

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1425. Building Better Schools Program, Ashgrove Electorate

Amended answer by Minister for Education. See also p. 5177, 31 December 1997

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Education (25/11/97)—

With reference to the Building Better Schools Program which was instigated in 1995—

How much has been expended under this excellent program at State primary schools in the Ashgrove Electorate namely (a) Ashgrove State School, (b) Payne Road State School, (c) Oakleigh State School, (d) Hilder Road State School and (e) Newmarket State School?

Mr QUINN (5/3/98): Education Queensland has expended \$1,554,343 on the Building Better Schools program at Ashgrove, Payne Road, Oakleigh, Hilder Road and Newmarket State Schools.

1. Kajabbi, Construction of School

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Education (3/3/98)—

With reference to the people of the township of Kajabbi who are attempting to secure the establishment of a school for their children and as there are currently 18 children in Kajabbi of which 12 are of school age and as the establishment of the school has received not only my support but also the support of the Mayor of the Cloncurry Shire Council—

- (1) Will a school be built in Kajabbi?
- (2) Is a major factor against the establishment of a school that the mining operation of Mt Cuthbert relies on a fly-in fly-out workforce.
- (3) Is he aware that only one family in the township has a child with direct association with the mine?
- (4) What other factors are holding back a decision to provide a school for Kajabbi?
- (5) When can the people of Kajabbi expect a final decision from him on this matter?

Mr Quinn (15/4/98):

(1) Consideration of the need to provide schools in particular areas is undertaken by Education Queensland which then makes a recommendation to me.

Education Queensland, in considering the need for schools, operates within the context of state strategic planning and applies appropriate service standards. This government has established a framework for strategic planning which is now being incorporated in the service standards used by Education Queensland.

The case for a school at Kajabbi will be analysed by Education Queensland in this context. Any recommendation to me will then be made from that perspective, and take account of the availability of funds and priorities for their use.

- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.

(4) Education Queensland is monitoring the situation. It has not recommended a school. A decision will be made once a recommendation is received.

(5) The situation is being monitored. I do not expect a recommendation from Education Queensland for a school unless there is some material change to the existing situation.

2. Premier's Office, Staff Designations and Salaries

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (3/3/98)—

What is the name, designation and salary range of each of the staff members currently included in the staffing complement of the Premier's Office, including any departmental liaison, administrative or media officer attached to the Premier's Office.

Mr Borbidge (2/4/98): Staff of the Office of the Premier are listed in the phone listing for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

There are no Departmental liaison, administrative or media officer attached to the Office of the Premier.

The Office is staffed with fewer personnel than was the case under the former Labor Premier, but in similar designations.

3. Public Housing

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (3/3/98)—

With reference to his department's policy not to construct public housing dwellings where the land component is in excess of \$100,000—

- (1) When was this policy introduced?
- (2) Will this restrict the areas throughout the State, and in particular in the Brisbane metropolitan area, where public housing can be constructed, therefore impacting with a higher density of public housing in certain suburbs and not in more "affluent" areas?
- (3) Will he explain why it would not be in the interests of fairness or equity to tenants and other applicants to build public housing in areas where the land component is in excess of \$100,000, particularly when the land is already in the ownership of the Department of Housing?

Dr Watson (2/4/98): (1) (2) & (3) The department has no formal policy in place which puts a dollar limit on the purchase of land. As the premise is false, the remaining questions are not relevant.

4. Home Help Services

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Health (3/3/98)—

With reference to the provision of home help services—

- (1) What is the budget for home help for each of Queensland Health's districts?
- (2) How many people receive home help in each of Queensland Health's districts?

- (3) What was the budget for home help in 1996-97 and how many Queenslanders received services under the scheme?

Mr Horan (1/4/98):

(1) The total home help funding under the Coalition Government is now \$124 million, compared with \$101 million under the previous Goss Labor Government, an increase of almost 25% in just two years under the Coalition Government.

(2) Currently, home help services are provided to 94,000 Queenslanders, a significant increase on the 73,400 people who received assistance in 1995 under the previous State and Federal Labor governments

(3) Refer to (1) and (2).

5. Public Service, Employment Security

Mr FOURAS asked the Premier (3/3/98)—

With reference to the policy of "Employment Security for the Queensland Public Service" championed by the Premier in September 1997, and also to the draft Organisational Change Guidelines prepared by the Office of the Public Service on 10 October 1997—

- (1) Will he confirm that the work being undertaken by the Office of the Public Service, driven by Chief Executives of a number of departments, and in particular the head of Treasury, Dr McTaggart, is a retreat from the commitments given by the Premier in September 1997; in particular, does the document, on page 3, give the "green" light to significant outsourcing providing there are savings of more than 10 per cent; if so, what impact will this have on employment security for Queensland's Public Servants?
- (2) Is it a fact that the turmoil facing the Government on Public Service security is a direct result of the fact that the Premier deliberately and surreptitiously took a submission to Cabinet on Public Service employment which does not have support across Government, that he did it in the absence of the Treasurer and the Treasury is now dictating Government policy on the Public Service?

Mr Borbidge (2/4/98):

(1) The final version of the Organisational Change Guidelines referred to by the Member for Ashgrove were approved by the Government on 15 December 1997. These were prepared by the Office of the Public Service following extensive consultation within the public service and with the unions, and apply to all Government Departments, including the teaching, health, police, fire and ambulance services.

One of the principles of the Employment Security Policy was that further outsourcing of government services would be limited to those situations where the public service workforce could not attain an acceptable level of service delivery and value for money.

The Guidelines reinforce this principle, requiring that the public service workforce be given sufficient opportunity and support, over a reasonable time

period, to achieve best practice performance standards.

Consistent with the Government's intention of restricting further outsourcing, the Guidelines require two stringent tests be met before an existing Government service is considered for outsourcing. The first is aimed at ensuring that any outsourcing which is approved will provide a reasonable return for Government (set at a minimum of \$200,000 per annum in net avoidable costs); and the second considers the cost performance of the in-house workforce (which must exceed the cost of an alternative service provider, including all workforce transition costs such as Voluntary Early Retirement payments, by more than 10%).

Rather than giving a "green" light to further outsourcing, the Guidelines actually place significant barriers to further outsourcing of Government services. These require Cabinet approval, and will not be approved unless there are real and demonstrable returns to the Queensland community.

(2) The Employment Security Policy has proven to be very effective. Since its introduction, no redundancies have been approved by the Public Service Commissioner, and public servants are assured of maximum employment security.

Full consultation has occurred across the public service and within Cabinet.

6. Rockhampton Airport

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (3/3/98)—

With reference to the proposed extensions to the Rockhampton Airport runway and the Water Resources Commission's 'Rockhampton Flood Management Study—November 1992' which recommended that "no new development of a residential, commercial or industrial nature be permitted in designated floodways", and given that the extended runway will be across designated floodways, with possible impacts on flood levels, velocity and direction—

- (1) What safeguards will he insist on to ensure that the health and safety of residents in the flood impact zone is protected?
- (2) Will he ensure that residents in the flood impact zone are compensated where it is proven that the constructed extended runway was the probable cause of changes in flood movement and levels, therefore causing damage to property?

Mr Springborg (30/3/98):

(1) At the outset it should be noted that the Fitzroy Shire Council is the responsible approval authority for Rockhampton City Council's proposals for the Rockhampton Airport extensions. Those extensions are located within the boundaries of the Fitzroy Shire and Rockhampton City Council is seeking approval from the Fitzroy Shire under the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990.

