISP)

2 x Residential Cottages—\$225,818

Family Centre—\$233,806

(3) Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc.

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

Funds are allocated to employ housing support workers plus operating costs

Family Support Worker Program (FSWP)

Funds are allocated to employ a family support worker (counselling) plus operating costs.

Youth Services Development Grant

Funds are allocated to employ a youth support coordinator to work with all youth services and three schools in the area.

Uniting Church In Australia

Partners In Parenting

Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program (ACISP)

Funds are allocated to employ support workers to provide assistance to families with children between 0-12 years of age where the children have been identified as being 'at risk' or neglect, plus operating costs.

Unicare Community Accommodation Network

Disability Funding Program

Funds are allocated to employ residential care workers and people with a disability, plus operating costs.

Qld Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association

Vacation Care Program (VCP)

Operational funds are allocated to provide vacation care for 120 children x 50 days.

Silky Oaks Children's Haven

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

Funds are allocated to employ housing support workers plus operating costs.

Alternative Care and Intervention Services Program (ACISP)

Funds are allocated to employ residential care workers for two cottages plus operating costs.

Funds are also allocated to employ counselling staff in the Organisation's Family Centre plus operating costs.

1049. National Parks and Wildlife Service

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (29/8/97)—

With reference to a Department of Environment Board of Management meeting on 9 June at which the future use of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service's possum logo was discussed—

(1) Will the future use of the "Herbie" logo on departmental material be at the discretion of regional directors and executive directors; if so, why?

(2) Must department signs, brochures and other forms of public information include the Government crest and the words, "Department of Environment"?

- (3) Why has the position of Director, National Parks and Wildlife Service been redesignated Director, National Parks and Wildlife?
- (4) Does he support these moves by his department's board of management; if so, why does he believe this name change is necessary at this time?
- (5) What other changes to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service does he envisage occurring?
- (6) Does this name change now mean that the service has branch status only within the department?

Mr Littleproud (19/9/97): (1)-(6) As neither myself nor members of my office attend Departmental Board of Management meetings, may I suggest that you write to the Director-General of the Department of Environment, Mr Tom Tolhurst, regarding this matter.

1050. Rural Fire Service

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (29/8/97)—

With reference to the new Canter fire appliances currently being provided to the Rural Fire Service—

- (1) Do these new appliances carry only 1,000 litres of water, which is much less than the amount carried by older appliances?
- (2) Has he received representations from Rural Fire Service members concerned about the short hose lengths and the reduced water capacity of the new vehicle?

Mr Veivers (29/9/97):

(1) The medium rural appliance, based upon the Mitsubishi Canter cab chassis, will be produced in two versions this year. There is a 4.5 tonne version which carries 1,000 litres and a 5.5 tonne version carrying 1,500 litres. Previous versions of the medium rural appliance did carry 1,200 litres. Following extensive input from rural fire brigade volunteers as well as from the Rural Fire Brigades Association, modification of the appliance was undertaken to enable a greater equipment carrying capacity. This necessitated a reduction of 200 litres in water carrying capacity.

The capability of a fire appliance goes well beyond the amount of water being carried. This is why the volunteers requested a greater equipment carrying capability.

(2) I am not aware of any representations regarding short hose lengths. The Rural Fire Division provides hose reels capable of carrying 30 metres of hose, which is the Australian Standard.

I have received a small number of representations regarding the water carrying capacity of rural appliances. There are some volunteers who prefer large volumes of water to be available from appliances, or who prefer greater equipment or passenger carrying capacity, but this can only be achieved by producing appliances at a considerably greater expense than the current models.

The 4.5 tonne model, introduced several years ago under the former Government, and the recently upgraded 5.5 tonne model, will remain the backbone of the rural fire brigade fleet in the foreseeable future.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**1051. Queensland Science and Technology Council**

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Premier (7/10/97)—

With reference to one of the stated objectives of the Queensland Science and Technology Council which is to: "take a lead role in advising on how South East Queensland can achieve a critical mass in research scientists, technologists, inventors, venture capitalists, entrepreneurs and managers who, together, can create the growth companies of the Twenty First Century."—

Why is the focus on south-east Queensland to the obvious detriment of the rest of the State?

Mr Borbidge (6/11/97): From its inception, the mandate of the Queensland Science and Technology Council has covered all regions of the State. The specific reference to South-East Queensland in the Council's Objectives Statement referred to its role in preparing advice to me in respect of the future use of the Boggo Road gaol site. However, the description of the Council's objectives has already been amended in order to avoid further misinterpretation.

It is evident from the composition of the Council, from its activities, and from its meeting program, that the Council is not focused on South East Queensland.

The Council comprises members with a diversity of interests covering the length and breadth of the State, and the majority of those Members reside outside Brisbane.

Following its establishment, every Member of Parliament, local authority, university, and a wide range of other groups throughout Queensland, received a letter from the Council providing details of its role and inviting discussion. A variety of organisations from northern Queensland, central Queensland, western Queensland and south western Queensland have already responded very positively and constructively to the establishment of the Council. The universities, their research organisations and industry groups have appreciated the establishment of the Council and recognised that it has a Queensland-wide perspective.

The first meeting of the Council was held in Brisbane on 26 August 1997. I met with Council members after that meeting and I was advised that they would be holding their second meeting in Mount Isa towards the end of October. The Council intends to meet as much as possible outside Brisbane, and the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Members of the Council will be arranging additional consultations in other areas outside the south east corner.

One of the first activities of the Council was the calling of Expressions of Interest, from throughout Queensland, for the planning of new Science and Technology Precincts. Advertisements were placed in Cairns, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Mackay, Fraser Coast, Rockhampton, Mt Isa, Toowoomba, Townsville and Warwick as well as south east Queensland. Interest has been registered by groups from all over Queensland.

In addition, the Council is playing a key role in encouraging the development of a heavy lift space launching facility on Cape York.

Furthermore, at its first meeting, the Council discussed the critical issue of rural and remote area communications, and the means of accelerating the development of Telecentres.

1052. Wahroonga

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (7/10/97)—

With reference to the buildings at Wahroonga which he says will be demolished in early October—

Have those buildings been sold; if so, who to and for how much and have they been sold for removal or demolition on site?

Dr Watson (6/11/97): It is disappointing that the Member did not take as active an interest in the Wahroonga Aged Care Centre during the previous Government's term of office when he should have used what little influence he had to do something about the condition of the centre. Instead, he stood by idly watching the centre deteriorate to the detriment of the seniors at the centre.

A single contract has been let to Steve William Rhind trading with another as S & S Rhind for both the removal of existing vacant barrack-style units and the construction of new senior units. In effect, the buildings have not been sold as separate entities, but responsibility for their disposal has been passed on to the contractor, who then has the right under the contract to demolish, remove or salvage as he determines to his best commercial advantage.

It is therefore confidential information between the contractor and his subcontractors as to how the buildings are disposed of, and if sold, to whom and for how much.

1053. Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Borbidge (6/11/97): The total outlay on campaign advertising over this period was \$511,892.14. The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are 'commercial-in-confidence'. The department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year.

1054. State Government Departments and Agencies, Expenditure on Capital Works

Mr HAMILL asked the Premier (7/10/97)—

With reference to the establishment of the whole of Government capital works monitoring system established in his department—

- (1) In respect of each department and agency funded from the consolidated fund, what was the allocation for capital works from this fund in 1997-98?
- (2) What proportion of this allocation was spent in respect of each department and agency as at 31 July?
- (3) What proportion of this allocation was spent in respect of each department and agency as at 31 August?
- (4) What proportion of this allocation was spent in respect of each department and agency as at 30 September?

Mr Borbidge (6/11/97):

(1) The original Capital Budgets for each department for 1997-98 are provided in Budget Paper 2, page 103.

(2) As in previous years, expenditure reporting as at 31 July 1997 is not available due to the level of activity associated with the end-of-year issues.

(3) Expenditure reported as at 30 August 1997 is \$224,409,000. This represents 9.86% of the capital works allocation from the Consolidated Fund. This expenditure data does not fully reflect significant amounts of work undertaken by a range of departments and agencies which had been completed but which had not been invoiced or paid for as at 30 August. As such, care is urged in interpreting this data.

(4) Expenditure data as at 30 September 1997 is yet to be finalised.

Questions in relation to expenditure for individual departments should be addressed to the relevant Ministers.

1055. Health Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production, (c) placement and (d) name of consultants used for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Horan (5/11/97): (1) & (2) The total outlay over this period was \$262 200. The breakdown of

costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial-in-confidence. The department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the department's annual report.

1056. Training and Industrial Relations Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr BRADDY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Santoro (12/11/97):

(1 & 2) The total outlay over this period was \$20,076.00.

The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are "Commercial-in-confidence".

The Department's promotional activities which warrant public information campaigns may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the department's annual report.

1057. Mines and Energy Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production, (c) placement and (d) what consultants if any were employed for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Gilmore (4/11/97):

(1) In the three months to 30 September 1997, the Department of Mines and Energy spent a total of \$400 on campaign advertising which related to the promotion of electrical safety switches.

(2) The Department's 1997/98 advertising budget is \$78,000. The \$400 expenditure to date this financial year compares to \$163,000 in 1996 which related to the Electric Book campaign and various electricity rebate schemes. In 1995, the Department spent \$17,400 on campaign advertising. In 1994, expenditure on campaign advertising was \$1,200.

1058. Public Works and Housing Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Dr Watson (6/11/97): (1) & (2) The total outlay over this period on campaign advertising was nil. The department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the department's annual report.

1059. Economic Development and Trade Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Slack (4/11/97): (1 & 2) The total outlay over this period on campaign advertising was nil. The Department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the Department's annual report.

1060. Education Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Education (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97):

- (1) For the quarter ending 30 September 1997, the expenditure by Education Queensland on advertising

was \$120,167. This includes advertising for recruitment and selection. A detailed breakdown for the categories requested is not available.

- (2) This expenditure represents 15.8% of the total annual advertising budget.

1061. Tourism, Small Business and Industry Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Davidson (6/11/97): (1 & 2) The total outlay over this period was \$50,865.33. The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial-in-confidence. The department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the department's annual report.

1062. Justice Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr SMITH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the cost of (a) creative aspects, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media for the current advertising campaign being undertaken by the Department of Justice in relation to sentencing?

Mr Beanland (7/11/97): (1) The total outlay over this period was \$577,389. The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial-in-confidence.

1063. Transport Department and Main Roads Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Johnson (6/11/97): The total outlay over this period for the Department of Transport was \$299,749.00 and for the Department of Main Roads was \$37,923.00.

The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial-in-confidence. The departments' promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the departments' annual reports.

1064. Natural Resources Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Hobbs (4/11/97):

(1) I have been advised that the total outlay in advertising expenses for my Department in the quarter ending 30/9/97 was approximately \$44,200. This does not include statutory advertising (required by law) e.g. public sector vacancies and public notices.

(2) A percentage estimate of the Department of Natural Resources' annual expenditure on advertising is not possible as its component programs are not required to maintain a separate budget for advertising.

1065. Police Service and Office of Racing, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Cooper (6/11/97): 1 & 2: The total outlay over this period was \$42,323.00 for the Queensland Police Service, Nil for the Office of Racing and Nil for the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial-in-confidence. The department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from

time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the department's annual report.

1066. Mackay Base Hospital

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (7/10/97)—

With reference to the Mackay Base Hospital—

- (1) What were the funded bed allocations (not occupied bed days) as at 19 February 1996?
- (2) What are the funded bed allocations now?
- (3) What will be the funded bed allocations after re-development?
- (4) How many jobs, including casual and temporary staff, will be lost as a result of a reduction in funded bed allocations?

Mr Horan (5/11/97):

(1) The Mackay Base Hospital had a total of 209 available beds as at 19 February 1996.

(2) This figure remains unchanged as at 30 September, 1997. Throughput for the 1995/96 period was 18,606 weighted separations and for the 1996/97 period throughput was 18,682 weighted separations.

The current daily average occupancy for Mackay Base Hospital, year-to-date is 155 against an available bed allocation of 209 or 74% occupancy.

\$25.9 million has been earmarked for the Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment. The substantial funding provided in the recent State Budget will allow for a range of work, including:

refurbish psychiatric ward

enhance operating theatre area and provision of fourth operating theatre

refurbish main ward block

new children's ward

extend accident and emergency

further enhance radiology services

establish ambulatory care services.

(3) Master Planning for the redevelopment of Mackay Base Hospital is well advanced with a final decision on funded bed allocations yet to be made. The decision will be made based on patient demand and historical throughput.

(4) It is not proposed that there will be any jobs lost as a result of the redevelopment at Mackay Base Hospital.

Mackay businesses and the local economy will benefit from the significant construction activity planned this financial year with the coalition Government continuing a policy of using local firms whenever possible.

1067. Infrastructure Guidelines

Mr De LACY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (7/10/97)—

With reference to her release on 1 October of the Borbidge/Sheldon Government's new Infrastructure Guidelines entitled "Private Sector Involvement in Public Infrastructure and Service Delivery"—

- (1) Will she explain how these differ in any substantive way from the same guidelines issued four years ago by the Goss Government?
- (2) Is her so-called "new policy framework" just a repeat of an old one, that in twenty months she has not advanced the policy one iota and that she was misleading her audience by pretending it was a new one?

Mrs Sheldon (6/11/97):

(1) The 1992 Guidelines developed by the previous Government represented an initial attempt to initiate interest from the private sector in the provision of public infrastructure. However, while these Guidelines to a certain extent identified key issues of interest to the private sector (for example, intellectual property, communication with Government, exclusive mandates), they have been criticised for being too theoretical and for failing to provide certainty to the private sector and Government agencies as to the manner in which issues involving the private sector participation would be dealt. It is widely acknowledged that those Guidelines have not been successful at attracting projects of significance. Indeed, it was strong representations from the private sector which led to a review of the 1992 Guidelines.

(2) The key to the future success of the new Policy Framework is that it has been developed from a "clean slate" through an exhaustive process involving direct input from key private sector participants. The extent of the consultation which we have undertaken with key stakeholders is unprecedented in the development of major Government policy:

a joint industry/Government Working Group was established to review the 1992 policy guidelines;

industry, through five senior members of the Infrastructure Association of Queensland (IAQ), participated on the Working Group and were directly involved in the drafting of the new framework;

further broad industry consultation was undertaken by the IAQ representatives with a cross section of key industry participants in the legal, construction, finance and operations fields. Comments received were formally referred to the Working Group and incorporated in the policy framework as appropriate;

consultation was also undertaken with the Mining Council of Queensland, the Queensland Manufacturing Industry Forum and, informally, with the Brisbane City Council; and

extensive consultation was undertaken with departments with key infrastructure development responsibilities.

This exhaustive consultation process ensured that both industry and the key Government departments with significant public infrastructure responsibilities were afforded substantial and appropriate opportunity such that:

all critical issues have been satisfactorily addressed; and

the policy will be widely and wholly embraced and, hence, will be a workable and sustainable framework from the perspective of all stakeholders.

The view that the Queensland Government is now clearly heading in the right direction was wholly supported by a number of private sector speakers at the Building Our Future—Towards 2000 Infrastructure Conference on 1-2 October.

Indeed, the IAQ, by letter of 20 June 1997 has stated that "The IAQ congratulates the Queensland Government on its initiative in reviewing the 1992 Policy Guidelines on Private Sector Involvement in Infrastructure Development in Queensland, and developing this new Policy Framework. We are also very appreciative of the extent of consultation with the IAQ throughout the development of this new Framework, and the extent to which an attempt has been made to address our concerns. Through that consultation process the IAQ ... has come to appreciate some of the constraints within which the Government must operate. As a general comment, we support the most recent draft of the Policy Framework. The key concerns of the private sector in achieving a satisfactory framework for private sector involvement in infrastructure is fairly well summarised in ... the Policy Framework document. In the majority of these areas the Policy Framework provides an encouraging response: an indicia of the Government's intentions with which we are pleased."