Furthermore my Department of Natural Resources has no legislative authority to deal with overland flood flows on the Fitzroy River floodplain as this locality is

not a designated area for those purposes under the provisions of the Water Resources Act 1989 nor has the local government introduced local laws for such purposes under the Local Government Act 1993.

As required under the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 the Rockhampton City Council prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which has examined flood impacts. The Fitzroy Shire Council has now requested further detailed information on key issues addressed in this study, including flooding, following a number of concerns raised by Government agencies and objectors to the Town Planning Consent application.

In response the Rockhampton City Council will be undertaking further studies including mathematical modelling of flooding as an extension of previous modelling developed for the 1992 Rockhampton Flood Management Study.

Clearly the responsibility for the approval process rests with the Fitzroy Shire Council which will need to consider the impact of flooding as further information becomes available. My Department's officers are available to provide advice if required by the Fitzroy Shire Council.

(2) For this development the Fitzroy Shire Council can address matters of concern through the Town Planning Consent process to safeguard residents against impacts of flooding or to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are employed. The need to consider issues relating to compensation are effectively part of that process.

7. Commercialisation of Schools

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (3/3/98)—

With reference to the review committee established under Mr Pat Comben to investigate the commercialisation of Queensland schools—

- (1) What are the terms of reference of the review and what deadline has been placed on the committee to report to the Minister?
- (2) Is Mr Comben being paid \$1,250 per meeting to undertake this review plus travel and accommodation costs; if not, what are the terms of his engagement including the term of his appointment?
- (3) What allowances, including meeting costs, travel and accommodation, are provided for other members of the committee?
- (4) What is the total budget allocation for the work of this committee?
- (5) Will he guarantee that the full report and recommendations will be made available to the public?

Mr Quinn (15/4/98):

(1) The Terms of Reference of the task force reviewing the use of state schools for commercial purposes are as follows:

To examine existing government and departmental policies and frameworks relating to commercial activities in schools;

To define the nature of "commercial activities" in Queensland state schools;

To investigate the extent of commercial activities currently being undertaken within or by Queensland state schools;

To consult with key stakeholder and client groups and with other education systems;

To seek the advice of other relevant government departments, including Crown Law;

To develop, and submit for consideration by the Minister, a draft policy on commercial activities in Queensland state schools.

(2) No. Mr Comben is being paid substantially less than the \$1,250 per meeting you have suggested.

The work expected of, and agreed to, by Mr Comben involves not only meetings of the task force but also extensive research, communication, discussion group convening, developmental and writing tasks, and planning between meetings. The term of Mr Comben's engagement will depend largely upon the complexity of the issue once further research has been undertaken by officers of Education Queensland and the continuing input of all members of the task force is obtained.

(3) Other members of the task force—involving union, principal, parent and community representatives—do not receive payment or allowances of any kind for their services.

(4) The total budget allocation for the work of this committee, including printing and distribution of the report, teleconference and telecommunication costs, and travel, totals \$11,500. It is not expected, however, that this budgeted amount will be expended.

(5) I look forward to receiving, then sharing the full report and recommendations of Mr Comben's Task Force with all members of the public. I am sure that, as well as the printed version to be distributed widely, the union, parent, principal and community members of the Task Force will assist in its dissemination within their own interest groups.

8. Fraser Coast Health Service, Vehicle Fleet

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (3/3/98)—

With reference to reports that the Fraser Coast Health Service employs a fleet of about 150 Commodore motor vehicles throughout the region—

Is this correct; if not, will he advise the correct number of vehicles in the fleet and the total monthly hire cost?

Mr Horan (1/4/98): This information is incorrect, the total number of Fraser Coast district commodore motor vehicles is 62 at the standard government lease rate, well under half the 150 motor vehicle figure quoted by the Honourable Member.

Most of these motor vehicles are provided to staff, as per the requirements of the Medical and Allied Health Industrial awards.

9. Inala Electorate, Remedial Assistance for Students

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education (3/3/98)—

With reference to the concerns of parents in my electorate whose children were picked up in the year 2 diagnostic net in 1996 as being in need of additional remedial assistance and as these children are now in year 4 and the children's' parents' claim that follow up remediation in year 4 is non-existent due mainly to funding cuts in 1997-98—

Will he give his immediate attention to this serious problem, investigate and offer an explanation and a solution as soon as is practicable?

Mr Quinn (15/4/98): Schools were provided with approximately \$5.3 million in 1996 to support those children identified in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net as needing additional assistance in literacy and/or numeracy.

This funding increased to \$5.4 million in 1997. There have been no funding cuts as suggested by the Honourable Member.

The continuation of support for these children in Year 4 and beyond would be undertaken by support teachers (learning difficulties) and through other processes identified in the school intervention plan. (i.e. the continuation of Support-A-Reader intervention)

The implementation of the Appraisal process for students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities from mid 1998 will provide a process for modifying the curriculum to meet the needs of students with literacy and numeracy difficulties.

The modification of the curriculum for these students will enable them to operate more successfully in the classroom and may lead to additional support in their literacy and numeracy learning.

It is expected that such a process would be available for all primary students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities in 1999.

10. QIDC, Mortgage Documents

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (3/3/98)—

With reference to a report in the Weekend section of the Courier-Mail of Saturday 28 February, which stated that the QIDC has just inserted a clause in its mortgage documents that the receipt of a Native Title claim can be an event of default—justifying foreclosure—

- (1) Is this correct; if so, what consultation occurred between his office, his department and QIDC over this matter, and when?
- (2) Does he support this position being adopted by the QIDC; if so, why?
- (3) Does he believe that the QIDC, as part of the new Suncorp/Metway superbank, is still a source of reliable "patient" finance to the rural sector; if so, why?

Mr Springborg (30/3/98):

(1) I am unaware of any consultation between my office or my department and the QIDC in relation to this matter.

(2 & 3) These questions relate to issues falling outside the responsibilities of the Natural Resources portfolio and would be addressed more appropriately by the management of Suncorp-Metway, a publicly listed company of which QIDC is part.

11. Power Stations, Reports of Faults

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (3/3/98)—

With reference to the recent crisis in the power industry—

- (1) How many plant fault reports have been issued in the last 12 months at Tarong, Swanbank, Wivenhoe, Callide, Barron Gorge, Kareeya and Stanwell power stations and Mackay, Middle Ridge and Rockhampton Gas Turbines?
- (2) What percentage of these faults at each of these power stations have been repaired?
- (3) When will the outstanding work at each of these power stations be completed?

Mr Gilmore (3/4/98):

(1) The entities which own and operate the generating plant referred to are Government Owned Corporations. While owned by the Government, these entities are autonomous corporations operating on a commercial basis and in a competitive environment. It is not appropriate for the Government to get involved in day to day management issues nor is it appropriate to publicly disclose commercially sensitive information such as that sought by Mr Mulherin.

(2) As I have already stated, this information is commercially sensitive and it is therefore not appropriate to publicly disclose these details.

(3) Again, as I have stated previously, this information is commercially sensitive.

12. Hamilton Island Gun Club, Theft of Handguns

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/3/98)—

With reference to the theft of 23 handguns from the Hamilton Island Gun Club on 3 January which included an Uzi machine pistol and other high tech handguns—

- (1) At what stage is the investigation into this incident?
- (2) Were these weapons being held in accordance with the law and stored in compliance with the law?
- (3) Has anybody been charged with holding the weapons illegally?
- (4) Has anyone been charged with the theft of the weapons?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98):

(1) There are still two lines of investigation currently in progress which detectives are following up. There are

no firm suspects for this offence and all information from the public has been acted on to the fullest. Special Crime Circulars have been distributed to all police establishments containing a photograph and comprehensive description of all the stolen weapons.

(2) All the firearms held by the Hamilton Island Gun Club were appropriately licensed and registered under the Weapons Act 1990. The Hamilton Island Gun Club is an approved Shooting Club under Division 4 of this legislation. The firearms were stored in a manner that satisfies the requirements of Section 60 of the Weapons Regulation 1996. The stolen firearms did not include an Uzi machine pistol. The firearm originally listed as an Uzi machine pistol is an Uzi model Israeli Military Industries 9 mm semi-automatic pistol. It is a Uzi submachine gun look alike but is approximately one third the size and semi-automatic only. This type of firearm is often used in metallic silhouette target competitions.

(3) All the firearms were Category H weapons and held legally. Therefore, no one has been charged with holding the weapons illegally.

(4) To date, no persons have been charged with the theft of these weapons.

13. Townsville General Hospital, Kidney Transplants

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Health (3/3/98)—

As Garry Laffin, John Strange, Jason Betts and Jim Webster are patients at Townsville General Hospital who receive dialysis treatment three times per week and as they have been waiting for transplants for two years and more—

- (1) Have there been only three transplants to Townsville/Thuringowa patients in the past twelve months; if so, what action will he take to increase the number?
- (2) When can these four patients realistically expect to receive transplants?

Mr Horan (1/4/98):

(1) Figures are kept by dialysis centre—not by cities or electorates. In 1997, the North Queensland region supplied 25% of cadaver kidneys and had 23% of transplants. This was made up of Townsville/Mackay 10, and Cairns 11 patients transplanted in the past twelve months.

Allocation of cadaver kidneys is not made on a geographical basis. Allocation of kidneys is based on tissue matching and time on the waiting list. The matching of donor and recipient kidneys is most important. There is a national register. Where there is a perfect match, priority will be given within Australasia, not necessarily just in Queensland. Where two patients have "equal matching" the kidney is given to the patient who has been longest on the waiting list.

(2) The average time on the waiting list (for a cadaver organ) is three years. This is due to the shortage of cadaver donors. The low percentage of the population who offer their organs for donation after their death continues to be a major concern. As a consequence of the downturn, the Renal Transplant Program of the

Princess Alexandra Hospital has had to actively promote living donor transplantation over the past three years. Living donor transplants have increased from less than 3% to now 20% of all transplantations performed.

Patients who are fortunate enough to have a matching living donor (almost always a relative) can often be transplanted much earlier.

14. National Pollutant Inventory

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (3/3/98)—

With reference to the recent decision of the National Environment Protection Council to list only 36 pollutants on the National Pollutant Register—

- (1) Did he support a higher number of pollutants being included on the register, the 36 that eventuated, or fewer, and how does he justify this position?
- (2) What are the 36 pollutants that did make it on to the register?
- (3) Does the USA have some 650 pollutants on their register?
- (4) Did the environment movement in Queensland initially seek a minimum of 100 pollutants to be included and highly reluctantly saw the worst case scenario being approximately 65 pollutants?
- (5) Which Queensland industry leaders and associations pressured him to reduce the level of pollutants to the figure of 36, on what basis did they justify such an approach and on what basis did he accept their position?
- (6) Does he believe this outcome is a responsible one in light of the CJC's Matthews Inquiry findings; if so, on what basis does he arrive at this position?
- (7) Isn't this just yet another example of the National Party's headlong lurch to their past record of environmental vandalism?

Mr Littleproud (26/3/98): The member for Ferny Grove is echoing the negative, anti-business stance of his colleague, the Labor environment spokesman and member for Everton, with the tone of this question. I would think that other colleagues such as the member for Mount Isa would not agree with this anti-industry stance.

(1) However, the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) for the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI), which was agreed to unanimously by the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) at its meeting on 27 February 1998, is the result of a detailed consultation process. Interested groups and individuals had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the NEPM through several phases of consultation. I support the consultation process.

I would point out that the list of 36 substances applies only to the first two years of implementation. From the third year onwards, the list will be expanded to 90 substances. Additionally, a comprehensive review of the NEPM is planned to commence in October 1999 to take account of early implementation experience. The list will be re-examined as part of this review.

(2) The 36 substances on the list to be reported in the first two years of implementation are:

Acetone; Arsenic & compounds; Benzene; 1,3-Butadiene (vinyl ethylene); Cadmium & compounds; Carbon monoxide; Chromium (VI) compounds; Cobalt & compounds; Cyanide (inorganic) compounds; 1,2-Dibromoethane; Dichloromethane; 2-Ethoxyethanol; 2-Ethoxyethanol acetate; Ethylene glycol (1,2-ethanediol); Fluoride compounds; Glutaraldehyde; Lead & compounds; Mercury & compounds; Methanol; Methyl ethyl ketone; Methyl isobutyl ketone; Methyl methacrylate; Nickel carbonyl; Nickel subsulphide; Oxides of Nitrogen; Particulate Matter 10.0 (m; Polychlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons; Sulphur dioxide; Sulphuric acid; Tetrachloroethylene; Toluene (methylbenzene); Toluene-2,4-diisocyanate; Total Nitrogen; Total Phosphorous; Trichloroethylene; Xylenes (individual or mixed isomers)

(3) I am advised that for the 1997 reporting year, the USA register contains 581 individually listed chemicals and 28 chemical categories (including 2 delimited categories containing 39 chemicals).

(4) This question should be better directed to the Queensland environment movement.

(5) Queensland industry leaders and associations were included in the consultations, and made substantive contributions. All submissions from both Queensland and other State and national bodies were considered in reaching the final wording of the NEPM.

(6) The NPI is not designed to be an enforcement tool. It is a process for making information about emissions available to the public, industry and government. It seeks improved environmental performance through action by companies and individuals providing relevant information.

Appropriate responses to the findings of the CJC's Matthews Inquiry are being made through ongoing implementation of the Environmental Protection Act 1994, including the development of the Environmental Protection Policy for waste management, and waste tracking regulations.

(7) The Commonwealth, all States and the Northern Territory fully supported the approved version of the NPI. (The Australian Capital Territory was in caretaker mode.) The NEPM for the NPI is a major breakthrough in environmental management in Australia. For the first time, the community will have free access to information about emissions to the local environment from a wide range of sources. Government and industry policy makers will also have much more information on which they can base decisions about emission reduction strategies. Coalition governments believe environmental issues are better dealt with by consideration of social and economic factors which is different from the 'over the top' enforcer attitude of Labor.

15. Power Stations, Repair of Faults

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (3/3/98)—

With reference to television reports on 24 February during the power crisis which indicated that workers at one of the failed power stations offered to work overtime to effect repairs but management turned them down—

- (1) Is this true; if so, at which power station did this occur?
- (2) How did management at this station justify this action?
- (3) If contractors were preferred to full-time staff, what was the justification for this bias?
- (4) How many units were out of action at the Gladstone Power Station during this crisis and how long had this been the case and why?