The central tenet of the new Policy Framework is value for money in the delivery of public infrastructure and services and this is to be, in most instances, encouraged through the use of competitive processes. The Government's use to date of competition to drive efficiency was soundly commended by a number of private sector speakers at the recent Infrastructure Conference.

1068. WorkCover, Logan Office

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (7/10/97)—

Why is the Logan office of WorkCover discriminated against in that there is no permanent medical officer available at the office and the part-time doctor is unable to cope with the workload, so much so that a client who had to cease work on 5 August, still has not had her medical specialist report and GP report considered two months later and has not received any financial assistance in two months without income and still does not have a decision on her case?

Mr Santoro (6/11/97):

(1) WorkCover Queensland has not discriminated against the Logan district office in regards to the provision of a medical officer. The medical officer assigned to the Logan district office is also required to relieve in the Cairns and Gympie district offices. The officer spends 3 days, every 3 weeks in the Cairns district office, and 2 days, every 4 weeks in the Gympie district office. Logan office refers any

reports requiring urgent attention to WorkCover's Senior Medical Officer for advice. In addition, Medical Officers in head Office are also available if required. It is hoped that sessional medical officers will be appointed to the Cairns and Gympie district offices by the end of 1997. This will return the current medical officer to full-time duties in the Logan district office.

Further particulars regarding the case mentioned in your question would be required before a detailed response can be provided as to the reasons for any undue delay which may have occurred.

1069. Promotion of State Schools

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Education (7/10/97)—

With reference to his answer to my Question on Notice No. 989—

Why isn't promotion a budgetary item that is funded by the Government if the promotion of State Schools and their individual expertise is to be left to individual schools which is implicit in his answer (2) para 3?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97): State schools do have the option of using general purpose allocations to fund 'promotion' as a budgetary item.

Providing State schools are meeting their educational outcomes, they can use discretion when spending general purposes allocations.

Many schools also generate their own revenue through activities such as the hiring out of sports grounds or facilities. This money can be spent also at the discretion of the school.

I would urge the Honourable Member to read his local community newspaper to realise that State schools do a tremendous job of obtaining free publicity.

The Public and Media Relations Branch of Education Queensland distributes the booklet 'Your School Image', each year to every State school. This 28 page guide provides expert advice to schools about how to promote themselves at functions, in the media, and the community.

Many schools have acknowledged how the benefits of this booklet.

Education Queensland promotes the State education system through events such as, the annual week-long celebration of Education Week, careers expos, the RNA Show and International Teachers' Day.

The Leading Schools initiative will give school communities greater flexibility to spend money promoting their school. I have no doubt that this flexibility and extra freedom of choice in decision-making will lead to a surge of innovation and creativity in our fine State school classrooms.

1070. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Lingard (7/11/97): 1 & 2: The total outlay over this period was \$33,306. The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial-in-confidence. The department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the department's annual report.

1071. Primary Industries Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Perrett (6/11/97): 1 & 2: The total outlay over this period was \$29,714.01. The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial-in-confidence. The department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the department's annual report.

1072. Local Government and Planning Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by her department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for her department has so far been expended?

Mrs McCauley (6/11/97): The total outlay over this period \$12,552.90. The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial in confidence. The Department's promotional activities, covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information

campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the Department's annual report.

8.12% of funds allocated to advertising for the 1997/98 financial year have been expended up to 30 September 1997.

1073. Escapes from Prisons

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of escapes from Queensland prisons—

- (1) How many escapes were there from high, medium, low and open security in 1996-97?
- (2) How many escapes were there from high, medium, low and open security in 1995-96 and 1994-95?
- (3) How many prisoners absconded from community correction centres in 1996-97?
- (4) How many prisoners absconded from community correction centres in 1995-96 and 1994-95?

Mr Cooper (29/10/97):

(1) & (2) Number of Escapes from Queensland Custodial Correctional Centres by Security Classification:

Financial Year	CLASSIFICATION					Total
	High	Medium	Low	Open		
1996-97	0	1	11	6		18
1995-96	3	3	23	9		38
1994-95	0	4	21	3		28

(3) & (4) Gazetted Community Corrections Centres are part of the Community Custody Program which also includes places prescribed by rule and the WORC Scheme. Reported absconds from this Program do not separate the location of the offender in a particular area, therefore the figures given cover the whole of the Community Custody Program. More detailed analyses would be required to separate those absconders from Community Corrections Centres.

FINANCIAL YEAR—NUMBER OF ABSCONDS

1996-97—45

1995-96—37

1994-95—51

1074. Foster Care; Shared Family Care

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (7/10/97)—

With reference to the proposed transfer of foster care to the non-Government sector—

- (1) Does he now have conclusive legal advice that this transfer and the associated transfer of personal files is lawful?
- (2) How much money has been provided to community organisations under the program in 1997-98?

- (3) How many children in the care of the department have been transferred to non-Government care providers?
- (4) What impact will the recent Cabinet decision, published in a special edition of Sector Wide, to cease outsourcing of Government functions, have on the planned outsourcing of shared family care?

Mr Lingard (5/11/97):

(1) Yes

(2) In the 1997/98 financial year to date, a total of \$283,629 has been provided to the four SFC services piloting the transfer of departmental careproviders.

(3) To date, the four pilot 'transfer' services have transferred a total of 83 careproviders who have a total of 88 children placed with them. This comprises:

Logan West Community Centre SFC—

9 careproviders with 13 children were transferred to combine with a recently recruited pool of careproviders to form a total of 46 careproviders and 76 children in placements

UCA Cairns SFC—

29 careproviders with 32 children

APSS Maryborough SFC—

21 careprovider with 23 children were transferred to form a total pool of 34 careproviders and 56 children in placements

TRACC South West SFC—

21 careproviders with 20 children

(4) The transfer of these responsibilities will not result in job losses to State Public Service employees.

1075. Computers in Schools, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Education (7/10/97)—

With reference to provision of computers for education of children within the electorate of Lytton—

- (1) What is the current enrolment for each school (Government and non-Government) in the Lytton Electorate?
- (2) What is the number of computers present in each school (Government and non-Government) in the Lytton Electorate?
- (3) What are the numbers of computers for each school (Government and non-Government) provided by Government funding and what numbers were provided by other sources (eg Parents and Citizens fundraising etc)?
- (4) What are the proposed numbers of additional computers to be supplied to each school (Government and non-Government) within the Lytton Electorate over the next year?
- (5) Does the Government have a recommended ratio of computers to students for primary and secondary students and what are the ratios?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97):

- (1) State Schools—Enrolment
 Darling Point Special School—63
 Lindum State School—134
 Lota State School—254
 Manly State School 353
 Manly West State School—367
 Wondall Heights State School—604
 Wynnum Central State School 137
 Wynnum North State High School—725
 Wynnum North State School—509
 Wynnum State High School—833
 Wynnum West State School—376

Source: Preliminary August 1997 Student Census for all Government schools except Manly West State School. Figures for Manly West State School are based on the July 1997 Effective Enrolment Return.

Non-State Schools—Enrolment
 Guardian Angels Primary School—302
 Iona College—1188
 St John Vianney's School—283

Source: 1996 Non-Government Student Census (DEET).

- (2) School Name—Machines
 Darling Point Special School—17
 Lindum State School—12
 Lota State School—17
 Manly State School—27
 Manly West State School—31
 Wondall Heights State School—42
 Wynnum Central State School—15
 Wynnum North SHS—108
 Wynnum North State School—36
 Wynnum SHS—216
 Wynnum West State School—34

These figures are based on current school equipment registers. Figures are not available for the number of computers in non-Government schools. Education Queensland does not hold data on the number of computers in the non-Government sector.

(3) Education Queensland cannot provide data on the numbers of computers in schools provided by Government funding, versus the number of computers provided by other sources. Individual school records will record contributions from organisations such as Parents' and Citizens' Associations.

No information is available with respect to the fund raising activities of non-Government sector school support groups.

(4) Actual computers are not provided to schools. Schools are allocated funds which are spent on computers and peripherals used for learning. Expenditure on specific items will be decided at school level. The actual items upon which this grant is expended will vary according to circumstances particular to each school.

As noted above, no specific components are identified for computers within funds provided to non-Government sector.

(5) The Schooling 2001 project identifies a systemic average ratio of one computer to every 7.5 students by the year 2001.

1076. Police to Population Ratios

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police to population ratios and his recent answer to a Question on Notice No. 907—

- (1) What has been the cause of the worsening of the police to population ratio over the last twelve months in Innisfail, Mareeba, Townsville, Rockhampton, Gympie, Dalby, Ipswich, Logan and Wynnum Police Districts?
- (2) Will he be directing the Police Commissioner to take urgent action to rectify the poor police to population ratio in these centres?
- (3) Will these areas be favoured with the allocation of graduating police recruits in the coming year?
- (4) Will police be drawn from other areas of the State to address these problem areas?
- (5) What does he expect the police to population ratio to be in these police districts on 30 June 1998?

Mr Cooper (6/11/97):

(1) The police to population ratios have limited value as a measure of the effectiveness of delivery of policing services. While the ratio has traditionally been used as such a measure, its adequacy has seriously diminished over recent years. There are other factors that must be considered rather than relying solely on police to population ratios. The demographic and social characteristics of the population to be served, the proportion of police performing operational duties, changes in technology, the numbers of civilian staff available to support police officers, and the efficiency and effectiveness of police systems and procedures are critical measures of the standard of policing services. The Regional Allocation Model used by the Police Service takes into account variables such as total population, population of youth, tourist population, crime statistics and the number of traffic accidents.

Figures used to calculate police to population ratios refer to actual police numbers at a particular point in time only. Actual police numbers fluctuate over time as separations take effect or large intakes of new police come on stream. As such, police numbers can be above or below the authorised strength for the district.

The authorised strength for each district referred to has, in fact, increased from 1996 to 1997. While the Service makes a concerted effort to maintain actual police numbers at the authorised level, it is not always possible. One needs to take into account the delay in filling vacancies that occur as a result of natural attrition, transfers and promotions and the time taken to train new recruits.

(2) 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. It would be

inappropriate of me to intervene in the Commissioner's determination of the allocation of police across the Service.

(3) Recruit graduations are planned for December 1997 and February, May and June 1998. Consideration by the Commissioner will be given to the equitable allocation of police recruits to all Police Districts throughout the State closer to those graduation dates.

(4) The actual number of police allotted to each district throughout the State is determined by the Service's Regional Allocation Model. This Model, which is directed at providing an equitable distribution of available officers across regions, districts and divisions, is based on the relative needs of all areas as determined by a comparison of common factors, including crime statistics, population measures, isolation issues and traffic incidents. Again, the Commissioner is responsible for allocation of police to various areas of the Service and it would be inappropriate for me to intervene in these operational decisions.

(5) Any estimate of police to population ratios for these police districts for 30 June 1998 would be purely speculative. It is not possible to provide an estimate of these ratios some eight months in advance. Issues of the rate of population growth, crime trends and other variables which impact on the allocation of policing resources will continue to be taken into account in determining the number of police allocated to these areas as determined by the Regional Allocation Model.

1077. Crown Land, Burpengary/Morayfield Area

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Natural Resources (7/10/97)—

Will he ensure that the departmental proposal to sell a parcel of land comprising 130ha in the Burpengary/Morayfield area is scrapped and discussions commence with the Caboolture Shire Council so that the land will be made available for community use?

Mr Hobbs (30/10/97): I have been advised that there has been no proposal from my Department to sell the property in question. In accordance with Caboolture Shire's request Departmental officers have previously entered into discussion with the Council to help determine what the community requirements might be in relation to the future use of the property. Those discussions are continuing and further investigations are being pursued in accordance with the Land Act 1994 and Government land management systems to determine the best future use for the land.

Best future use options can include the retention of this land by the State and the allocation of it as a recreational reserve as requested by Council. This is an option being given full consideration.

1078. Prison Numbers

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of prison numbers—

- (1) What is the present cell capacity for Queensland?
- (2) What is the present Queensland prison population, and what was it on 30 June 1996 and 30 June 1997?
- (3) How many prisoners are presently being held in each Queensland correctional facility, and how many were held there on 30 June 1996 and 30 June 1997?

Mr Cooper (6/11/97):

- (1) The current cell capacity for Queensland is as follows:

Built capacity for male prisoners—2804
 Built capacity for female prisoners—99
 Total built capacity—2903

Approved capacity for male prisoners—3883
 Approved capacity for female prisoners—190
 Total approved capacity—4073

- (2) Prisoner population:

30 June 1996—3538
 30 June 1997—3844
 As at 10 October 1997—4068

- (3)

Location	30 June 1996	30 June 1997	Numbers as at 10 Oct 1997
Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre	521	594	602
Borallon Correctional Centre	439	350	403
Brisbane Womens Correctional Centre	135	137	151
Darling Downs Correctional Centre	129	134	140
Lotus Glen Correctional Centre	427	430	459
Management Alternatives for Youth in Custody (MAYGIC)	N/A	13	0
Moreton Correctional Centre—A	393	294	233
Moreton Correctional Centre—B	214	205	207
Numinbah Correctional Centre	74	80	83
Palen Creek Correctional Centre	77	72	102
Rockhampton Correctional Centre	271	261	289
Sir David Longland Correctional Centre	464	403	357
Townsville Correctional Centre	394	472	473
Woodford Correctional Centre	N/A	399	569
Total	3538	3844	4068

1079. Police Service, Separation Rates

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (7/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of the separation rate for the Queensland Police Service—

- (1) What were the statewide separation rates for 1995-96 and 1996-97?
- (2) How many officers left the Queensland Police Service during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

Mr Cooper (6/11/97):

- (1) The statewide separation rates for the Queensland Police Service for 1995-96 and 1996-97 were 3.93% and 3.5% respectively.

- (2) The number of officers who left the Queensland Police Service during 1995-96 and 1996-97 were 250 and 226 respectively.

1080. Abattoirs, Bundaberg and Bowen

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (7/10/97)—

With reference to his support and his comments in the media that the Government is prepared to do all in its power to save the Bundaberg Abattoir—

- (1) Will he explain to the people of Bowen why, despite the pleas by myself and the people of Bowen, he failed to intervene or comment other than his statement of the effects of mad-cow disease?
- (2) Will he now admit that he failed to take any action to assist the people of Bowen?
- (3) Will he now admit that in both cases (Bundaberg and Bowen) he has played politics at the cost of peoples lives?
- (4) What does he now plan to do to assist workers in Bowen now that his inaction has meant that all abattoir jobs are gone?

Mr Perrett (6/11/97):

1. The Bowen abattoir was not owned by the Queensland Government. It was owned by a private sector meat processor, Borthwicks Ltd, which is a subsidiary of Nippon Meats of Japan.

While the Government very much wished to see a satisfactory outcome to those negotiations between unions and management, it was not appropriate for it to intervene. Certainly there was no possibility of the Government stepping in to take over the abattoir.

The bottom line is that had the workforce at Bowen abattoir and Borthwicks Ltd been able to agree on a new workplace agreement, the abattoir would still be open and workers would still have their jobs.

2. As I said in response to part 1 of this Question, the closure of the Bowen abattoir was a private sector decision.

3. No.

4. I reject the assertion that the abattoir jobs were lost because of the Government. Let me reiterate, the Bowen abattoir was operated by the private sector.

1081. Noise Barriers, Cleveland Railway Line

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (7/10/97)—

- (1) Will he give a time table for completion of the sound barriers to be erected on the Cleveland line from Norman Park Station to Hemmant Station including sound barriers that are not on the current works program?
- (2) Will he give a date for the completion of the erection of sound barriers without a break, in other words when all sound barriers are erected on the Cleveland line from Norman Park Station to Hemmant Station?