Mr Gilmore (3/4/98):

(1) Management of the three Government Owned Corporations which own and operate the Stanwell, Swanbank and Tarong power stations have advised me that employees at those power stations worked overtime on all essential repair items to expedite the return to service of the failed generating units. However, overtime was not worked in non-essential areas. I am not aware of the arrangements at the privately owned Gladstone Power Station.

(2) In view of the answer to the earlier question, this question is irrelevant.

(3) Contractors are used to supplement the efforts of the permanent staff at the power stations, particularly where specialist skills are needed. Employees and contractors involved in repairs to the failed generating plant worked through the night when necessary, to expedite its return to service.

(4) As Gladstone Power Station is privately owned, I suggest you refer your question to the owner or operator of that Station.

16. Bulimba Electorate, Power Supply

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (3/3/98)—

- (1) Will he supply the interruptions to power supply in the Electorate of Bulimba for the years 1996, 1997 and till the present date?
- (2) Will he break these interruptions of power into the suburbs they occurred in, the time they occurred, how long interruptions occurred for and the reason for interruption of supply?

Mr Gilmore (3/4/98):

(1) The Queensland State Parliament, Electorate of Bulimba is supplied by radial 11kV feeders which are connected to ENERGEX's Bulimba, Hemmant, Murarrie, Queensport and Camp Hill zone substations. These are extensive feeders which supply areas both inside and outside that electorate. It is possible for ENERGEX to supply some summary details of interruptions to the feeders supplying power to the Electorate of Bulimba.

(2) The attached table contains the available summary information for the feeders generally supplying the Electorate of Bulimba that sustained power supply interruptions in the period. There are a total of thirty-five feeders supplying electricity to installations

in the Bulimba Electorate. Only seventeen of these feeders sustained interruptions. Data for the supply interruptions occurring on 23 & 24 February as a result of load shedding is not included.

17. Petrie Bypass

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/3/98)—

With reference to the proposed Petrie by-pass and further to his answer to Question on Notice No. 600—

Has the route location and impact assessment study been commenced?

Mr Johnson (2/4/98): As I advised in my answer to your Question on Notice of 4 June 1997, 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.

As Council has not yet completed its study, a decision on the priority of a route location and impact assessment study of the Petrie Bypass has not yet been taken. I am advised that Council is not able to nominate a completion date for its Shire Transportation Study.

Consequently, I cannot advise when the Department of Main Roads may commence a study on the Petrie Bypass.

18. Construction of Schools, Health Hazards

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Education (3/3/98)—

- (1) What departmental policies exist with respect to disturbances/occupational health and safety/environmental health hazards caused by construction and/or renovation of school buildings/classrooms when such work is being undertaken while classes are being conducted adjacent or nearby the construction site?
- (2) Are conditions imposed on contractors to minimise the problems identified in (1) as a matter of course in such contracts?
- (3) What departmental monitoring takes place to ensure compliance with all relevant guidelines and policies concerning occupational health and safety/environmental health hazards/disturbances, etc?
- (4) When a given project is being scheduled, is a plan forwarded to schools for consultation with teaching staff with respect to educational needs (and the disturbance impacts upon them) prior to the final scheduling of the construction?

Mr Quinn (15/4/98):

(1) & (2) The standard Department of Public Works and Housing Specification, Special Conditions of Contract and Australian Standard General Conditions of Contract (AS2124-1992), which forms part of all building contracts undertaken for Education Queensland are very specific on these issues. Under the statutory requirements under the contract, the contractor is bound to conform to the following—

- (a) Work Place Health and Safety Act 1995
- (b) Building Code of Australia
- (c) Contractor's Site Area/Temporary Safety Fence
- (d) Dust and Noise Control
- (e) Australia Standard—

General Conditions of Contract (AS2124-1992)

Clause 15 Protection of People and Property

Clause 17 Damage to Persons and Property

(3) The Department's Project Manager, which in most cases is the Department of Public Works and Housing, monitors construction activity to ensure compliance with conditions of contract. The School Principal as the accountable officer on site for Education Queensland is also responsible for ensuring no activity takes place which compromises the operation of the school.

(4) During the construction planning stage of a project the school community is consulted through the Principal as to the impact on the educational environment of the school. Obviously all projects and school sites are different and the impact on the educational environment can vary widely. Where the work impacts significantly on the schools functioning or risks the health of students it is normally programmed to be executed out of school hours.

19. Industry Licensing Requirements

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (3/3/98)—

With reference to his recent decision to exempt some 2,500 industries from licensing requirements under the Environmental Protection Act—

- (1) How can bitumen plants be exempted when it was his Government who only recently successfully prosecuted one of the few bitumen plants in Brisbane for pollution violations?
- (2) How can timber processing plants be exempted when one of the State's mass circulation newspapers is currently running a series of articles on possible serious health effects stemming from the CSR particle-board factory in the Gympie area and which his department has admitted is being too overworked to properly investigate?
- (3) How can battery recycling plants be exempted when a serious land and water contamination issue in the Oxley district was discovered only in recent years and involved the intelligence debilitating heavy metal, lead?
- (4) How can waste tyre dumps and recycling plants be exempt when it was his Government that regarded this problem as being so serious as to warrant a consumer based tax in the 1996/97 Budget?
- (5) Isn't this just yet another example of the National Party's headlong plunge back to its days of environmental lunacy?

Mr Littleproud (26/3/98):

(1) Bitumen plants remain level 1 environmentally relevant activities under the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998 until 1 July 1998 when they become level 2 environmentally relevant activities. Conditions which are necessary or desirable may be applied to level 2 activities. The potential for heavy metal contamination from recycling operations is low because the recycler needs to recover all lead and lead product in order to maximise the economic return from his endeavours. The Government has not prosecuted any operators of bitumen plants in Brisbane. However, Brisbane City Council recently prosecuted a company Bituminous Products Pty Ltd, for causing unlawful environmental harm. The prosecution did not involve a breach of the conditions of any licence.

(2) Timber processing plants are not 'exempted' from licensing requirements under the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998. Environmentally relevant activities Numbers 66 and 67 apply.

(3) Battery recycling remains an environmentally relevant activity (Item 77 of Schedule 1 of the Regulation) in a similar manner to Bitumen Plants (refer to answer to Question (1)).

(4) 'Waste tyre dumps' are not exempted from licensing requirements under the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998 (Environmentally Relevant Activity 84 refers). Tyre recycling remains an environmentally relevant activity under the new Regulation in a similar manner to Bitumen Plants (refer to answer to Question (1)).

(5) Quite frankly such inflammatory unsubstantiated accusations reflect badly on the questioner. He should remember that the impractical heavy handed actions of the Goss government's environment ministers contributed in no small way to its demise. With inane questions like this, there is every likelihood the questioner will continue to be regarded as an environmental extremist.

20. Water Environment Protection Policy

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (3/3/98)—

With reference to the use of 'on the spot' fines by his department under the provisions of the Water Environment Protection Policy—

- (1) How long has the Water EPP been in force?
- (2) Didn't his EPP give Department of Environment officers the power to impose 'on the spot' fines for breaches of this EPP and, therefore, the EPA?
- (3) How many 'on the spot' fines have been issued by the department in this time; if none, how does he explain this?
- (4) How does he counter the accusation that this sort of environmental performance is an almost exact replay of the non-enforcement of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Noise Abatement Act under the previous National Party Government?

Mr Littleproud (26/3/98):

(1) The Environment Protection (Water) Policy, 1997, was approved by the Governor in Council and notified in the Gazette on 5 June 1997.

(2) Justices Amendment Regulation, 1997, (No 2), gazetted on 20 June 1997, gives authorised Department of Environment officers powers to issue "on the spot" fines for certain breaches of Part 6 of the Policy.

(3) Four fines have been issued to date by Departmental officers.

(4) The Policy came into force in mid-1997 with subsequent administrative, public notification, and internal training arrangements put in place to implement the "on the spot" fine system. This system is now fully operational. Given the vigorous prosecution record of the Department of Environment since commencement of the Environmental Protection Act in 1995 which has resulted in substantial Court imposed fines, the implicit accusation is factually incorrect and reflects poorly on the proponent of the question.

21. Royal Children's Hospital, Manometry Testing Facility

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Health (3/3/98)—

With reference to manometry testing facilities available for children—

- (1) Is the only manometry testing facility available for children in the Brisbane area at the Royal Children's Hospital?
- (2) Has this equipment been out of service for several years; if so, for what reason is it out of service and why?
- (3) If the equipment is out of service, will it be replaced and when?
- (4) What alternative arrangements have been made (since the time that the equipment has been out of service) for children requiring the benefit of testing through this facility?

Mr Horan (1/4/98): Manometry is the measurement of pressure and is done in various parts of the body, such as lungs, oesophagus, rectum, and urinary tract.

If the Honourable Member specifies what kind of manometry he is referring to, I will obtain a prompt response from the Royal Children's Hospital on his points of concern.

22. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, VERs

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (3/3/98)—

With reference to the significant number of experienced and skilled staff of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care who have accepted Voluntary Early Retirement packages (VERs) since 20 February 1996—

- (1) How many staff, at what level and in which program area, have taken VERs to date?
- (2) How many of these staff have been re-engaged by the department as consultants or project officers since they accepted a VER?
- (3) In each case, at what level was the employee engaged prior to their VER and at what hourly rate were they re-engaged as consultants?
- (4) In each case, for how long was each employee re-engaged?
- (5) In which division was each employee originally engaged and in which division were they re-engaged?
- (6) What has been the total cost to the department of these VERs and the funds expended on re-engagement of these staff?

Mrs Wilson (2/4/98): I am advised that:

- (1) The attached list provides details of the number of staff, their level and in which program they were employed who have accepted VERs since 20 February 1996.
- (2) Three (3) employees have been re-engaged as project officers. One (1) further employee has been re-engaged as an independent consultant.
- (3) The consultant was previously employed at the AO6 level. Her consultancy services were provided at the rate of \$50.00 per hour. Each project officer was originally employed at the AO5 level and all have been re-engaged at the AO5 level.
- (4) The consultant was re-engaged in one instance for approximately 55 hours and on another occasion for approximately 15 hours. The project officers recommenced on 11 August 1997, 13 November 1997 and 8 December 1997 and remain current employees.
- (5) The consultant was previously employed in the Human Resources, Finance and Property Services Program Area. She was re-engaged once in this program area and on a separate contract in the South West Queensland Region. The project officers were originally employed in Protective Services and Juvenile Justice, Disability and Community Services Development. They have been re-engaged in Families, Community Care, and Youth program areas.
- (6) The total cost to the Department of these VERs referred to in questions 2 to 5 was \$132,336.48. The total funds expended on re-engagement of these staff to date is \$46257.65.

23. QIDC, Mortgage Documents

Mr HAYWARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (3/3/98)—

With reference to a report in the Weekend section of The Courier-Mail of 28 February to the effect that the QIDC has just inserted a clause in its mortgage documents that the receipt of a Native Title claim can be an event of default justifying foreclosure—

- (1) Is it true; if so, when was this decision taken?
- (2) Was she, her office or officers of Treasury, or the Government's Native Title Unit consulted by

the QIDC before this claim was inserted; if so, did they support the decision and on what basis?

- (3) Does she personally believe that the receipt of a Native Title claim can be an event of default justifying foreclosure; if so, on what basis?
- (4) Will she take this matter up with the QIDC as a matter of urgency?

Mrs Sheldon (2/4/98): (1), (2), (3) and (4) QIDC is part of a publicly listed company and operates under the corporations law. The Government is a shareholder in Suncorp-Metway Ltd., of which QIDC is a part. The matters you have referred to are commercial matters for Suncorp-Metway. It is not appropriate for the Government, as a shareholder, to become involved in commercial matters of the company. Your questions should be directed to representatives of the management of Suncorp-Metway.

24. Yeronga Corso, Public Access Boat Ramp

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/3/98)—

With reference to his department's consideration of a proposal for a public access boat ramp at the site of the South Queensland Power Boat Club on Yeronga Corso—

- (1) Is he aware of the serious concerns of Yeronga and Fairfield residents over the negative impact of such a development on noise and traffic problems in local streets and on nearby reaches of the Brisbane River as well as the likely adverse effect on the amenity of the local area?
- (2) Will he provide an estimate of the number of boats likely to use the proposed public access boat ramp if approved?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that his department will not grant any approvals necessary for the proposed public access boat ramp?

Mr Johnson (2/4/98):

1. The proposal for a public boat ramp at the site of the South Queensland Power Boat Club on the Yeronga Corso was put forward by the Boating Industry Association of Queensland as an alternative site following removal of the Kangaroo Point boat ramp. At a public meeting held on 15 February 1998, the local residents voiced their concerns over the possible impact of a public boat ramp. As a result of these concerns, the BIAQ are no longer pursuing the proposal and Queensland Transport will look at other alternatives.

2. Parking capacity for 18 car trailer units was proposed.

3. Queensland Transport provides recreational boating facilities where there exists an identified need and public and local government support. As the local residents have expressed a desire for a public boat ramp not to be located at the site, and the proponents of the project are no longer pursuing the concept, Queensland Transport has removed the proposal from the Maritime Infrastructure Program.

25. Palm Beach Community Health Centre and Dental Clinic

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Health (3/3/98)—

With reference to the nearly completed Palm Beach Community Health Centre and Dental Clinic—

- (1) When will the health centre open?
- (2) When will the dental clinic open?
- (3) How many people on the dental waiting list at the Southport clinic will be moved across to the Palm Beach clinic waiting list?
- (4) Is there a geographical boundary for people wishing to access (a) the Palm Beach Dental Clinic and (b) the health centre?
- (5) How many patients are expected to be treated weekly at the Palm Beach Dental Clinic?

Mr Horan (1/4/98):

- (1) It is anticipated that the health centre will open by mid July 1998.
- (2) The Dental Clinic will open once staff are fully recruited.
- (3) When fully operational, Palm Beach Dental Clinic will represent approximately 21% of the Gold Coast District service capacity.
- (4a) Patients will be encouraged to utilise resources closest to their place of residence. The District Health Service will endeavour to ensure that the workload is appropriately distributed throughout the District Oral Health Services relative to resources.
- (4b) The District Health Service does not envisage applying a rigid geographical boundary for people wishing to access the Palm Beach Health Centre. However, efforts will be made to try to even out the workload between the two Community Health Centres.
- (5) The Palm Beach Dental Health Service is expected, when fully operational, to see approximately 250 patients per week.

26. Moura, Ammonium Nitrate Plant

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (3/3/98)—

With reference to his facilitation role for the establishment of a new Ammonium Nitrate Plant for Moura—

- (1) What infrastructure contribution was made by the Queensland Government?
- (2) What consideration or investigation was made of the impact of this decision on long term production sustainability in both the Moura and Gladstone regions?