Mr Johnson (6/11/97):

1. The construction program for barriers planned between Norman Park station and Hemmant station is as follows—

Barrier No. 12: Near Norman Park station to Agnew Street bridge (eastern side), Norman Park—completed 29 September 1997.

Barrier No. 13: Norman Park station to Agnew Street bridge (western side), Norman Park—completed 6 October 1997. Approximately 50% not in contract, but will now be included. Construction timing not yet finalised (expect early 1998).

Barrier No. 14: Richmond Road to Bridgewater Street, Morningside—completed 28 August 1997.

Barrier No. 15: Small barrier covering a block of flats on Wynnum Road, Morningside—completed 25 July 1997.

Barrier No. 16: Barrier from Brisbane City Council depot to Bridgewater Street, Morningside (western side)—completed 19 September 1997.

Barrier No. 17: From Wynnum Road to Brock Street footbridge, Cannon Hill. Approximately one third of barrier not in the original contract. Construction timing not yet determined (expect early 1998).

Barrier No. 18: From Creek Road to Murarrie Road, Murarrie. Design completed. Construction programmed for completion mid February 1998.

Barrier No. 19: Creek Road to Railway Terrace, Murarrie. Design completed. Construction programmed for completion end February 1998.

2. There are no plans to provide continuous sound barriers alongside the railway between Norman Park and Hemmant. The current sound barrier locations and extent have been determined as a result of detailed studies to satisfy the rail corridor noise guidelines as identified on the Impact Assessment Study, and follow extensive consultation with the property owner affected on the height and extent of barriers.

1082. Burnett Shire Council

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (7/10/97)—

With reference to the recent and continuous criticism of the Burnett Shire Council, eg., (a) grave concerns of the financial situation of the shire and the \$2m turnaround to a deficit, (b) the sacking of the shire chief executive officer, (c) the subsequent resignation of Councillor John Doyle because of the role of the mayor and councillors in the forced resignation of the chief executive officer and loss of faith in the leadership ability of the mayor, (d) concern of a shire councillor regarding the Burnett Shire's involvement in a Burnett Heads subdivision, (e) increasing concerns of the financial affairs of the Burnett Shire Council by the Bargara Progress Association, (f) the loss of outside jobs (at least 20) due to the poor financial situation of the council, (g) suggestions that Government grants have been wrongly administered by the council, (h) distribution

of hundreds of wrong rate notices to residents and (i) numerous appeals and requests for ministerial involvement regarding rezoning rejections by the council—

In view of these matters, will she appoint an administrator to the Burnett Shire Council?

Mrs McCauley (6/11/97): I am aware that a number of concerns have been raised about the Burnett Shire Council.

At my request, officers from the Department of Local Government and Planning recently met with the Mayor and Acting Chief Executive Officer.

I am advised that the Council acknowledges there are certain problems that need to be addressed and it is taking appropriate steps to remedy the situation.

My officers will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Council's strategies and will assist if necessary.

On this basis, I do not consider the appointment of an administrator is necessary at present.

1083. Prince Charles Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (7/10/97)—

With reference to recent problems at the Prince Charles Hospital caused by the replacement/upgrade of the telephone system whereby time of medical and nursing staff is being wasted because outside calls could not be transferred between phone extensions, and where vital communication about the medical condition of patients could not be passed on—

- (1) What is the total cost to supply and install the new phone system at the Prince Charles Hospital?
- (2) Which company won the tender(s) to supply and install the new telephone system, and what checks were carried out to ensure that the new system would meet the needs of the re-developed Prince Charles Hospital?

Mr Horan (5/11/97):

(1) \$860,000.

(2) Alcatel Australia Ltd.

Extensive user consultation took place between the Project Director, the hospital and the Communications Consultant to develop a suitable specification on which Alcatels pricing was based.

Commissioning occurred in the presence of the consulting engineer in accordance with the predetermined program.

There was not at any time during implementation or subsequently any technical reason to impede calls transfer. Some staff experienced initial difficulty in using the transfer function which has been remedied through further training. The installation of the new switchboard has enabled an improved service to be provided.

1084. WorkCover Act

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (7/10/97)—

With reference to concerns expressed at the new WorkCover Act—

- (1) What are the number of applications for workers' compensation refused as "non complying" in the 12 months prior to the new Act?
- (2) What are the number of applications for workers' compensation refused as "non complying" under the new Act?
- (3) What are the claim categories most impacted positively or negatively by the new Act and to what extent?

Mr Santoro (6/11/97):

(1) The number of workers' compensation claims rejected by the Workers' Compensation Board in the twelve months prior to 1 February 1997 was 3,506.

(2) From 1 February to 30 September 1997 the number of rejected claims totalled 2,481 which represents 4.4% of claims intimated in this period. For the same period in 1996 the number of claims rejected was 2,181 which was 3.6% of claims intimated. An increase of only 300 rejections, or 0.8%, over the period demonstrates a very similar pattern of rejections from the more than 55,000 claims lodged during the period and is not considered to be statistically significant.

(3) I am advised that the vast majority of claims rejected are on the basis of the definition of 'injury'. Previously the definition of 'worker' lead to the rejection of a small number of claims, but the new definition clearly sets out who are workers for the purposes of the Act and as such, claims are no longer being lodged by non-workers.

The new definition of injury states that employment must be "the major significant factor" contributing to the injury. Previously, claims were accepted where the relationship of the injury to employment was only minimal. To give an example, an injured worker with a pre-existing back condition complains of further back pain after getting up from a chair at work. Prior to 1 February, the claim would probably have been accepted, due to the injury occurring at work, despite only a minimal work related component. However, under the new definition the claim would not be accepted, due to the pre-existing condition being seen as the major significant factor contributing to the incapacity.

WorkCover is unable to establish any definite trends in claims categories at this time as insufficient data is available.

WorkCover has extensively trained its employees in the new provisions of the Act to ensure effective and efficient decisions are made regarding workers' compensation claims. From 1 July 1997 both injured workers and employers have access to a review/appeal process. This ensures greater consistency in the interpretation of the legislation for all workers and employers across the State. Up to 30 September, 52 employee and 2 employer review requests have been upheld.

1085. Mining Leases, Gladstone; East End Mine Action Group

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (7/10/97)—

With reference to mining leases 698, 699, 700 and 701, Gladstone, in the name of Queensland Cement Limited and given the ongoing dispute between Queensland Cement Limited, the Department of Mines and Energy, the Department of Natural Resources, and the East End Mine Action Group over ground water depletion due to the existing and proposed expansion of mining operations in the area—

- (1) Will he give an unequivocal guarantee to members of the East End Mine Action Group that the current and future productivity potential of their land will not be affected by the depletion of underground water supplies through the interference of mining; if not, why not?
- (2) What level of compensation, in dollar terms, will be paid to landholders who lose productivity through depleted water resources as a result of the environmental impact of mining activities in the area?

Mr Gilmore (4/11/97):

(1) There are special conditions attached to these mining leases which address any injurious affection upon landholders in regard to the groundwater supply in the vicinity of the mine. The requirements of these special conditions are reflected in the Environmental Management Overview Strategy which is a life of mine document. There is some uncertainty regarding the extent of the effects that the mining operations currently have and will have on the groundwater supply. The groundwater in the area has been monitored for almost 20 years since before mining started. This monitoring has provided a comprehensive collection of data that has been subjected to careful review over the last 12 months. Two consultants have prepared reports addressing the issue of groundwater depletion in the area. The consultants' reports differ in the conclusions reached by them. Further technical information is being gathered to assist the Department of Natural Resources, acting as an arbiter, to assess both reports and determine the extent of influence of the mine at East End on the groundwater resources. The special conditions attached to the lease, provide for appropriate mechanisms to be put in place to compensate for the loss of water to injuriously affected landholders. Any further detailed questions regarding the groundwater supply would best be referred to my colleague the Hon Howard Hobbs, Minister for Natural Resources. I would like to add that there is ongoing consultation between Queensland Cement Limited and the East End community in the form of a Community Liaison Group which meets regularly. My Department and the Department of Natural Resources provide input at these meetings to help resolve any differences between the company and the community.

(2) The question of the level of compensation, in dollar terms, at lease renewal is one that is negotiated

between the landholder within the lease and the lessee. My Department is not involved in the determination of compensation agreements but its role is to ensure there is a compensation agreement in place prior to any lease renewal. If compensation cannot be agreed upon between the parties, the Mining Registrar may convene a conference between the parties to facilitate an agreement. If compensation still cannot be agreed upon either party can refer the matter to the Wardens Court for determination. If the Wardens Court determination is not acceptable to either party there is an avenue for an appeal to the Land Court. For landholders off lease, there are provisions in the Mineral Resources Act to hear and determine actions, suits and proceedings arising in relation to mining. However, as I have mentioned previously, the special conditions to these leases, provide for an alternative supply of water to injuriously affected landholders both on and off lease.

1086. Emergency Services Department, Expenditure on Advertising

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (7/10/97)—

- (1) What is the total outlay on advertising expended by his department in the first quarter of this financial year to 30 September 1997 including (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media?
- (2) What percentage of this year's Budget on advertising for his department has so far been expended?

Mr Veivers (6/11/97): (1 & 2) The total outlay over this period was approximately \$133,177. The breakdown of costs is not available because creative and production components are commercial-in-confidence. The department's promotional activities covering new laws or initiatives which warrant public information campaigns, may vary from time to time throughout the year and are dealt with in the department's annual report.

1087. Foxtton Bridge

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (7/10/97)—

With reference to the replacement of the Foxtton Bridge—

- (1) Why was the work for the construction of a bypass and temporary bridge associated with the replacement of the Foxtton Bridge on the Captain Cook Highway undertaken by Main Roads and not included in the major contract won by Seymour Whyte?
- (2) What were the problems associated with the temporary bridge?
- (3) Why were these problems not foreseeable?
- (4) As the original contract was for a construction period of 100 days with penalties for any extra days, what is the construction period now and will similar non-performance penalties apply?

- (5) What other changes have been made to the contract and the construction of the new bridge?
- (6) What is the expected cost of the new bridge now?

Mr Johnson (6/11/97):

- (1) There were two reasons underpinning the decision to construct the Foxton Bridge sidetrack through a minor contract with Main Roads Road Transport Construction Services rather than through the major contract with Seymour Whyte.

These were:

- (i) Timing for Construction

Having the sidetrack built by Main Roads allowed Seymour Whyte to commence work on the bridge structure as that company took possession of the site. This maximised the opportunity to have at least one new traffic lane constructed across the creek before the wet season.

- (ii) Technical Aspects

There were a number of geotechnical and hydrological variables associated with the temporary crossing. This approach was considered the best way to handle the risks in a contractual sense.

- (2) The temporary sidetrack consists of sections of steel culverts joined by connecting straps and backfilled with sand enveloped in a geotextile fabric.

After investigation it was believed the problem stemmed from a loose connecting strap. This resulted in scouring of the sand backfill from around the pipes.

- (3) The problem appeared to be related to the construction process and was not foreseeable. Additional measures were taken in the reinstatement works to obviate future risk of failure.

1088. Pineapple Loading by Queensland Rail, North Coast Area

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (7/10/97)—

- (1) Does he approve of efforts to terminate the provision of pineapple loading by Queensland Rail at Elimbah, Glasshouse Mountains and Beerwah?
- (2) Is he prepared to intervene with the Minister for Transport on this matter in the interests of pineapple growers in the near north coast area?

Mr Perrett (6/11/97):

1. Queensland Rail is planning to change but not terminate the provision of pineapple loading at the stations mentioned (Elimbah, Glasshouse and Beerwah).

Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers is prepared to accept the inevitable progressive integration of rail services with road transport,

provided that adequate land is available at the existing Queensland Rail sites to continue to operate commercial activities, such as loading fruit onto road transport. Also, growers want the local fruitgrower cooperatives to continue to be located on land leased from Queensland Rail.

Golden Circle Limited, which growers supply, is involved in ongoing consultation with Queensland Rail to achieve cost-competitive arrangements for the future.

2. I will provide a copy of this response to the Minister for Transport for his consideration.

1089. National Competition Policy

Mr ROBERTS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (7/10/97)—

With reference to National Competition Policy and particularly the application of Competitive Neutrality Principles—

How will she ensure that public sector entities are not disadvantaged in the competitive market by the requirement to respond to public sector accountability mechanisms such as Freedom of Information, Complaints to the Ombudsman, Administrative Appeals, and Judicial Review, and also to other public sectors competitive disadvantages such as the preparation of Ministerial briefs, responding to Ministerial inquiries, Parliamentary scrutiny etc?

Mrs Sheldon (6/11/97): The Member for Nudgee's question relates to the application of the principle of Competitive Neutrality to public sector business entities. In particular, Mr Roberts inquired as to how I would ensure that public sector entities would not be disadvantaged in the competitive market by various public sector accountability mechanisms.

The accountability framework for Government business activities is such that in the public interest, they are accountable through their Boards and management, and responsible Ministers to Parliament. Within this framework, they are not required to disclose commercially sensitive information which could disadvantage them in the competitive market.

These accountability arrangements attempt to replicate, as much as possible, the accountability and reporting disciplines applying to business enterprises in the private sector.

In this regard, private businesses are subject to a number of onerous accountability requirements.

Indeed, Government owned businesses are spared the significant costs incurred by private sector bodies in terms of continuous disclosure and reporting requirements under the Corporations Law, Stock Exchange listing rules, rating agencies and the market generally.

In summary, business enterprises in the public and private sectors are subject to rigorous but different accountability regimes. This does not necessarily give rise to issues of competitive neutrality.

1090. Public Art

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (7/10/97)—

What action is the Government taking to promote public art and to provide for public art in public buildings of the Queensland Government and statutory authorities?

Mrs Sheldon (6/11/97): The Government has been very active in the area of public art policy and practice.

Funds are available through the grants programs of The Arts Office and much fine work has been funded in 1997, including the very visible Art on Line recently shown at the Fortitude Valley Railway Station

A seminar with international public art expert Sandra Percival in late 1996 provided a valuable opportunity for cultural sector representatives involved in public art to meet and exchange views and to discuss key public art issues.

Significant background research into Public Art has been undertaken.

Ten Position papers in the form of journal articles were commissioned on the subject of public art. Most of these have been submitted. Some have already been published in industry journals.

An extensive reference list was compiled.

\$200,000 has been allocated for the incorporation of artworks in the Government's 75 William Street building project. Artists are already involved in planning and development for the site even though the foundations are still being laid for the building. This demonstrates the Government's commitment to a best practice approach to public art.

The Government is continuing its research and is consulting with industry stakeholders to develop a Queensland Designing Environments Strategy for consideration by Cabinet late this year or early next year.

1091. Violence at Train Stations, Lytton Electorate

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/10/97)—

With reference to violence at train stations within the electorate of Lytton—

- (1) Which train stations within the Lytton Electorate currently have video surveillance cameras installed and what is the estimated date of installation for those stations which do not yet have video cameras installed?
- (2) Has the Wynnum Police Station (which is a 24 hour station with its own video monitoring system in its watchhouse) no online electronic access to the cameras on the train stations so as to perform precautionary checks on rail station misbehaviour and to ensure that persons moved on from one station do not simply congregate at another?
- (3) Will he give a commitment to urgently investigate the cost and feasibility of

converting suitable police stations to the Queensland Rail security camera video system and to report back to Parliament on the feasibility thereof?

Mr Johnson (28/10/97):

- (1) Stations currently with surveillance cameras installed include: Wynnum North, Wynnum, Wynnum Central, Manly.

Remaining stations include: Lindum, Lota.

These stations will have surveillance installed by June 1998.

Summary: All stations in the Lytton Electorate will have surveillance cameras installed by June 1998.

- (2) There is currently no arrangement with Queensland Police to monitor online CCTV cameras installed at railway stations. The technology employed by Queensland Rail does however allow remote monitoring of CCTV cameras and is currently utilised with 24 hour monitoring of the Citytrain network by Queensland Rail staff at Mayne Control Centre located at Mayne.