Mr Slack (27/3/98):

(1) The Queensland Government has not made any capital contributions towards roads, rail, water, sewage disposal, gas or electricity to the site. The Proponent, Queensland Nitrates Pty Ltd, will pay these capital contributions towards infrastructure.

These matters were dealt with as part of the Impact Assessment Study process and as part of the

development application to Banana Shire Council which it approved in the early part of 1997.

(2) The Proponent applied to the Government under the Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme guidelines for an assistance package in November 1997.

After consideration of a number of matters, including the economic impact of the proposal in the region, the commercial viability of the project, and the net growth in the coal industry, approval was given on 30 January 1998 by the Honourable the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry for a financial package which is the subject of a commercial-in-confidence agreement between the State and the Proponent. The Proponent accepted this offer on 10 February 1998.

The Proponent has agreed to enter into an agreement with the State of Queensland which will include a written undertaking to:

commission and commence operation of an ammonium nitrate plant at Moura by 30 June 2000;

employ 58 persons by 30 June 2000.

27. Eel Traps

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (3/3/98)—

With reference to a turtle killed in eel traps in the Burnett River on 26 January and subsequent investigations made by the departmental staff that found (i) although it is illegal to set 6 eel traps over the weekend, because the licensed eel trapper said he did not set the traps the department would not take any action and (ii) the eel traps should be modified to exclude turtles—

- (1) Will he (a) advise why all eel traps are not modified to exclude turtles and (b) take immediate action to have all eel traps modified?
- (2) Have any prosecutions been made against licensed eel trappers for killing turtles or other protected aquatic animals?

Mr Rowell (20/3/98): Eel traps are not modified specifically to exclude turtles or other air-breathing animals. However, all eel traps must contain a pocket which extends from the trap to enable air-breathing non-target species such as turtles to reach the surface of the water. The Fisheries Regulation 1995 specifies that the trap's pocket must be at least six metres long and that the end of the pocket must be attached to a float to allow trapped animals access to surface air.

There have not been any prosecutions made against licensed eel trappers for killing turtles.

28. Remedial Assistance for Students

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Education (3/3/98)—

With reference to the hasty decision to implement a change to the diagnostic net from year 6 to year 5, without making transitional arrangements to pick up those students in year 6 in 1998, who clearly have not been tested previously—

- (1) Will he reconsider the situation as a matter of urgency to assist students who will obviously not cope with the high school curriculum in the year 2000?
- (2) Will he take urgent action to provide funding for schools to provide remedial assistance to students in year 6, who have been deprived of the tests and the remedial action which would have been identified as necessary to their future educational potential?

Mr Quinn (15/4/98): (1) & (2) The decision to implement a Year 5 Test in 1998 was made by Cabinet in response to the National Literacy and Numeracy Plan and on the recommendation of the Queensland School Curriculum Council (P-10). This Plan, which has been agreed to by all State and Territory Ministers for Education, requires the implementation, from 1998, of state based assessment programs in Years 3 and 5 against nationally agreed literacy and numeracy benchmarks.

I am aware that on 19 February 1998, the Queensland School Curriculum Council made a recommendation that 'universal, statewide, rigorous' assessment of student performance in Year 7 against the national benchmarks in literacy and numeracy be based on a census test from 1999, and in accordance with the Education (School Curriculum P-10) Act 1996 that such test be made an approved test under regulation.

It is intended that Cabinet will consider this recommendation in the near future, with a view to ensuring that no student exits primary school without participating in a statewide literacy and numeracy assessment process.

The introduction of Appraisal in 1999 will also enable teachers to implement standardised assessment tasks for students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities. The appraisal process will help to determine student strengths in literacy and/or numeracy; determine barriers to learning; develop quality education programs that meet students' individual learning needs; and establish and maintain home/school relationships.

29. Northgate Railway Station

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/3/98)—

With reference to Northgate Railway Station—

- (1) Does he acknowledge the urgent need for additional car parking facilities situated away from the residential area adjacent to the station?
- (2) What is the current status of planning to provide additional parking at the station?
- (3) Is he aware that on any week-day up to 150 vehicles are parking on residential streets around the station causing safety hazards and inconvenience to local residents?
- (4) Has he acted on my previous suggestion that an investigation be made on the feasibility of co-locating a parking facility on land currently occupied by Australia Post on the Toombul Road side of the station?

Mr Johnson (2/4/98):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Planning layouts and cost estimates for multi-level car parking have been prepared.
- (3) Yes, I am aware that a significant number of motor vehicles are parked in the streets to the west of the station. However, QR is evaluating options to address this issue.
- (4) The property occupied by Australia Post is considerable and fully developed as the mail exchange building, a truck staging area and employee car park.

Advice from locals indicates that at peak mail periods during the year the existing staff car park cannot accommodate demand and the overflow fills the adjoining street.

The area is quite distant from the suburban platform and would require the construction of a new pedestrian footbridge which would comply with current access codes.

In QR's experience this is not a customer friendly solution for accessing the station.

Any further investigation of options involving the Australia Post land are not practical.

30. Road Safety Near Schools

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (3/3/98)—

With reference to the road safety concerns of parents, teachers and students in streets close to schools—

Will he address these concerns by taking steps such as (a) reviewing the times for the 40km per hour to apply (as many motorists consider the 7am—8am period to be unreasonable because so few students are around schools at this period and hence motorists are learning to ignore the warnings), (b) introducing the system of yellow flashing lights to warn that the lower speed limit is in operation, (c) developing the practice of more regular police patrols around schools to enforce traffic regulations and (d) approving the use of speed cameras in residential areas so that "rat-runners" and other offenders can be identified and made to pay the penalty for their unsafe driving practices?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98):

- (a) This is a matter outside the ambit of my portfolio and would be more suitably addressed by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.
- (b) This is a matter outside the ambit of my portfolio and would be more suitably addressed by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.
- (c) Traffic Co-ordinators in police regions throughout the State will be requested to examine the frequency of police patrols around school areas at times when students are arriving and departing.
- (d) Speed Cameras will be introduced into local government areas by the end of 1998, subject to Cabinet approval. The introduction of Speed Cameras into local government areas may not address the

issue of "rat-runners" and other offenders as indicated in the question, as "rat-runners" do not necessarily exceed the speed limit. Speed Cameras may not be the most appropriate means of addressing the issue of speeding vehicles in urban areas after the introduction of the 50km per hour speed limit.

All issues concerning the enforcement of traffic laws relating to speeding in urban areas will be considered prior to the introduction of Speed Cameras and the 50km per hour speed limit in these areas. To complement existing traffic law enforcement tools, the Police Service will soon introduce laser speed detection devices which can be either manually operated, or attached to an image capture device. It is expected this equipment will be more suitable for operation in 50km per hour speed zones.

31. Citytrain; Pinkenba Rail Line

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (3/3/98)—

With reference to his answers before Estimates Committee C in relation to questions concerning the purchase of additional rollingstock for the Citytrain Network and when asked whether there would be any expansion or improvement in the timetable for the suburban network over the next 2 years the only answer supplied was that 12 out of the 30 3-car sets would be used to provide additional morning and afternoon peak train services and no new services were outlined out of peak, nor any services on lines not currently in use and to the re-opening of the Pinkenba line in January which was first reported in the Northern News on 9 July 1997 where a spokeswoman for him was quoted as saying that Queensland Rail "would obtain passenger carriages" and undertake other work to re-open the Pinkenba line early in 1998—

- (1) Where will the extra carriages come from and why was he unable to outline this announcement before the Estimates Committee and the Parliament?
- (2) What impact will the use of carriages on this line have for other suburban services, especially given his statements concerning the desperate lack of rollingstock on the suburban network?