There are procedures in place when anti-social behaviour is detected or where it is reported, to contact the respective emergency services organisation and provide police with relevant video recording tapes to assist with their investigations.

- (3) Queensland Rail has already a 24 hour monitoring facility at Mayne Control Centre. It is essential to have a remote monitoring facility close to the train controllers in order to respond to incidents that may arise.

Duplicating a remote monitoring facility for police stations is not regarded as an effective utilisation of resources. Accordingly no commitment can be given at this time to investigate the cost and feasibility of monitoring surveillance cameras at police stations.

1092. Police Resources, Petrie Police Division

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Petrie Police Division—

- (1) How many police left the Petrie Police Division in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Petrie Police Division in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Petrie Police Division during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my

disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1093. Police Resources, Toowong Police Division

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Toowong Police Division—

- (1) How many police left the Toowong Police Division in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Toowong Police Division in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Toowong Police Division during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1094. Police Resources, Gold Coast Police District

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Gold Coast Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Gold Coast Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Gold Coast Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Gold Coast Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?

(4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?

(5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1095. Suspension of Students from High Schools, Maryborough and Hervey Bay

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Education (8/10/97)—

With reference to new legislation relating to suspensions and exclusions—

For each of the high schools in Maryborough and Hervey Bay (a) what number of students have been suspended from these schools in 1997, (b) what number of students have been excluded from these schools in 1997, (c) what number of students have had their enrolments cancelled in 1997 and (d) what number of students in the 14 to 16 age bracket have volunteered to leave school rather than be suspended in 1997?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97):

(a), (b) & (c) Suspensions 1-5 days—61; Suspensions 6-20 days—5; Exclusions—12; Cancellations—1

Note: This data was collected in July for Term 2. Term 3 and term 4 data will be collected in December 1997.

(d) Throughout the State, 58 exemptions from schooling for 14 year olds have been granted by the Minister in 1997. Eight of these exemptions have been granted from schools in the Maryborough electorate.

The principals of the Maryborough schools concerned report that asking students to leave, rather than face suspension, is not a practice in their schools.

There is no data available on the number of 14-16 year old students volunteering to leave any Maryborough State High School, without completing the formal exemption process. Principals report students are given warning that if misbehaviour continues they will face the possibility of formal suspension, or cancellation.

1096. Police Resources, Maryborough Police District

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Maryborough Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Maryborough Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Maryborough Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Maryborough Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1097. Police Resources, Redcliffe Police District

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Redcliffe Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Redcliffe Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Redcliffe Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Redcliffe Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1098. Leadership and Management Program

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (8/10/97)—

With reference to the so-called 'Leadership and Management' program for which \$4.5m has been earmarked to send senior public service executives to the United Kingdom—

- (1) What are the names and positions of public servants sent to the United Kingdom?
- (2) How long will each of them remain there?
- (3) How and why were they selected?
- (4) Which offices have they been assigned to in the United Kingdom?
- (5) What are the leadership and/or management practices they will learn which are not available in Australia?
- (6) Are they accompanied by their families; if so, what are the details?
- (7) What salary, entitlements and expenses have been allocated to each?
- (8) Where are they being accommodated?
- (9) What is the total cost per month for each person involved?
- (10) What reporting system has been put in place to monitor their progress?

Mr Borbidge (6/11/97):

(1) No public servant has been sent to the United Kingdom, or elsewhere overseas, under the Leadership and Development Program (not the Leadership and Management Program referred to by Mr Beattie).

However, in the light of the Government's recent decision to offer security of employment to Government workers and its acknowledgment that public servants are the pre-eminent providers of Government services, the Office of the Public Service is currently reviewing its Leadership and Development initiatives including the proposal to send senior officers for training in the United Kingdom and other places.

Questions (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9) & (10) are not relevant in view of the answer to question (1). However, whichever Leadership and Development programs are put in place, I can assure the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition that the most stringent assessment and accountability standards will be applied.

1099. Burdekin Dam

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (8/10/97)—

With reference to a leak in 1981 from the stockpile at Ben Lomond uranium mine resulting in radiation levels of twice the acceptable level in a creek within the Burdekin Dam catchment area and as the water from the Burdekin Dam is now used for the Townsville/Thuringowa domestic water supply, and as the Chairman of the Townsville Thuringowa Water Board, Ian Hamilton, has confirmed (Townsville Bulletin, 25 September) that run-off from the site does find its way into the water supply—

- (1) What is the current extent of the stockpile at the mine site, ie is it a "small heap" as described by Mr Hamilton?
- (2) What action has been taken to ensure that leaks such as that which occurred in 1981 are not still occurring?
- (3) What is the method and the extent of testing for radiation of water contained within the Burdekin Dam and its catchment?

Mr Gilmore (4/11/97):

(1) The stockpile contains about 3500 tonnes of ore. It is about as large as a normal house. By mining standards that is a very small heap.

(2) In 1981 the stockpile was moved to flatter ground about 2 kilometres north west of the adit. The ore was placed on a concrete base, surrounded by a low concrete and brick wall, and completely covered with an aluminium sheet roof. These structures prevent rain and surface water from coming into contact with the stockpile and also prevent any of the ore from being blown off the stockpile by wind or being dislodged by animals. The site has been visited by Department of Mines and Energy and Department of Environment officers several times over the last 16 years. The most recent inspection, in early October 1997, found the safety precautions were intact.

(3) Since 1984 water quality monitoring samples have been collected at approximately 2 monthly intervals from Bog Hole Creek in the vicinity of the mine and stockpile and from Keelbottom Creek to the east and south east of the Ben Lomond leases. Since 1992 groundwater from monitoring bores in the lease area has also been sampled.

The samples have generally been collected by a consultant and analysed by a NATA registered laboratory such as AMDEL. About 24 parameters have been measured including uranium, radium, pH, chromium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, lead and mercury.

Almost all water analyses have been within the World Health Organisation drinking water limits, although water from some stagnant pools has exceeded the limits for heavy metals and radium on rare occasions.

When the streams are flowing there would be sufficient dilution within a few kilometres of the mine to ensure safe levels of metals in the water. In the 300 km to the Burdekin Falls Dam, the dilution factor is about 10 000 to 1. In reality there would be no measurable effect on the water quality in the dam because most of the metals would precipitate from the water in transit and much of the water would never reach the dam.

The Townsville/Thuringowa Water Board analyses the water it receives from the dam via the Houghton irrigation channel. None has been used since January 1997 and none is expected to be needed to augment the Ross River supply for at least 18 months.

1100. Public Benefit Assessments of Legislation

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (8/10/97)—

With reference to the \$45m in competition payments to be received from the Commonwealth in 1998-99 on the condition that the State Government is meeting its timetable for public benefit assessments of anti-competitive legislation presented in July 1996—

- (1) How many assessments were scheduled for 1996-97?
- (2) How many of these assessments have been completed?
- (3) How many of those which have not been completed have actually commenced?
- (4) How many assessments are scheduled for 1997-98?
- (5) How many of these assessments have commenced?
- (6) At what stage of completion are the remaining assessments?

Mrs Sheldon (7/11/97): The number of reviews scheduled for 1996-97 and subsequent years is set out in the Legislation Review Policy Statement released by the Queensland Government in July 1996.

The Annual Report submitted by Queensland to the National Competition Council earlier this year indicated satisfactory progress with the legislation review and Queensland qualified for its first tranche payment under the Competition Principles Agreement.

The review timetable, which is indicative only, is closely monitored by Treasury and adjusted as necessary to take account of particular circumstances arising in respect of individual reviews.

1101. Ambulance Service

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (8/10/97)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Queensland Ambulance Service has required that ambulance officers should now have to purchase their own tea and coffee and that ambulance officers must also pay for calls to home?
- (2) What is the basis of his practice?
- (3) Will he give consideration to reversing it?

Mr Veivers (7/11/97): The provision of tea, coffee, sugar and milk as an amenity to ambulance officers ceased under the previous Labor Government. It was ordered by Dr Leo Keliher soon after his appointment as Director-General of the Department of Emergency Services. The rationale behind this decision was that such amenities were not available to Public Servants.

Numerous representations to the Director-General and the Minister for reversal of this decision were unsuccessful, apart from a concession that certain metropolitan ambulance stations could maintain some stock for rationing to officers unable to return to their normal station for morning or afternoon tea breaks.

The Queensland Ambulance Service had traditionally supplied these amenities in recognition of the emergent nature of the Service, whereby officers could be called away from their tea breaks, having to leave drinks unfinished. The reintroduction of the provision of tea, coffee, sugar and milk is currently being considered as part of the new Enterprise Partnership Agreement.

The use of QAS telephones by ambulance officers to call home is managed as an operational issue. Like all employees, the use of the employer's telephones is restricted to business purposes and they are not available for the personal use of employees. However, officers are permitted to use QAS telephones to call home, at no charge, in the event of an emergency, or if they are unable to finish duty at their rostered time.

I am informed by the Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service that, if an officer does not have access to a telephone, communications centre staff will telephone the officer's spouse or family to advise of the late finish.

1102. Police Resources, Ipswich Police District

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Ipswich Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Ipswich Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Ipswich Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Ipswich Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1103. Police Resources, Wynnum Police District

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Wynnum Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Wynnum Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Wynnum Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Wynnum Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1104. Police Resources, Logan Police District

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Logan Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Logan Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Logan Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Logan Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1105. Families, Youth and Community Care Department Grants

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (8/10/97)—

With reference to the recent grants to community organisations to establish assessment programs for children in the care of the department—

- (1) Which organisations have received these grants and how much did each organisation receive?
- (2) What services will these organisations provide?
- (3) On what basis will children be referred to these organisations?
- (4) What relationship will these groups have with the department in sharing responsibility for these children?
- (5) How many children does he anticipate will receive services from these organisations in 1997-98?

Mr Lingard (5/11/97):

- (1) Funding for the establishment of five Assessment Services across the State was provided to four auspice organisations.

Uniting Church Australia (Division of Child and Family Care), together with Unicare—Bardon, \$171,405

Logan West Community Centre—Logan City, \$171,405

Mercy Family Services—Goodna, \$196,853

Uniting Church Australia (Division of Child and Family Care)—Bundaberg, \$196,853

Centacare—Townsville, \$196,853

- (2) The five assessment services will focus on three main activities:

A review of the case histories and/or case plans for the children/families referred;

The comprehensive assessment of child/family needs;

The development of a detailed case plan.

- (3) Children referred have complex care and support needs, including multiple disabilities, and severe behavioural difficulties; either:

(i) at imminent risk of entry into care; or

(ii) in care, but have been subject to multiple placement breakdowns, or are particularly difficult to place.

- (4) Assessment Services will work collaboratively with Departmental services.

- (5) Services will be used to capacity.

1106. Police Resources, Cairns Police District

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Cairns Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Cairns Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Cairns Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Cairns Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1107. Police Resources, Mackay Police District

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Mackay Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Mackay Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Mackay Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Mackay Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1108. Women's Refuges, Caboolture Area

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (8/10/97)—

With reference to his comments on the subject of domestic violence at the opening of the department's offices in Caboolture—

How many women's refuges are there in the Caboolture, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe local authorities and how many receive departmental funding?

Mr Lingard (5/11/97): In the Brisbane North region of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care there are 4 services funded under Domestic Violence Initiative Program (DVIP) and Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) that assist women and children experiencing domestic violence in the shires of Redcliffe, Pine Rivers and Caboolture.

1109. Police Resources, Boondall Police Division

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Boondall Police Division—

- (1) How many police left the Boondall Police Division in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Boondall Police Division in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Boondall Police Division during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1110. Police Resources, Mount Isa Police District

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Mount Isa Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Mount Isa Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Mount Isa Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Mount Isa Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1111. Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund

Ms SPENCE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (8/10/97)—

With reference to the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Fund—

- (1) How many claims were made on the fund by consumers who were misled by real estate agents in the last year?
- (2) How much was paid from the funds to these claimants?
- (3) How many claimants did not receive successful claims?

Mr Beanland (7/11/97):

(1) There were 203 claims against the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund considered by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 in respect to pecuniary loss suffered by persons in their dealings with real estate agents.

(2) \$335,027.36 recompense was approved for payment by the Auctioneers and Agents Committee to 193 of those claimants.

(3) 10 of those persons who lodged claims against the Auctioneers and Agents Fidelity Guarantee Fund were refused any recompense.

1112. Queensland Rail, VERs

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/10/97)—

With reference to parliamentary estimates debates in 1997, Queensland Rail's Chief Executive identified a "surplus component" of some 290 permanent workers in the workshops group—

- (1) Where were these 290 surplus workers located?
- (2) What progress has been made towards the target of reducing them by the end of 1998?
- (3) Will these workers be considered for the improved targeted VER's?

Mr Johnson (28/10/97):

1. Current identified surplus permanent staff numbers in the Workshops Group are as follows:-

Workshops South—220

Workshops North, Rockhampton—60

Workshops North, Townsville—75

Total—355

2. Completion of Workshops Development activities will enable project resources to be reallocated to other operational activities. Workshops Development will be substantially complete by march 1998.

Transfer of operations from Ipswich is advanced. Final mobilisation of production staff from Ipswich Workshop to the Redbank Centre of Excellence will be complete by December 1997.

The amalgamation of the North and South yards in Townsville will conclude in January 1998. This milestone will enable operational efficiencies to be obtained.

The implementation of the Workshops Group Structure is continuing. It is anticipated that this will be finalised by march 1998. Completion of the structure will enable surplus positions and staff to be clearly identified. It is anticipated that by March 1998 all remaining surplus staff will be specifically identified.

3. The application of the targeted VERS within the Workshops Group is being reviewed. Where surplus workers are identified who meet the criteria for targeted VERS, these workers are expected to be offered this option.

1113. Police Resources, Alderley Police District

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Alderley Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Alderley Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Alderley Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Alderley Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to

Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1114. Police Resources, Oxley Police District

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Oxley Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Oxley Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Oxley Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Oxley Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1115. Police Resources, Toowoomba Police District

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Toowoomba Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Toowoomba Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Toowoomba Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Toowoomba Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?

- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1116. Police Resources, Gladstone Police District

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Gladstone Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Gladstone Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Gladstone Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Gladstone Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1117. High Schools, Mount Tamborine and Jindalee

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (8/10/97)—

With reference to the announcement in the Gold Coast Bulletin on 8 October that a new high school will be built on Mt Tamborine and also to the recent announcement of a new high school at Jindalee—

- (1) What criteria is currently used by the Education Department to determine the need for a new high school?
- (2) Specifically, what population projections and/or housing density projections are used to determine the benchmark for new high schools?
- (3) What are the projected enrolments at each of the new high schools during each of their first five years of operation?
- (4) What will be the projected enrolment impacts on other high schools in the area of each of these two new high schools for the 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 school years (including the impact of the new school at Jindalee and Oxley State High School)?
- (5) What is the budget allocation for each school and what facilities are expected to be constructed and operational when the schools open?
- (6) Is land currently available, or is it to be acquired, and where is the land situated?
- (7) What contribution, in dollar and proportional terms, will the relevant local Government be required to make towards headworks, site development, access and service charges for each school?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97):

- (1) When planning for a new school, Education Queensland studies:

the ultimate residential capacity of high school catchments;

broad strategic planning intentions for local and sub regional areas;

the capacity and enrolment forecasts of existing high schools.

In urban areas, it is desirable for a high school catchment to contain a minimum of 8000 households.

The standards of Education Queensland are reflective of the fact that it regards primary and high schools as local community facilities. As far as is feasible, each defined community should have its own high school in as timely a manner as possible.

In rural areas, and remote areas, Education Queensland standards address the servicing of rural towns that are important to the particular economic structure of the local authority. Not all rural towns would be serviced with a high school (as opposed to a primary school); thus further decisions would need to be made based on travel times for students, quality and safety of routes, numbers of students, etc.

- (2) A range of population and housing density projections are utilised eg:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing for base data in a given census year.