Mr Johnson (2/4/98):

(1) Doomben services were provided by extending Cleveland and/or other existing services. In order to provide the required services Citytrain used a loco-hauled stainless steel set train for one service due to insufficient electric carriage availability. Rollingstock maintenance procedures are being modified which will free up one three car set, insufficient for most peak hour services or other corridors, but which will provide more than enough capacity to replace the loco-hauled set from April 1998.

Re-introduction of Doomben services was being considered only as of September 1997, with a decision pending the outcome of community research, and/or evaluation of the associated costs of providing rail services. This process only enabled a firm decision to be made in December 1997.

(2) No other services are being reduced or withdrawn as a result of Doomben services at their current level. However, insufficient rollingstock exists to increase the number of Doomben rail services beyond the current level without affecting other services.

32. Helicopter Rescue Services

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (3/3/98)—

With reference to previous Question on Notice No. 1394 regarding the quarterly operations report of the Department of Emergency Services, Division of Aviation Services for April-June 1997 and the classification of "other"—

- (1) How many times in the last twelve months did helicopter rescue services have to leave "other" work to attend rescues?
- (2) To which helicopter services did this occur?
- (3) What kind of "other" work were they doing?
- (4) What were the helicopter response times in this situation?

Mr Veivers (2/4/98):

(1) For the period 1 January 1997 to 30 December 1997, there were 12 instances when the community helicopter rescue services had to leave "other" work to attend rescues.

(2) This occurred 11 times in the case of Energex Community Rescue at the Sunshine Coast and 1 time for RACQ CareFlight at the Gold Coast.

(3) Energex Community Rescue were on routine surf patrols on 10 cases and in one case, Energex Community Rescue responded with their back-up JetRanger which was conducting a charter for the Department of Primary Industries (Forestry). In the case of RACQ CareFlight, this provider was completing an engine check during scheduled maintenance of the aircraft.

(4) The response time is the time taken from when the helicopter is told to respond to an incident, until it is airborne. The target response time for community helicopter providers is 30 minutes or less.

For 8 of the 11 tasks above, Energex Community Rescue had an immediate response when their helicopter was called away from surf patrols. On 2 occasions they had to return to base from a surf patrol to reconfigure the helicopter and achieved response times of 11 minutes and 5 minutes respectively. On 1 occasion, when the Energex Community Rescue LongRanger was down for maintenance, the Service responded with their JetRanger helicopter (not required under the Service Agreement) which was on a charter flight. The JetRanger experienced a delay of 45 minutes to refuel and pick-up a medical team.

The task undertaken by RACQ CareFlight during a maintenance check flight had an 18 minute response time due to the need to return to base to reconfigure the helicopter.

33. Queensland Nickel Agreement Act

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/3/98)—

With reference to Queensland Nickel Industries Limited who have now advised the Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board of its bulk water requirements and as the company proposes to increase the current allocation from 6 megalitres to 12 megalitres per day with the bulk requirement being increased to 20 megalitres per day by the year 2001 which would be the total requirements for the company—

Will he accelerate changes to the Queensland Nickel Agreement Act to remove the company's power of veto to the issue of domestic bore licences to residents of Rupertswood and the Black River plains?

Mr Springborg (30/3/98): The Member for Thuringowa would be aware that the Queensland Nickel Agreement Act provides the Company with an entitlement to establish bores and take 8638 megalitres of groundwater per annum. Under this entitlement, the Company established bores in the early 1970s in the vicinity of the Black River. The groundwater resource in the area proved to be capable of supplying only a portion of the Company's entitlement. The Company fully utilises the available resource. As a result my Department has been unable to allocate additional groundwater to residents in the area of the Company's bores.

As the groundwater resource has proved to be incapable of supplying the company's full needs the company now obtains almost one-third of its needs from the Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board. I understand that the company and the board have been discussing the option of the company progressively increasing its supply from the Board. At this stage I understand these discussions are continuing.

Any changes to the Queensland Nickel Agreement Act are matters for my colleague the Honourable the Treasurer Joan Sheldon. Should it be possible to revise the water supply arrangements included in the Agreement act as a result of the discussions between the company and the board, these matters would, I ensure be included in any revision of the Agreement Act.

34. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Surgical Procedures

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Health (4/3/98)—

With reference to the Princess Alexandra Hospital operating theatre statistics for the months of April and May 1997—

- (1) What numbers of major and minor booked surgical operations were undertaken in public wards of the hospital?
- (2) What numbers of major and minor emergency surgical operations were undertaken in public wards of the hospital?
- (3) What numbers of major and minor booked surgical operations were undertaken in intermediate wards of the hospital?
- (4) What numbers of major and minor emergency surgical operations were undertaken in intermediate wards of the hospital?

Mr Horan (2/4/98): The Princess Alexandra Hospital no longer has designated intermediate wards and no longer classifies surgical procedures as major or minor.

35. Business Franchise Fees

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (4/3/98)—

With reference to the Comparative Statement of receipts and Expenditure for the Consolidated Fund as at 31 December 1997 and in relation to tobacco, liquor and fuel franchise fees collected by the Commonwealth in lieu of the State—

- (1) As tobacco franchise receipts totalled \$45.337m and receipts in lieu totalled \$171.161m for the half year, only 38 per cent of the estimated \$566.8m to be collected in 1997-98, does this represent a serious revenue shortfall and was the Budget estimate grossly in error?
- (2) When will Queensland receive payment from the Commonwealth of funds in lieu of liquor franchise fees and will that payment/those payments ensure that the Budget estimate of revenue totalling \$139.925m in 1997-98 will be met?
- (3) What payments have been made to the State from the Commonwealth in lieu of fuel excise and into which fund are these monies paid for the purpose of distribution under Queensland's Fuel Subsidy arrangements?

Mrs Sheldon (3/4/98):

(1 & 2) Estimated Budget receipts for 1998-99 were determined prior to the High Court decision on 5 August 1997 regarding State business franchise fees. As a result of that decision, safety net arrangements have been agreed with the Commonwealth that involve timing differences and hence cash flow issues to be managed in the context of the 1998-99 Budget. On an ongoing basis, safety net payments are sufficient to replace the previous franchise fee revenue.

(3) As at 31 January 1998, an amount of \$189.2M had been received from the Commonwealth for fuel safety net payments. These monies have been paid into the Franchise Fees Compensation Fund.

36. Police Resources

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/3/98)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement of 3 March regarding police numbers—

- (1) What were the total police numbers as at 31 January?
- (2) What was the total number of commissioned officers as at 31 January?
- (3) What was the total number of Sergeants and Senior Sergeants as at 31 January?
- (4) What was the total number of Senior Constables as at 31 January?
- (5) What was the total number of Constables and First Class Constables as at 31 January?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98):

- (1) 6697 police officers.
- (2) 292 commissioned officers.
- (3) 416 Senior Sergeants and 1587 Sergeants.
- (4) 2142 Senior Constables.
- (5) 2260 Constables. There is no rank of First Class Constable.