Department of Local Government and Housing Local Authority and Small Area population and housing forecasts.

Education Queensland's forecasts for secondary schools.

Education Queensland's standards for the provision of secondary schools.

In addition, Education Queensland cooperates with all other departments in planning according to preferred subregional and regional growth directives, for example SEQ 2001.

(3) The projected enrolment for the new Tamborine Mountain high school is as follows:

1999—180

2000—220

2001—250

2002—250

2003—250

NB. The Tamborine Mountain State High School will initially operate with years 8, 9 and 10, therefore the enrolment projection recognises that in Years 8-10, an enrolment peak of 250 students will be achieved.

The proposed high school at Jindalee is expected to open with Years 8, 9 and 11 in 1999 with 400-450 students. Years 10 and 12 will be offered in the subsequent year; and enrolments should reach about 750 in this year. Once the school is then fully established, it is expected to reach an enrolment in excess of 1000 and remain stable at this level for some time.

(4) Tamborine Mountain students attend 14 secondary schools, both Government and non-Government. The impact on individual schools, as a result of the construction of this school, is limited.

The proposed high school at Jindalee will not affect the enrolments at Oxley State High School, as this latter school draws from quite a different catchment (only minimal numbers are drawn from the Centenary area).

At present, the majority of students living within the Centenary suburbs attend Kenmore and Corinda State High Schools, with a smaller number attending Toowong. While it is expected that significant numbers will be drawn from the first two high schools by a new high school at Jindalee, this will not affect the base viability of Kenmore and Corinda State High Schools which will still serve catchments of a size judged to be appropriate under Departmental standards.

(5) & (6) A Tamborine Mountain high school site of 12 hectares, located at Holt Road and Curtis Road, Mount Tamborine, is held by Education Queensland.

The budget estimate for the construction of this school is \$7.4 million.

This estimate was based on the requirements of a school of 300 students in years 8-10 and includes the following:

Administration block

Resource Centre

Multi Purpose covered area/canteen

Staff/Amenities block

General Studies block with music facilities

Science block with art room

Home Economics (kitchen/textiles space)

Industrial Technology/Design block

Ancillary staff/Campus store

Field Equipment store

The budget also includes provision for a sports oval, courts platforms, on-site car parking for visitors and staff, landscaping and site specific works. Fibre optic data cabling is to be provided to all buildings.

It is proposed that the school will have a self contained sewage system.

A high school site is held at Jindalee, with frontage to Yalabee and Moolanda Streets (suburb of Jindalee, Brisbane Local Authority area).

The budget for construction is \$8.8 million.

This estimate is based on the requirements of the initial intake of students in Years 8 and 9 of which there are estimated to be 200. The facilities include:

Administration block

Resource Centre

Science block with interim general classrooms

Home Economics block with interim commerce and music classrooms

Industrial Technology and Design block with interim general classrooms

Art block with Graphics/general classrooms

Canteen/Amenities block

Students covered area

2 x Staff/Amenities blocks

Ancillary staff/Campus store

Field Equipment store

There is also provision for a sports oval, courts platform, on-site car parking for visitors and staff and landscaping works. Fibre optic data cabling is to be provided to all buildings.

(7) A recent (late 1996) Cabinet Submission directs the State to contribute 50% of the total capital costs for infrastructure required to service a school site (excluding headworks). The Honourable Member would be aware that the previous Labor Government did not contribute any money to assist with the development of such infrastructure.

Site development is the responsibility of Education Queensland, apart from bus and student set down areas which are the focus of the Cabinet Submission, as described.

1118. Acacia Ridge Primary School

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education (8/10/97)—

With reference to the fact that during the time his department was seeking community support for the closure of Acacia Ridge High School, it was clearly stated by his department that one of the advantages of the move was that Acacia Ridge Primary School could be moved from the present unsatisfactory site to the high school site—

- (1) In view of this fact, how can he reconcile this with the new proposal to sell the school as a new primary school on this unsatisfactory site?
- (2) Will he oppose the establishment of any new school on this site without air-conditioning and safety measures put in place to isolate any students from the road hazards and pollution problems of the Mt Lindsay Highway?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97): All surplus Education Queensland properties are sold strictly in line with the provisions of the Government Land Management System. Under this system, Education Queensland is able to sell properties to other Government agencies, or community service organisations, through a 'private treaty' sale arrangement.

Education Queensland has had an approach from the Aboriginal and Islander Independent School (AIIS) which has expressed an interest in purchasing the Acacia Ridge State School facility. The AIIS currently operates from leased Education Queensland accommodation which is too small and poorly located to optimise service provision. This school provides a specialist service to students from a specific area of the community.

Administrators from AIIS have visited the Acacia Ridge State School facility and believe it is ideally situated to meet the goals of the school. Presumably, the Aboriginal school authority weighed up the relative advantages and disadvantages of the site and its buildings when making a determination with respect to the suitability of the site.

Local authority planning and health standards will address all matters at the time of rezoning. If there is any material change to the building, the local authority will assess these changes in its role as local administrators of the Building Act.

Issues such as air-conditioning and safety will be addressed by AIIS as part of the establishment of any school.

The AIIS is currently seeking funding to enable them to proceed with their desire to purchase this facility. Should they be in a position to pay the required price, the sale will proceed as a matter of urgency to enable the commencement of operations on the new site, as soon as possible.

1119. Police Resources, Rockhampton Police District

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Rockhampton Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Rockhampton Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Rockhampton Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Rockhampton Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?

- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1120. Teachers

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Education (8/10/97)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 1027 in which I asked him about female teachers who were disadvantaged by departmental policy—

- (1) How many female teachers graduated into the teaching service on each of the years between 1960 and 1970 and how many of these teachers are still employed by the department?
- (2) Regarding those female teachers who were forced to resign from superannuation upon marriage and become temporary teachers, is he prepared to recommend to Treasury that superannuation provisions to those teachers with long service be reviewed?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97):

(1) The available data shows a total of 4,898 female teachers were appointed during the years 1960-1970. Of these 2,577 are still currently employed.

(2) I am not aware of the Honourable Member having such an interest in this matter during the term of the Goss Government. Nevertheless, I would be happy to refer this matter to the Honourable the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts for her consideration.

1121. Morningside Railway Station

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (8/10/97)—

- (1) Will he have Queensland Rail investigate making Morningside Station an interchange station as it is the fastest growing station on the Cleveland line with patronage still growing and would be an ideal station to service this large area?
- (2) Has Queensland Rail ever looked at any station on the Cleveland line being an interchange station; if so, what station and why did it not proceed?

Mr Johnson (28/10/97):

- (1) Yes

(2) Queensland Rail has constructed bus/rail interchanges at three stations on the Cleveland line namely Thorneside, Wellington Point and Cleveland.

Additionally, an integrated ticketing arrangement exists between Brisbane Transport and Queensland Rail for the Wynnum link providing a shuttle service to Wynnum station.

Bus operators do not currently utilise facilities at Wellington Point station, however, Queensland Rail is at present holding discussions with the new bus operator for the area, National Bus Company Pty Ltd, on the reintroduction of services to Wellington Point station.

1122. Police Resources, Sunshine Coast Police District

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Sunshine Coast Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Sunshine Coast Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Sunshine Coast Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Sunshine Coast Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1123. Advertising of National Parks

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (8/10/97)—

What is the cost of (a) creative, (b) production and (c) placement for (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media for the current advertising campaign being undertaken on national parks?

Mr Littleproud (7/11/97): My Department is not in possession of detailed costs in relation to the advertising campaign on national parks as this exercise was coordinated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Final costs are being

apportioned and my Department's share is expected to be \$100,000.

The campaign was very effective in promoting national parks as tourist and recreation destinations. Telephone inquiries at the Naturally Queensland Information Centre more than doubled in August with the majority of callers indicating that they had seen the advertisement.

Callers were provided with detailed information on the areas of interest nominated. It is expected that the campaign will result in both increased visitation to parks generally and better awareness of these magnificent natural areas.

1124. Police Resources, Sandgate Police Division

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Sandgate Police Division—

- (1) How many police left the Sandgate Police Division in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Sandgate Police Division in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Sandgate Police Division during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1125. Annerley Police Station

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

- (1) What is the full complement of police for the Annerley Police Station?
- (2) Is there not a serious understaffing of the Annerley Police Station at present?
- (3) How many police officers are currently engaged in operational duties at the Annerley Police Station?
- (4) Is the understaffing of the Annerley Police Station an attempt to achieve by stealth the

downgrading of the Annerley Police Station previously considered and rejected by the Queensland Police Service?

- (5) Will he give an assurance to return the Annerley Police Station to full police staffing forthwith?

Mr Cooper (6/11/97):

(1) The approved strength of the Annerley Police Station is eighteen (18) police officers consisting of one Senior Sergeant (Officer In Charge) and 17 operational officers.

(2) There are presently three (3) vacancies at the Annerley Police Station consisting of one (1) Senior Constable and two (2) Constable vacancies. There is one officer on extended sick leave and another who is on recreation leave until February 1998. A recommendation has been made to fill the vacant Senior Constable position and it is expected that this position will be filled by the end of November 1997. One of the vacant Constable positions will be filled at the beginning of December 1997 and the other vacant Constable position will be filled in March 1998.

(3) At present, there are fourteen (14) operational police officers at Annerley Police Station.

(4) The Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan South Region, is presently conducting a strategic resource evaluation for the entire Metropolitan South Region. This evaluation is to include any future locations of police establishments within the Region. This evaluation remains unfinalised. The Assistant Commissioner has assured me that there has not been, nor will there be, any attempt to achieve the downgrading of any police station without considerable evaluation.

Once any decision is made about future police establishments all interested stakeholders including members of Parliament and members of the community will be fully informed of each decision.

(5) Whilst every effort is made to keep staffing numbers at Annerley Police Station as near as possible to a full complement, leave, transfers and promotions affect the maintenance of such a quota.

1126. Sexual Assault Services, Mackay Area

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Health (8/10/97)—

With reference to the response to Operation Paradox where a 200 per cent increase in child sex offences was recorded—

- (1) Will he re-assess the recent loss of funds to the sexual assault services in Mackay district and the subsequent closure of the major organisation?
- (2) Will he continue to fund this service to a standard to deal with this increased demand?
- (3) As there has been a major regional increase in child sex abuse, will urgent funding also be given for this specific future so that counsellors expert in child sex abuse counselling can be employed?

Mr Horan (6/11/97):

(1) Under the Prevention of Violence Against Women program increased funding was allocated to Mackay Family Care and Community Support Association to fund the Sexual Assault and Prevention Program and in the same process increased funding was awarded to the Whitsunday Sexual Assault Service located in Airlie Beach. This giving greater access to services across the Mackay Health District.

(2) The grant allocation process under The Prevention of Violence Against Women Program for the delivery of sexual assault support services across Queensland will be reviewed under the normal budgetary processes.

(3) Child sex abuse requires a integrated approach by all relevant Government Departments. Recent discussions have been held between Queensland Health and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care to examine options for a coordinated response to this issue.

1127. Police Resources, Townsville Police District

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (8/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Townsville Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Townsville Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc.)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Townsville Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Townsville Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1128. School Capital Works Projects, Bundaberg Electorate

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (8/10/97)—

Will he advise (a) the school maintenance expenditure for Queensland, Wide Bay region and

the electorate of Bundaberg for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and budgeted for 1997-98, (b) the capital works school expenditure for Queensland and the electorate of Bundaberg for the years 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and budgeted for 1997-98 and (c) if available, a breakdown of school maintenance and capital works into minor and major works for the Bundaberg Electorate?

Dr Watson (6/11/97):

(a) Maintenance expenditure for Queensland, Wide Bay and the electorate of Bundaberg is as follows:

	Statewide Education	Wide Bay Education Region	Bundaberg Electorate
1993/94	\$55,940,150	\$3,179,023	\$1,169,442
1994/95	\$53,385,885	\$3,799,078	\$1,211,055
1995/96	\$55,735,741	\$3,924,489	\$1,139,387
1996/97	\$51,831,580	\$4,332,465	\$1,144,434
Budget			Not
1997/98	\$52,697,370	\$3,203,546	Available*

*Note: The 1997/98 Statewide Education maintenance budget includes maintenance allocations for Leading Schools which are the responsibility of Education Queensland. Regional budgets are determined by Education Queensland and are not allocated by electorate.

(b) Capital Works is the responsibility of Education Queensland.

(c) School Maintenance is not recorded by Minor and Major Works. However maintenance is separated into "planned maintenance", which includes significant works such as painting, servicing of air-conditioners and replacement of floor coverings, and "unplanned maintenance", which includes day to day maintenance of buildings such as fixing leaking taps and other repairs. Expenditure for planned and unplanned maintenance for the Bundaberg electorate is provided below:-

	Planned	Unplanned	Total
1993/94	\$926,103	\$243,339	\$1,169,442
1994/95	\$865,752	\$345,303	\$1,211,055
1995/96	\$756,090	\$383,297	\$1,139,387
1996/97	\$737,686	\$406,748	\$1,144,434

Education Queensland has advised that it is not possible to provide a breakdown of Capital Works into minor and major works for the Bundaberg electorate.

1129. Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Staffing

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (9/10/97)—

With reference to the policy formulation and co-ordination role of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Premier's office—

- (1) What is the policy co-ordination staff complement of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and the designation of each of the staff members concerned?
- (2) What is the staffing complement of the Department of Premier and Cabinet specifically

allocated to "whole of Government" policy formulation and what is the designation of each of the staff members concerned?

- (3) How many staff in the Premier's office are involved in policy formulation and policy co-ordination and what is the designation of each staff member concerned?
- (4) What is the current role of Miss Wendy Armstrong in (a) policy formulation and (b) policy co-ordination for the Government, what is her designation and where is she located?
- (5) What role has Mr Mike Evans played in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet or the Premier's office, since 19 February 1996 and for any periods he was employed, what was his (a) designation, (b) salary and entitlements, (c) designated duties and (d) to whom did he report?

Mr Borbidge (10/11/97):

(1) The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, as a central agency of the Queensland Government, supports the Premier in his roles as Parliamentary Leader of the Government, Chair of Cabinet, Chief Adviser to the Governor, Member of the Council of Australian Governments, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs. As such all the staff that compose the Department of the Premier and Cabinet are integral to the Department's ability to carry out this function.

(2) As a central agency the Department of Premier and Cabinet works collaboratively with other agencies to ensure the Government receives considered, balanced and timely advice on whole-of-Government matters. As such all the staff that compose the Department are integral to the Department's ability to carry out this function.

(3) All the staff that compose the Premier's Office are integral to the Premier's ability to carry out his function as the Parliamentary Leader of the Government, Chair of Cabinet, Chief Adviser to the Governor, Member of the Council of Australian Governments, and Minister for Ethnic Affairs.

(4) I refer the Honourable Member to the answer provided by the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to the question asked by the Honourable Member at the 1997 Estimate Committee A, recorded at page 30 of Hansard.

(5) Mr Evans has not been employed by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet since 19 February 1996.

1130. Townsville Port Authority

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/97)—

- (1) What was the basis for his approval of the decision taken by the Townsville Port Authority to sell their existing premises on The Strand in Townsville?
- (2) When was the decision to relocate taken and what were the criteria for selection of new premises?
- (3) What are the arrangements for funding the purchase of the new property?

- (4) From whom was the new property purchased?
- (5) Who handled negotiations for the purchase of the new property and what was the involvement of the board or any of its members?
- (6) Given there was a necessity to move from The Strand, why didn't the board construct a new complex on their own land?

Mr Johnson (6/11/97):

(1) The Authority's office building on The Strand did not adequately accommodate the Authority's city workforce. Advancements in technology and communication were placing demands on the building that it was not able to meet.

The Strand office was built in 1962. The building's second floor was not wheelchair accessible (noting that one of the Authority's staff was confined to a wheelchair), its airconditioning plant and ducting were no longer functioning effectively and required replacing, the insulation of the airconditioning ducting had perished, the staircases to the second floor were single width and there were no male disabled toilets. The structural changes to the building to accommodate the growing number of employees had resulted in an unsatisfactory 'rabbit warren' of offices. In all, the building was old, tired and did not project the professional image that the Authority wished to convey. It was doubtful that the premises would continue to meet all the requirements of the Workplace Health and Safety Act.

The alternatives of refurbishing the Strand building, constructing a new office on the Strand site, constructing a new office within the Port area and purchasing an existing building were considered by the Authority. The purchases of an existing building was determined to be the most cost effective and efficient option.

I met with the Authority's Chairman and previous Chief Executive Officer on 25 November 1996 where the above issues were discussed.

(2) I am advised that the previous Board of the Authority had proposed to construct a seven story building on The Strand office site to replace the existing building. It was the previous Board's intention to lease out five of the floors. Estimated costs for the development ranged from \$15.5 million to \$22.8 million. At the time of the new Board's appointment, Coopers and Lybrand had been commissioned to investigate the commercial implications of developing The Strand site. Coopers and Lybrand were authorised to contact developers to gauge interest in the development.

Subsequently, the new Board decided that the Authority's financial exposure from the proposed development was too great.

At the Authority's meeting held on 26 November 1996, the Board of the Authority resolved to purchase an existing office building that was currently for sale.

The criteria for selection of a new office building was the ability to accommodate the Authority's employees now and into the next thirty (30) years, location within the Townsville central business district, value for money and market availability.

(3) The building at 21 Walker Street was purchased with Townsville Port Authority funds. The cost was

offset by proceeds of \$720,000 from the sale of the No. 1 The Strand building.

(4) The property was purchased from MACTRAC Pty Limited as trustee for the E.J. Williams Family Trust. Ferry Real Estate were MACTRAC's agents for the sale of the property.

(5) At the Authority's meeting held on 26 November 1996, the Board of the Authority authorised the Chairman and previous Chief Executive Officer to handle negotiations subject to—

- (a) confirmation by the Shareholding Ministers that the Authority had the right to sell the existing building at No. 1 The Strand pursuant to Section 174 of the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and that the proceeds from the sale of the building would accrue to the Authority; and
- (b) the cost to the Authority of purchasing and refitting the unfinished building at 21 Walker Street did not exceed \$2.2 million.

N.B. Ministerial consent for the sale of No. 1 The Strand and the purchase of 21 Walker Street was granted by both the Treasurer and myself.

(6) This question is answered by my comments above. In addition, the building at 21 Walker Street was purchased at a very reasonable price. The building had been constructed by the developer for a specific tenant. However, contractual agreement between the developer and tenant was never reached and as a consequence, the building was never occupied. As the building was only partially completed and had been on the market for some time, the Authority was able to negotiate a fair purchase price.

The construction of a new building, even on existing port authority land, when compared with the purchase and fitting out of 21 Walker Street, was not financially viable. It should be noted the purchase and refit of 21 Walker Street was achieved well under budget.

1131. Police Resources, South Brisbane Police District

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the South Brisbane Police District—

- (1) How many police left the South Brisbane Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the South Brisbane Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the South Brisbane Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not

meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1132. Police Resources

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of Queensland police numbers—

- (1) How many police positions were funded in each Queensland Police District at 30 June?
- (2) What were the actual number of police in each of these police districts at 30 June?

Mr Cooper (10/11/97):

(1) & (2) The authorised (funded) positions and actual number of police in each police district is outlined below:

District/Division	Authorised strength 30 June 1997	Actual strength 30 June 1997
Cairns District	292	294
Innisfail District	65	62
Mareeba District	94	86
Mt Isa District	128	111
Townsville District	341	327
Gladstone District	91	91
Longreach District	51	47
Mackay District	176	164
Rockhampton District	211	219
Bundaberg District	91	91
Gympie District	96	87
Maryborough District	102	99
Redcliffe District	184	193
Sunshine Coast District	263	271
Charleville District	48	45
Dalby District	57	54
Ipswich District	223	211
Roma District	62	57
Toowoomba District	164	172
Warwick District	76	72
Gold Coast District	502	500
Logan District	338	320
Alderley Division	94	95
Boondall Division	84	82
Brisbane City Division	210	199
Brisbane Watchhouse Division	60	51
Clayfield Division	94	94
Fortitude Valley Division	89	83
Petrie Division	65	64
Sandgate Division	43	42
Toowong Division	86	82
Oxley District	202	193
South Brisbane District	343	332
Wynnum District	154	141
Totals	5179	5031

It should be noted that the authorised strength figures were projections for 30 June 1997 as part of the increase in funded strength of the Service for the 1996/97 financial year. These additional positions were mostly filled by the August 1997 recruit graduation.

The authorised strength for the regions was 5384 in total with 5179 positions allocated to districts/divisions and the remaining 205 positions to regional support functions. The actual strength for the regions was 5246 in total with 5031 officers attached to districts and the remaining 215 attached to regional support functions.

Metropolitan North Region is subject to constant structural and boundary changes due to trialling of "divisionalisation" which alters the size of newly created divisions (for example Red Hill Division was abolished and boundaries realigned).

1133. Police Resources, Charleville Police District

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Charleville Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Charleville Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Charleville Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Charleville Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1134. Police Resources, Warwick Police District

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Warwick Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Warwick Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?

- (2) How many police moved into the Warwick Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Warwick Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1135. Redcliffe Hospital

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (9/10/97)—

With reference to nursing staff levels at the Redcliffe Hospital—

What were the total nursing staff levels including nurses aides and enrolled nurses at (a) 30 June 1995, (b) 30 June 1996 and (c) 30 June 1997?

Mr Horan (6/11/97): Redcliffe Hospital allocates nursing staff according to data provided from the Patient Nurse Dependency System. Nursing staff are allocated on activity needs, and not on pre-determined staff establishment levels.

The full time equivalent nursing staff employed at Redcliffe Hospital (excluding the Nursing Home Annexe) are as follows:

30 June 1995	391.510
30 June 1996	398.775
30 June 1997	396.639.

1136. State Emergency Service, Gold Coast

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/10/97)—

- (1) Will he confirm that the State Emergency Service has only four flood boats on the whole of the Gold Coast?
- (2) Given the possibility for widespread inundation on the Gold Coast, will he take action to improve this situation?

Mr Veivers (10/11/97):

- (1) There are currently four (4) flood boats on issue to the Gold Coast Local Government State Emergency Service Unit.

All coastal or near coastal SES Groups within the Gold Coast Unit, with the exception of the Coolangatta Group, have been issued with a flood

rescue vessel. The vessels are located at Carrara, Southport, Runaway Bay and Beenleigh.

(2) Whilst the provision of additional resources is always attractive, SES flood rescue boats are expensive items of equipment and are issued on a priority needs basis.

The supply of four (4) SES flood boats to the Gold Coast exceeds the median issue to other Local Government areas and reflects an acknowledgment of the potential flood threat on the Gold Coast.

There have been approximately 200 flood boats issued to SES Units in Queensland.

Considered during the supply evaluation, was the presence of a number of volunteer marine rescue units (Australian Volunteer Coast Guard of Australia and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association of Queensland) which operate a range of vessels suitable for use in the rescue and relocation of residents during times of flooding.

Volunteer marine rescue coxswains and the operators of SES flood boats train to similar standards for the use of small craft and together provide a significant flood rescue capability which exceeds that available anywhere else in Queensland.

A close liaison exists between the Gold Coast SES and the local volunteer marine rescue units. The involvement of the volunteer marine rescue units during major flood operations would be coordinated through the Local Government counter-disaster arrangements.

1137. Police Resources, Dalby Police District

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Dalby Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Dalby Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Dalby Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Dalby Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am

sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1138. Police Resources, Longreach Police District

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Longreach Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Longreach Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Longreach Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Longreach Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1139. Police Resources, Clayfield Police Division

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Clayfield Police Division—

- (1) How many police left the Clayfield Police Division in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Clayfield Police Division in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Clayfield Police Division during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not

meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1140. Police Resources, Brisbane City Police Division

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Brisbane City Police Division—

- (1) How many police left the Brisbane City Police Division in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Brisbane City Police Division in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Brisbane City Police Division during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1141. Police Resources, Gympie Police District

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Gympie Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Gympie Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Gympie Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Gympie Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?

- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1142. Police Resources, Innisfail Police District

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Innisfail Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Innisfail Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Innisfail Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Innisfail Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1143. Merinda Hotel

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the recent publicity about the incidences surrounding visits by the police and the Queensland Gaming Machine Inspector to the Merinda Hotel whose owner, Mr Allan Ashmore, has successfully received a permit to raffle his hotel from Victoria—

Will he, as a matter of urgency, investigate both matters to ensure that both matters considered "harassment by the Government Department" will not continue or be repeated?

Mr Cooper (10/11/97): The visit to the Merinda Hotel by police from Bowen and a Queensland Gaming Machine Inspector, occurred independently of each other. There was no communication between the Queensland Police Service and the Gaming Commission prior to their respective visits to the hotel.

As a result of the visit by Bowen police to the Merinda Hotel, police gave advice to bar staff regarding acceptable serving practices and left the premises without any enforcement action being taken.

On Friday 10 October 1997, the owner of the Merinda Hotel, Mr Allan Ashmore, met with senior police from Bowen. He is satisfied that there was no connection between the visit to his hotel by Bowen police and a Gaming Commission officer.

Regular communication has occurred between Mr Ashmore and Bowen police and Mr Ashmore has stated his satisfaction that local police take the time to discuss matters of concern with him.

1144. Bruce Highway, Flaggy Rock

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/97)—

With reference to a section of the Bruce Highway at Flaggy Rock, south of Carmila—

Is his department aware of the potential risk of a serious accident occurring due to the lack of turning lanes at the entrance to the Flaggy Rock Roadside Cafe; if so, when will his department take the necessary action to provide a safer access and departure for motorists; if not, will he instruct his department to investigate and take the necessary action to provide a safer access and departure for motorists?

Mr Johnson (6/11/97): The access referred to is a private access that was approved at the time of the development as suitable for the intended use.

An independent safety audit of intersections and major accesses along the Bruce Highway in Mackay District was conducted in 1996. This audit took into account the current traffic growth and any accident history shown on the Main Roads traffic accident database. This database is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics which compiles its data from police traffic accident reports.

The outcome of the audit was a list of deficient intersections and accesses that require some form of treatment to meet the applicable standards, having regard to the traffic volumes at each site.

However, the access at the Flaggy Rock Cafe was not included on the list of deficient accesses. The audit report indicated there were no reported accidents at this locality.

Consequently, there are no proposals to make any alterations to the access arrangements at this site. The safety of the road system along the highway is

closely monitored and, if the circumstances change at this particular site, any necessary ameliorative works will be arranged.

1145. Police Resources, Fortitude Valley Police Division

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Fortitude Valley Police Division—

- (1) How many police left the Fortitude Valley Police Division in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Fortitude Valley Police Division in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Fortitude Valley Police Division during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1146. Education Queensland; Suspended Students

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (9/10/97)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 247—

- (1) Will he now provide a list of all organisations, other than the Education Department, who have been contracted to or who responded to advertisements for private providers of Alternative Education Programs?
- (2) What contractual arrangements have been entered into, including financial arrangements with each of the private providers of Alternative Education Programs?
- (3) What checks have been undertaken to ensure the suitability and reliability of each provider?
- (4) Will he provide details of the programs which will be operated by each provider?
- (5) As his previous answer said all conforming offers will be evaluated against set selection criteria, what are these criteria?

- (6) How many students under suspension have been referred to each of the private providers and what in each case were the reasons for the suspensions and the referral?
- (7) How many students have been suspended from each Queensland State educational institution in 1997?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97):

(1) The Private Providers of Alternative Education Programs Initiative focuses primarily on a quality assurance process for private alternative education programs and personnel, in order to develop a preferred supplier list for use by schools. Twenty-eight applications from eighty submissions have been recommended at this time for listing pending final endorsement, including police checks. (See Attachment 1.)

(2) There have been no contractual arrangements entered at this time.

(3) Under the recent amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 1989, the Behaviour Management Initiative aims to provide a list of quality assured private alternative education programs for schools to utilise in supporting students on, or at risk of, suspension.

An application package for Private Providers of Alternative Education Programs (PPAEP) was developed over a period of three months in collaboration with the Administrative Law and Legal Operations Branch, Strategic Procurement Unit, the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, and the Behaviour Management Unit. Further advice was sought from the major educational peak bodies. A scan of national and international outsourcing processes was also undertaken.

In May 1997, advertisements were placed in national and State newspapers seeking applications from organisations and individuals interested in submitting for PPAEP. Information meetings were held in Brisbane and Townsville with representatives from the Administrative Law & Legislative Operations Branch and the Behaviour Management Unit.

In July 1997, 11 regional committees met throughout the State for one/two days to process the regional applications for the PPAEP initiative. Selection criteria developed by Regional Managers (Behaviour Management) was utilised in the selection process (refer Attachment Two). Selection committees included representatives from Regional Offices, School Support Centres, school and community personnel. The selection committees made recommendations for listing to a Central Office Reference Group, chaired by the Director, Student Support Services.

During July and August the Central Office Reference Group also considered a number of applications which focused on providing statewide or across regional services.

Overall 80 applications (46 at the regional level and 34 at Central Office level) were received.

The Reference Group has recommended to the Assistant Director-General (Education Services) that 28 of the 80 applicants be recommended for listing.

Further information on staff details are being requested from the 28 recommended for listing, in order to carry out criminal history checks.

Generally, those applications not recommended for listing did not provide sufficient information regarding quality and purpose of programs, qualifications and experience of personnel, links with schools and strategies which would facilitate reintegration of students into school.

It is proposed to inform those not recommended, at this stage, of an opportunity to request feedback from the Principal Education Officer, Behaviour Management, or the Regional Committee Chair should they wish to resubmit.

(4) The providers recommended for listing have presented strategies including vocational education, personal development and behaviour management programs, wilderness programs, and numeracy and literacy programs.

(5) The criteria are outlined in Attachment Two.

(6) Private Providers are yet to be approved.

(7) 5709 students have been suspended from each Queensland State educational institution in 1997, to date.

Note: This data should be treated with extreme caution as inaccuracies are still being identified in the collection of regional and school data for 1997. Verification procedures are being undertaken to rectify the situation. This may take some time.

1147. Women's Health Clinics, Rural Areas

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (9/10/97)—

With reference to rural and remote women's health clinics that have been responsible for providing access to pap smears, breast examinations and sexual health information for thousands of women who live in rural and isolated communities and as his department will no longer continue to fund rural and remote women's clinics—

- (1) What is he, as Minister for Health, prepared to do to ensure that rural and isolated women can access preventive health care services in close proximity to where they work and live?
- (2) Will he now admit that the decision to stop funding these services has put at risk the health and well being of rural and isolated women in Queensland?

Mr Horan (6/11/97):

(1) The Queensland Cervical Screening Program funded the pilot Rural/Remote Women's Health Clinics implemented through the Rural Divisions of General Practice over a 3 year period from 1994-1997. This pilot project provided outreach women's health clinics through female doctors who travelled to rural and remote Queensland.

The 1996 Evaluation Report found that these services were effective and well accepted by rural and remote women.

Queensland Health will provide ongoing funding for the Rural and Remote Women's Health Clinics. Funds

will be provided to the Northern Queensland Rural Division of General Practice who will continue to coordinate these clinics on behalf of the five Rural Divisions of General Practice participating in the service.

(2) Queensland Health has recognised the importance of providing this health service to rural and isolated women in Queensland which is why an alternative source of ongoing funding has been provided to continue the successful pilot program.

In addition, funds are also provided for the Mobile Women's Health Nurses who provide education, clinical, counselling and referral services to women in rural and remote areas. These Nurses are based at 12 locations throughout the State with another location planned for this financial year. Generally, these nurses operate within a 300-400km radius of their base.

1148. Redevelopment of Australia Post Mail Centre, Roma Street

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the redevelopment of the former Australia Post mail centre in Roma Street to house the new watchhouse and Magistrates Court—

- (1) Were Government guidelines properly followed in the removal of asbestos from this site; if not, why not?
- (2) Did considerable quantities of the asbestos fibres escape as dust from the site and enter nearby commercial and private property?
- (3) Why weren't complaints from occupants of nearby buildings handled properly by relevant Government departments as admitted to by Public Works Deputy Director-General, Mal Grierson, at a recent Parliamentary Public Works Committee hearing?
- (4) What has caused the cost blowout of this project from \$22m to \$24.7m?
- (5) Can he understand the reluctance of the solicitors next door to have scaffolding erected on their nearby building given the track record of the departments' involved so far?
- (6) Did a nearby hotel and church lodge complaints against the demolition on the grounds of noise and dust?

Dr Watson (10/11/97):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Deputy Director-General of my Department did not admit that complaints from occupants of nearby buildings were not handled properly. The question put to Mr Grierson by the Public Works Committee was "How have you dealt with the complaints that you have received during the demolition period? Do you think that you have dealt with them adequately?" Mr Grierson replied, "No," and then went on to say "in the sense that we still have some unresolved matters with the immediate neighbour". As certain matters were unresolved at the

time of the Parliamentary Committee's hearing, Mr Grierson was of the view that they had not been handled 'adequately'. The matters have now been resolved.

(4) As pointed out in the recent Public Works Committee hearing into the Brisbane Watchhouse Project, the original \$22M figure was established as a first estimate based on expected square metre floor space. After subsequent value management studies and extensive design work, independent private sector Quantity Surveyors have estimated that the project will cost \$24.7M. This includes state-of-the-art electronic surveillance, full separation of police, judiciary, detainees and the public, all requirements of recent 'deaths in custody' reports, effective energy management provisions and the latest in modern modular watchhouse design.

(5) Not relevant.

(6) Yes.

1149. Scallop Fishery

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (9/10/97)—

With reference to the department's 1997 publication Queensland's Fisheries Resources where the forecast scallop stocks are stated to be "heavily exploited", "stock showing recent indications of decline" and "catch rates at ... historically low levels"—

- (1) Given his own department's concern at the state of scallop stocks, what action is he pursuing to address the serious over exploitation of this fishery?
- (2) Will he accept that the collapse of the scallop fishery is due to the destruction of the breeding stock of scallops?
- (3) Given the crisis in the scallop fishery will he initiate an urgent investigation into the option of stocking scallops and to the rebuilding of scallop stocks?

Mr Perrett (6/11/97):

1. Following several years of relatively stable catches in the Scallop fishery in Central Queensland, catches last season, that is the 1996-97 fishing season, were very low.

I have taken immediate actions to address the situation.

Firstly, on advice from the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) and the scallop industry, I endorsed the establishment of three large scallop replenishment areas where all trawling is prohibited. The purpose of these areas is to ensure significant areas of adult scallop to provide for the production and recruitment of small scallops in future years. I have also arranged for the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) of my Department to ensure that the fishing industry complies with the replenishment area closures.

Secondly, I have arranged for special initiative funding to the Fisheries Group of my Department to carry out a comprehensive survey of the entire

scallop fishing grounds, prior to the 1997-98 fishing season.

The purpose of this survey is to provide the fishing industry, support industries and local business with early advice on the likely level of catches in the coming season.

2. I am advised by the fisheries scientists in my Department, who have considerable expertise in monitoring the scallop fishery over many years, that the decreases which have recently occurred in scallop catches have two possible causes. One possibility is, as mentioned in the question, a reduction in abundance of the breeding stock.

The other possibility is a reduction due to natural causes such as unfavourable ocean currents removing the planktonic stages of the scallops away from the scallop beds.

I reiterate that the actual cause of recent catch reductions in the scallop fishery is unknown at this stage. However, detailed surveys which I recently commissioned are expected to shed further light on the cause of the problem.

3. The artificial production of scallop seed and the subsequent seeding of the scallop beds is one possible course of action.

I would remind the Member that the technology for such an approach has not been developed. I am advised that such technology would be very expensive to develop: it would take a considerable time to perfect with no guarantee of success; and in fact it may not be feasible. It certainly would be of no benefit to the industry in the short term, that is during the next 3-4 years.

In conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity to mention some very recent developments in relation to our Scallop Fishery.

My Department's pre-season survey has just been completed and the results are not encouraging.

The results indicate that catches of Scallops are expected to be depressed again in the coming season, that is in the 1997/98 season.

I have taken further steps to ensure the fishing industry and all associated industries are alerted so that they can adjust to an expected low catch season.

I have also requested the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority and its Trawl Management Advisory Committee consider appropriate fisheries management responses as a matter of some urgency, and advise me accordingly. I have also requested that local industries who depend on scallops in Central Queensland be involved in the fisheries management consultation processes.

1150. Police Resources, Mareeba Police District

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Mareeba Police District—

	District/Division	Authorised	Actual
		strength 30 June 1996	strength 30 June 1996
(1) How many police left the Mareeba Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?			
(2) How many police moved into the Mareeba Police District in 1996-97?	Toowoomba District	159	163
	Warwick District	74	69
(3) Of those police that moved to the Mareeba Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?	Gold Coast District	480	449
	Logan District	327	327
	Alderley Division	90	82
	Boondall Division	77	75
(4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?	Brisbane City Division	230	184
	Brisbane Watchhouse		
	Division	74	50
(5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?	Clayfield Division	88	80
	Fortitude Valley Division	68	73
	Petrie Division	51	56
	Sandgate Division	35	41
	Toowong Division	87	72
	Oxley District	187	182
	South Brisbane District	335	308
	Wynnum District	145	146
	Totals	4955	4811

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

The authorised strength for the regions was 5143 in total with 4955 positions allocated to districts/divisions and the remaining 188 positions to regional support functions. The actual strength for the regions was 5078 in total with 4811 officers attached to districts and the remaining 267 attached to regional support functions.

The regional support functions were 79 officers overstrength due mainly to the trialling of "divisionalisation" in the Metropolitan North Region (of the 79 overstrength 59 existed in the Metropolitan North Region). The region was subject to constant structural and boundary changes due to trialling of "divisionalisation" which alters the size of newly created divisions (for example Red Hill Division was abolished and boundaries realigned).

1151. Police Resources

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of Queensland police numbers—

- (1) How many police positions were funded in each Queensland Police District at 30 June 1996?
- (2) What were the actual number of police in each of these police districts at 30 June 1996?

Mr Cooper (10/11/97):

(1) & (2) The authorised (funded) positions and actual number of police in each police district is outlined below:

District/Division	Authorised strength 30 June 1996	Actual strength 30 June 1996
Cairns District	281	277
Innisfail District	60	65
Mareeba District	86	81
Mt Isa District	111	99
Townsville District	337	329
Gladstone District	87	82
Longreach District	47	42
Mackay District	162	159
Rockhampton District	208	233
Bundaberg District	86	83
Gympie District	91	94
Maryborough District	88	92
Redcliffe District	178	178
Sunshine Coast District	248	255
Charleville District	46	44
Dalby District	55	57
Ipswich District	217	227
Roma District	60	57

1152. 24-Hour Accident and Emergency Medical Service, Pine Rivers Area

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Health (9/10/97)—

With reference to the lack of a 24 hour accident and emergency medical service in the Pine Rivers area—

- (1) Has the Department of Health undertaken any form of feasibility study for the construction of such a facility; if so, what were the results of the study?
- (2) Did the study isolate future need for a 24 hour medical facility?
- (3) If the department has not undertaken such a study, will he commit the Government to a feasibility study in order to isolate present and future need for such a development?

Mr Horan (6/11/97):

(1) & (2) Queensland Health has not undertaken a feasibility study for the construction of a 24 hour accident and emergency medical facility in the Pine Rivers area in the last two years. However, the former Brisbane North Regional Health Authority undertook a study of service needs in the Pine Rivers area

which indicated that a local 24 hour accident and emergency service was not required at that time.

(3) The Brisbane North Division of General Practice has advised that it is unaware of an unmet need for 24 hour medical services in the Pine Rivers area.

1153. Royal Brisbane Hospital

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (9/10/97)—

With reference to plans to build a new 400 bay car park at the Royal Brisbane Hospital immediately adjacent to the Children's Hospital—

- (1) Is the tender for this project to be let in coming weeks; if so, who is the preferred developer?
- (2) Why has no EIS been undertaken on a project with such obvious pollution impacts on such a sensitive site?
- (3) What ambient air quality checks have been done on this already traffic congested area and what results did they show?
- (4) Will the proximity of the car park to the Children's Hospital air conditioning unit see high levels of car exhaust fumes being sucked into the Children's Hospital?
- (5) Won't such polluting gases pose considerable post clinical infection risk to young patients, not to mention a considerable health risk to staff of the children's hospital?

Mr Horan (6/11/97):

- (1) Yes. Corporate Capital Investment Pty Ltd.
- (2) Development on the Hospitals' reserve is 'as-of-right' and there is no statutory requirement to conduct an EIS. The 'as-of-right' provision is important as it enables Government to develop facilities, including hospitals, which support the wider Queensland community.

As the car park is intended to accommodate vehicles previously parked on-street, there is no basis to predict that the development will result in additional traffic. Therefore, the overall impact can be expected to be negligible. Conducting an unnecessary EIS would also have the effect of diverting funds away from other more justified aspects of the hospital redevelopment project.

(3) Queensland Health is responsible for ensuring maintenance of air quality within hospital buildings. In response to concerns raised in regard to the Royal Children's Hospital car park development, air quality checks have been conducted again within the hospital. Not surprisingly, these checks show that air quality within the hospital is well within established guidelines.

(4) & (5) No. The car park design will, when completed, ensure that this outcome cannot occur.

1154. Graffiti

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the alarming incidence of graffiti (and further to my Question on Notice No. 1484 of 1996) (9/10/97)—

- (1) Are the sprayed signatures or "tags" of graffitists unique to each graffitist; if so, are police able to lead expert evidence (in a manner similar to identification of hand writing evidence) so as to link individual graffitists with their sprayed tags?
- (2) How many convictions have taken place on the basis of such evidence or, if it is not available, what impediments in the law currently exist to having such evidence allowed?
- (3) Do courts have the power to order graffitists, as part of their punishment, to clean up the graffiti caused by themselves and others?
- (4) In how many convictions for graffiti in the last year have courts, as part of the penalty, ordered graffitists to clean up theirs and others graffiti?

Mr Cooper (6/11/97):

(1) Generally speaking, within the graffiti culture the sprayed "tags" of graffitists are unique to the individual, however, every person within a graffiti gang or "crew" is familiar with each others "tag" and is most likely capable of reproducing that "tag", and do so in some instances. It is not forensically possible to conclusively link a "tag" to one person for evidential purposes without further corroborative evidence such as admissions.

Police are not able to lead expert evidence in a manner similar to handwriting, as paint spraying is not as individually peculiar as handwriting.

(2) Information is that no convictions have been recorded on the basis of this type of evidence, as evidence of a "tag" in an uncorroborated form is not sufficient in itself for a successful prosecution.

There is no legal impediment to this type of evidence being utilised, however, the difficulty lies in positively identifying a "tag" in respect of the individual.

Graffiti can be classed as "drawing" or "painting" as opposed to the process of writing. In an examination of the two processes, there are a number of factors to be considered, including the nature of the implement used, for example, a pen as opposed to a spray can, and a more detailed movement in the handwriting process in comparison to spray painting movements which are more of a whole of arm movement. Similarities can be identified in samples, however, conclusive identification for the purpose of evidential acceptance is not possible.

(3) Recent amendments to the Criminal Code, which became effective as of 1 July 1997, have made specific provision for graffiti type offences. Section 469, subsection 9, introduced the offence of wilful damage by graffiti and subparagraph (3)(a) states in part; "The court may, whether or not it imposes any other penalty for the offence, order the offender to perform community service under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, including for example, removing graffiti from property."

(4) The amendments to the Criminal Code in respect of wilful damage by graffiti were only introduced as of 1 July 1997. At this stage, there is no readily accessible information available within the Police Service as to the number of convictions recorded, if any, where a Court has made an order for the clean up of graffiti.

1155. Nursing Home Fees

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (9/10/97)—

With reference to his recent decision to quarantine public nursing home entrants in Queensland from up-front entry fees—

- (1) What does he mean by "quarantine"?
- (2) Is this decision permanent or will the quarantine only apply until the next election?

Mr Horan (6/11/97):

(1) The Queensland Coalition Government is the only Australian State to exempt public State nursing homes from the introduction of accommodation bonds.

(2) The Coalition Governments decision not to introduce accommodation bonds is permanent.

1156. Police Resources

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of Queensland police numbers—

- (1) How many police positions were funded in each Queensland Police Region at 30 June?
- (2) What were the actual number of police in each of these regions at 30 June?

Mr Cooper (10/11/97): The authorised (funded) positions and actual number of police in each police region is outlined below:

Region	Authorised strength 30 June 1997	Actual strength 30 June 1997
Far Northern Region	488	465
Northern Region	481	448
Central Region	544	532
North Coast Region	748	753
Southern Region	644	626
South Eastern Region	859	844
Metropolitan North Region	895	872
Metropolitan South Region	725	706
Totals	5384	5246

It should be noted that the authorised strength figures were projections for 30 June 1997 as part of the increase in funded strength of the Service for the 1996/97 financial year. These additional positions were mostly filled by the August 1997 recruit graduation.

1157. Police Resources, Roma Police District

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Roma Police District—

- (1) How many police left the Roma Police District in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Roma Police District in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Roma Police District during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1158. Police Resources, Metropolitan North Region

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of police numbers in the Metropolitan North Region—

- (1) How many police left the Metropolitan North Region in 1996-97 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into the Metropolitan North Region in 1996-97?
- (3) Of those police that moved to the Metropolitan North Region during 1996-97, how many were recent graduates?
- (4) How many were transferred or promoted from other police districts and regions?
- (5) From which districts and regions were they transferred or promoted?

Mr Cooper (30/10/97): In relation to your question regarding Police Numbers, I refer you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order in that it would require significant allocation of time by officers throughout the State to collate the information sought.

It is my view that it would be a totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources for departmental staff to be tasked with extracting and collating information in the detailed way specified and I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that police time is better spent policing our State.

1159. Cairns City Council Chambers

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Environment (9/10/97)—

With reference to concerns expressed by the Member for Barron River on Cairns TV on 12 September about contamination on the site for the new Cairns City Council Chambers—

- (1) Has the Cairns City Council followed procedures laid down by his department to remediate the land?
- (2) Is his department satisfied with the procedures followed by the council?
- (3) Will the Government guarantee that State Government land (previously railway land, the site of the old goods sheds) currently being marketed for sale, possibly for a private university, is contamination free; if not, on what moral basis can the Government criticise the Cairns City Council and intervene in council affairs?

Mr Littleproud (7/11/97):

(1) The Cairns City Council has followed procedures laid down by my Department concerning the remediation of the land used for the new Cairns City Council Chambers site. The Cairns City Council submitted an independent report from an environmental consultant. On the basis of the information contained within this report, a 'restricted' reclassification was obtained for all lots in question. This reclassification contained conditions specifying that all lots were suitable for use as office accommodation which, by the nature of the building structure, covers the original soil and precludes any exposure to the public and hence any health risk. A site management plan was also put in place.

(2) My Department is satisfied with the procedures put forward by the Cairns City Council in relation to this issue.

(3) The Railway land has been subject to comprehensive investigation which has led to its decontamination in accordance with all due processes required by my Department. The site in question now has a 'former' status on the Contaminated Sites Register and is considered suitable for any use.

1160. Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission; Albion Appliance Centre

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (9/10/97)—

With reference to any matter referred to the Queensland Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—

- (1) Is the Queensland Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission or he legally empowered to exercise discretion in dismissing (or discontinuing) any referral; if so, under what circumstances can this occur?
- (2) Particularly to the farcical situation where a 21 month delay occurred before Nonae and Geoff McFarlane, owners of Albion Appliance Centre, were notified of a complaint against them is he or the Commissioner legally empowered to act with discretion to dismiss/discontinue this particular action; if so, why has this not been done?

Mr Beanland (7/11/97):

(1) There is no such organisation as the "Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission" (HREOC) in Queensland any more. With the lapsing of the cooperative agreement on 9 December 1996, the Commonwealth effectively withdrew services from this State. It is only through the commitment of the State Government that a newly established, wholly State based and funded Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ) was created to administer the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. All State matters formerly administered by HREOC were transferred to the new ADCQ on 10 December 1996.

All Federal matters continue to be administered by the Commonwealth HREOC out of its head office in Sydney. Neither I nor the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commissioner have powers of direction over any matters before the Commonwealth HREOC.

(2) As Attorney-General it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the details of any particular case pending before a Tribunal. However, the following general points in reply should be noted:

- a The new ADCQ has only been in existence for approximately ten months. A purported delay of 21 months in notifying a respondent could not possibly be the fault of the ADCQ which has not been in existence for such a length of time. Such a delay could only be attributable to the way in which the former Commonwealth Commission conducted its business.
- b As all Honourable Members are aware, no Minister of the Crown has any power to intervene in the quasi-judicial functions of independent bodies.
- c Generally, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner has discretion under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 to refuse to accept a matter if there is no threshold jurisdiction ("want of jurisdiction"). The Commissioner also has power to discontinue an accepted case if the matter is frivolous, vexatious, misconceived or lacking in substance.

1161. Mr D. Green

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to male prisoner Don Green, who until recently was held at the Woodford Prison before being moved to the secure detention unit at Borallon—

- (1) Why was the prisoner subjected to an emergency transfer and have any charges been levelled against this prisoner?
- (2) Was that prisoner not advised of any charges or misdemeanours prior to, or since, his transfer and is he still being held in the detention unit at Borallon?
- (3) Was his transfer related in any way to his work in establishing an art program for prisoners accommodated in the N2 unit at Woodford Prison or to a planned 4ZZZ sponsored concert which was to be held on Sunday 12 October at the prison, or his contact or liaison with 4ZZZ workers?
- (4) Were the art program and the concert approved by prison management; if that approval has now been withdrawn, will he advise the reasons?
- (5) Has the CSIU or any private investigator carried out investigations into this matter; if so, why?
- (6) Why did Mr Dave Green of Sun City Investigations visit 4ZZZ in recent weeks to request information on Don Green's liaison with 4ZZZ and copies of tapes containing 4ZZZ programs?

Mr Cooper (10/11/97):

(1) Prisoner Donald Green was not transferred from Woodford Correctional Centre to Borallon Correctional Centre under emergency transfer provisions. The transfer occurred in accordance with the Queensland Corrective Services Commission's sentence management policy. Prisoner Green had previously requested a transfer to the Brisbane area. The Sentence Management Review Committee at Woodford Correctional Centre recommended a transfer to Borallon Correctional Centre as a first preference. Sir David Longland Correctional Centre was determined as the second preference for transfer. His placement at Borallon Correctional Centre was authorised by the QCSC Office of Sentence Manage in consultation with the Director, Custodial Operations, Queensland Corrections.

(2) On 1st October 1997 Prisoner Green was provided with written advice of the outcome of his Sentence Management Review by the Woodford Correctional Centre. On 9 October 1997 Prisoner Green was Major Breached for Offending against the good order and discipline of the Borallon Correctional Centre [Section 29 (v), Corrective Services Regulation 1989] for which he received a Reprimand. He was held in the Detention Unit at Borallon on Special Treatment, because of his lack of cooperation with Centre staff on arrival, awaiting transfer to another Correctional Centre. On 17 October 1997 he was placed in a regular unit on an individual management plan.

(3) No. As outlined under 1, Prisoner Green's transfer occurred in accordance with sentence management processes.

(4) The centre management has advised that the centre was provided with funds by the "One People of Australia League" (OPAL) to organise arts activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners. These funds are administered by Programs staff and not the prisoners themselves and are utilised for special cultural art activities. Prisoner Green had no responsibility for any decision relating to the use of the funds and he was not involved in establishing any arts program in Unit N2. If, as he claims, he had any involvement in an art program, this was not an initiative known to centre management. Centre Management also had no knowledge of a concert planned for Sunday, 12 October 1997 to be sponsored by 4ZZZ.

(5) I have been advised that a temporary Queensland Corrections' officer, Mr David Green, who also holds a private security investigators licence, sought a copy of information provided by Prisoner Green to 4ZZZ because the conversation allegedly referred to him and he wanted to know precisely what Prisoner Green had said about him.

(6) I understand that Mr David Green was concerned that Prisoner Green had made unsubstantiated and critical remarks about his performance to the radio station.

1162. Police Resources

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of Queensland police numbers—

- (1) How many police positions were funded in each Queensland Police Region in December 1989?
- (2) What were the actual number of police in each of these regions in December 1989?

Mr Cooper (10/11/97): The established positions (not necessarily funded) and actual number of police in each police region is outlined below:

Region	Established strength	Actual strength
	31 December 1989	31 December 1989
Far Northern Region	317	330
Northern Region	421	436
Central Region	465	497
North Coast Region	379	409
Southern Region	350	360
South Eastern Region	533	551
North Brisbane Region	590	605
South Brisbane Region	552	589
Totals	3607	3777

In 1989, established positions did not represent funded positions but simply reflected the number of positions created on the Human Resource Management System. As a result of positions being created on an ad hoc and sometimes inequitable basis, the Service developed and implemented the Staffing Allocation Model.

Over the years, the organisational structure and boundaries of some regions/districts have altered.

Some major changes for example are Redcliffe District from North Brisbane District to North Coast Region, Ipswich District from South Brisbane Region to Southern Region, the divisionalisation of North Brisbane Region and numerous others.

Extreme care needs to be exercised in comparing this information with statistics for later years.

The term "established strength" is no longer used by the Service and has been replaced by "authorised strength".

1163. Police Resources

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of Queensland police numbers—

- (1) How many police positions were funded in each Queensland Police District in December 1989?
- (2) What were the actual number of police in each of these district in December 1989?

Mr Cooper (10/11/97): The established positions (not necessarily funded) and actual number of police in each police district is outlined below:

District	Established strength 31 December 1989	Actual strength 31 December 1989
Cairns District	199	219
Innisfail District	52	51
Mareeba District	64	58
Mt Isa District	103	94
Townsville District	316	340
Gladstone District	79	82
Longreach District	52	48
Mackay District	149	161
Rockhampton District	183	204
Bundaberg District	73	78
Gympie District	85	84
Maryborough District	71	73
Sunshine Coast District	148	172
Charleville District	46	42
Dalby District	56	56
Roma District	57	55
Toowoomba District	121	138
Warwick District	69	68
Beenleigh District	208	217
Gold Coast District	322	331
Brisbane District	250	248
Fortitude Valley District	162	165
Redcliffe District	177	191
Ipswich District	156	166
Oxley District	148	158
South Brisbane District	144	147
Wynnum District	103	117
Totals	3593	3763

In 1989, established positions did not represent funded positions but simply reflected the number of positions created on the Human Resource Management System. As a result of positions being created on an ad hoc and sometimes inequitable

basis, the Service developed and implemented the Staffing Allocation Model.

Over the years, the organisational structure and boundaries of some regions/districts have altered. Some major changes for example are Redcliffe District from North Brisbane District to North Coast Region, Ipswich District from South Brisbane Region to Southern Region, the divisionalisation of North Brisbane Region and numerous others.

Extreme care needs to be exercised in comparing this information with statistics for later years.

The term "established strength" is no longer used by the Service and has been replaced by "authorised strength".

1164. The Queenslander

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (9/10/97)—

- (1) How many services for the Queenslander were cancelled during early September and when was the decision to cancel them taken?
- (2) How many passengers and from what destinations were booked on those services and how and when were they informed of the decision to cancel the services on which they had booked?
- (3) What alternative arrangements were made for those who had their bookings cancelled and at what expense?
- (4) How many passengers travelled on the special Queenslander service to the Cairns Amateurs?
- (5) How many of those passengers were employees of Queensland Rail and how many were members of the rail board?
- (6) What income did Queensland Rail derive from that special train and was any of it paid for out of other sources within Queensland Rail's budget?

Mr Johnson (6/11/97):

1. The Queenslander service on Sunday 7 September 1997 from Brisbane to Cairns was withdrawn from service on Wednesday 16 April 1997 to take advantage of a private charter. The train should have been taken out of the computer reservation system in late 1996 when a decision was made to run the train as a charter operation, however, due to an omission by Queensland Rail this was not done until 16 April 1997. This charter was arranged with the guarantee of a full train load and was a commercial decision in light of the number of passengers normally carried during this period. However, to provide any shortfall in accommodation the Saturday 6 September 1997 Sunlander service ran with a motorail facility attached.

The Queenslander service on Tuesday 9 September 1997 from Cairns to Brisbane was rescheduled to run from Cairns on Friday 12 September 1997 utilising the Queenslander consist of the charter service from Brisbane to Cairns.

2. Passengers booked on the Queenslander service from Brisbane on Sunday 7 September 1997 (a total

of nine couples) were contacted by telephone to advise the situation and offered alternate accommodation. By the end of May 1997 all couples were contacted, except for one couple who were contacted on 25 August 1997, and alternate arrangements were made.

Six couples were travelling to Cairns and three couples to Townsville.

A total of 24 couples and two individuals were booked on the Queenslander service from Cairns to Brisbane on Tuesday 9 September 1997. The passengers were all contacted by the end of April 1997 and advised of the rescheduling of this service to depart on Friday 12 September 1997.

3. The passengers booked on the service from Brisbane on Sunday 7 September 1997 were accommodated on various services. Two couples opted to depart on the Sunlander service with motorail facility attached on Saturday 6 September 1997. These passengers were refunded the appropriate fare in line with the cost of first class sleeper travel on the Sunlander and were offered complimentary meals to compensate for any inconvenience caused. The remaining passengers requested alternate bookings on other Queenslander services on various dates.

Passengers booked on the Queenslander on Tuesday 9 September 1997 all opted to travel on the rescheduled Queenslander service departing from Cairns on Friday 12 September 1997. These passengers were offered free accommodation and meals for the additional three nights in Cairns, with the additional cost of \$75.00 per person per night being met by Queensland Rail's Traveltrain Group.

4. A total of 49 passengers travelled on board the special Queenslander service to the Cairns Amateurs. This number included paying passengers, corporate guests and Queensland Rail Managers.

5. The table below outlines the breakdown of passengers.

Passengers—39

QR Corporate Guests—4

QR Managers and Partners: 3 Managers plus 1 Partner—4

QR Board Members and Partners: 1 Board Member plus 1 Partner—2

The high profile of the Cairns Amateurs in Queensland and the Australian business community provides an ideal opportunity for Queensland Rail to gain valuable exposure of our premium Queenslander service to industry and the media.

The fare set for this charter was \$600.00 per passenger in comparison with the normal Queenslander first class inclusive fare of \$389.00 and business class airfare of \$559.50.

1165. Peaceful Assembly, Port Hinchinbrook

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (9/10/97)—

With reference to citizen's rights to peaceful assembly pursuant to the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992 administered by him—

- (1) Is he aware of disturbing media reports of alleged assaults on peaceful protesters on 14 September at Port Hinchinbrook regarding a proposed resort development?
- (2) What investigations has he undertaken to establish whether the provisions of the Peaceful Assembly Act were respected on that occasion?
- (3) Is he not concerned that the recent issue of a special 3 month lease over the Hinchinbrook site is a device to frustrate citizen's legitimate rights to peaceful protest?
- (4) What action will he take to ensure that Queenslander's rights to peaceful assembly will be respected at Hinchinbrook and throughout Queensland?

Mr Beanland (7/11/97):

(1) & (2) I refer the Honourable Member to my letter of 8 October addressed to him which covers these issues.

(3) The issuing of leases is not a matter within my ministerial responsibilities.

(4) Any complaints concerning possible breaches of this law should be directed to the Queensland Police Service.

1166. Police Resources

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (9/10/97)—

With reference to the issue of Queensland police numbers—

- (1) How many police positions were funded in each Queensland Police Region at 30 June 1996?
- (2) What were the actual number of police in each of these regions at 30 June 1996?

Mr Cooper (10/11/97): The authorised (funded) positions and actual number of police in each police region is outlined below:

Region	Authorised strength 30 June 1996	Actual strength 30 June 1996
Far Northern Region	443	443
Northern Region	462	438
Central Region	519	526
North Coast Region	704	715
Southern Region	625	635
South Eastern Region	824	800
Metropolitan North Region	873	845
Metropolitan South Region	693	676
Totals	5143	5078

1167. School Groundsmen, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Education (9/10/97)—

- (1) What is the current enrolment for each school (Government and non-Government) in the Bulimba Electorate?
- (2) As groundsman for schools are based on a combination of enrolment and land area, when is this archaic system going to change as State schools in the Bulimba Electorate have lost four groundsman and three of those schools (Hemmant, Murarrie and Seven Hills) have some of the largest land areas in Brisbane?
- (3) Does he recognise that the groundsman have a larger role in schools than looking after the school grounds?
- (4) When will the size of the school grounds become one of the major criteria for employing groundsman?

Mr Quinn (11/11/97):

- (1) State Schools—Enrolments

Balmoral SHS—477
 Bulimba SS—447
 Cannon Hill SS—274
 Hemmant SS—65
 Morningside SS—340
 Murarrie SS—175
 Norman Park SS—166
 Seven Hills SS—169

Non-State Schools—Enrolments

Cannon Hill Anglican College—429
 Lourdes Hill College—816
 St Oliver Plunkett School—410
 St Thomas' School—251
 St Peter and Paul's School—387

- (2) The allocation of permanent Janitor/Groundsperson positions, in primary schools, is based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) enrolments only. Primary schools with enrolments of 200, or more, FTE students gain entitlement to one permanent Janitor/Groundsperson position. Primary schools with less than 200 FTE students receive a groundsman allowance which is based on the size of school grounds and enrolments.

I have approved recently new interim arrangements for the allocation of the groundsman allowance, providing additional funding for schools with an

enrolment greater than 100 FTE students. This funding increases proportionately as enrolment levels approach 200 FTE students.

(3) I am personally aware that school janitorial and groundsman staff have an important role in supporting the many and varied curriculum activities of schools. In my experience, these staff not only maintain buildings and grounds, but provide other valuable support to teachers and students.

(4) The consideration of a number of issues surrounding the provision of groundsman services will be undertaken in the context of the forthcoming review of total school budgets. This project will review resource allocation models currently operating within Education Queensland and consider possible improvements to the way resources are allocated in the future.

1168. Ambulance Station Vacancies

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (9/10/97)—

- (1) Which ambulance stations in Queensland have unfilled vacancies and for what positions?
- (2) How long have those vacancies remained unfilled?

Mr Veivers (10/11/97): With over 1800 ambulance officers employed across the State, the number of vacancies varies from week to week. Each week the QAS advertises vacancies in the Department of Emergency Services Gazette. For example, in the Gazette dated 10 October 1997 the QAS advertised 16 vacant positions in 13 locations across the State. Historically ambulance officers have been transient in their employment within the service and move from one location to another to gain experience or for promotion.

The introduction of pro-active policies like the Remote and Rural Incentive program ensures the QAS is taking all possible action in employing and retaining officers in rural Queensland. As a result of the introduction of this policy a number of other Government Departments have approached the QAS to obtain a copy of the model for consideration for introduction into those departments.