37. Eventide Nursing Home, Brighton

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Health (4/3/98)—

With reference to this Government which has continued to slash the funding and services at Eventide Nursing Home, Brighton and as the staff numbers have been slashed to such a level that the care of patients is now at a critical level and considering that it was the decision of this current Government to slash \$4m from the budget of Eventide over three years—

Is he now prepared to admit that he was wrong and that Eventide is now in desperate need of an urgent funding boost to restore its staffing numbers to a level which will ensure that the care and well-being of the residents will be guaranteed?

Mr Horan (2/4/98): The Honourable Member obviously has a selective memory, as it was the previous Goss Labor Government in 1995 who signed an agreement with the previous Federal Labor Government to reduce funding Eventide Sandgate and other State Government Nursing Homes according to the Commonwealth funding arrangements for all nursing homes. This effectively closed 437 nursing home beds across Queensland.

In an effort to rectify the disgraceful mess left by the Honourable Member's Labor colleagues, failed Health Ministers Mr Beattie and Mr Elder, the Coalition Government currently provides Eventide Sandgate 6% more care hours than the Commonwealth recommended levels.

In 1997-1998 the State Government allocated to Eventide Sandgate additional funds equal to 28.4% of its Commonwealth funding. That is, Eventide has a budget 28.4% greater than a nursing home of its size in the community or private sector would receive.

38. Fish Kills, Dawson River and Bedford Weir

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Environment (4/3/98)—

With reference to fish kills regularly occurring in Queensland rivers and streams—

- (1) What is the cause of the latest kill on the Dawson River following previous kills on the Victoria Creek near Ingham?
- (2) When was this latest kill reported?
- (3) How many and what types of fish were killed?
- (4) What water sampling was taken, when and under whose direction?

- (5) What pollutants or contaminants were identified and when was an investigation of their source commenced?
- (6) Who has been or is to be prosecuted for causing environmental harm; if no one, why not?
- (7) What fish were killed at the recent fish kill at the Bedford Weir?
- (8) What was the cause of the Bedford Weir kill?
- (9) Why has no action been taken against the negligent agents responsible for this disgraceful episode?
- (10) Who is the proponent of the Nathan Dam on the Dawson River?
- (11) Who has responsibility for the impact assessment process for the dam?
- (12) Is the answer to Questions (10) and (11) the same body responsible for managing the Bedford Weir?

Mr Littleproud (26/3/98):

- (1) The pathology report found that the cause of death of the fish sampled was poisoning by endosulfan pesticide.
- (2) 3 February 1998.
- (3) About 1,000 fish of a wide variety of species and sizes including saratoga, bony bream and catfish.
- (4) Water and fish samples were taken from four sites on 4 February 1998 by Department of Environment officers acting under the direction of the Regional Manager (Environment).
- (5) Laboratory analyses of water and fish samples found endosulfan, profenofos and methomyl pesticides as well as the herbicides prometryn, diuron, flumeturon at levels above the laboratory detection limits. The investigation into the source of contaminants was commenced on 4 February 1998 and is continuing.
- (6) Investigations are continuing.
- (7) Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) reported to the Department of Environment that fish killed included yellow belly, sleepy cod, barramundi, black bream, eel-tail catfish, fork-tail catfish, bony bream and banded grunter.
- (8) to (12) Refer to question No. 50 asked on 4 March and answer, and to my colleague the Minister for Natural Resources, with regard to these matters.

39. Strathpine Shopping Centre, Police Beat Shopfront

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/3/98)—

With reference to the newly opened Police Beat Shopfront at Westfield's Strathpine Shopping Centre (for which the Strathpine and Pine Rivers community thank the Queensland Police Service)—

As a result of having a Police Beat Shopfront has the Petrie district now had taken away a general duties patrol vehicle?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98): The Police Beat Shopfront at Westfield's Strathpine Shopping Centre commenced operations on 23 February 1998 and will be officially opened on 25 March 1998. It is staffed by two police officers and an Administrative Assistant. The Shopfront is not allocated a police car and no vehicle has been reallocated from Petrie or elsewhere as a result of the Shopfront being established. If the Shopfront staff require a vehicle for any purpose, such as to transport a prisoner, a local police car is made available. Car crews patrolling the area also regularly visit the Shopfront and the Shopping Centre as part of their objective-driven patrols. This provides a highly visible police presence at the Shopping Centre.

40. Pine Ridge Conservation Park

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (4/3/98)—

With reference to the Pine Ridge Conservation Park at Runaway Bay on the Gold Coast—

- (1) What is the current area of the park and what conservation values does it contain?
- (2) What effect does the existence of a former Gold Coast City Council landfill adjacent to the park have on the integrity of the park?
- (3) What are the contents of this landfill?
- (4) Why has the Gold Coast City Council recently dug trenches into the park from the former landfill?
- (5) What authority did his department give for this incursion on the park and what impacts does it have?
- (6) What proposals are there for sections of the park to be excised for road widening, pedestrian tracks or other human uses?
- (7) Is the landfill being de-watered, including the use of underground pumps and what contaminants does this water contain and where is the waste water being disposed to?
- (8) Why have the drainage pipes at the northern end of the park been plugged and what impact does this restriction on the natural ingress of tidal waters have on the park?
- (9) What action has he taken to ensure the actions of the Gold Coast City Council or any other body do not adversely affect or compromise the environmental values of the park?

Mr Littleproud (2/4/98):

- (1) Pine Ridge Conservation Park currently protects a total area of 110.54 ha. This land was set aside to conserve the only remaining example of natural dune vegetation that once occurred over much of the Gold Coast lowlands.

In summary, the conservation values of Pine Ridge Conservation Park include:

- contributing to the maintenance of biodiversity of the Gold Coast's coastal lowlands;
- protection of a diverse native bird population (103 species representing 41 families out of 91 families of birds in Australia); and

protection of a significant stand of *Blandiflora grandiflora* (Christmas Bells) which is a protected species in Queensland. This stand of Christmas Bells is the only viable remnant of the species on the Gold Coast.

- (2) The presence of the landfill and associated contaminated land issue do not appear to have caused any detrimental environmental impact on flora and fauna in the Conservation Park. An area near the southern boundary of the Park, which was used for lagoon disposal of grease trap and septic tank waste up to decommissioning in 1979, was included in the Park when it was formed. This disturbed area has since supported the growth of the Christmas Bells. The former refuse tip site provides a significant buffer zone to the southern Park boundary which in effect serves to protect the Park's values/integrity.

- (3) The landfill was mainly used for disposal of general municipal refuse, that is domestic and commercial/industrial refuse. A grease trap and septic tank waste lagoon area was on the original site; as was a hospital waste incinerator.

- (4) The Gold Coast City Council did not recently dig trenches into the Park. The Council undertook maintenance of the existing earthen surface stormwater drain in June 1997. The purpose of this maintenance was to reshape the drain to alleviate sections of the drain holding stagnant water. The incursion into the Park occurred due to the Council's works crew being unaware of the change to the southern boundary as a result of 2.739 ha of land being added to the Park in 1993.

- (5) The Department of Environment was not informed about, and consequently did not approve, the reshaping of the 50 metre section of the drain within Pine Ridge Conservation Park. However, given the nature and apparent beneficial intent of the work undertaken, a request to the Department prior to the event would have been considered favourably. The environmental impact on the Conservation Park resulting from the reshaping of the drain is quite minimal, considering that the drain already existed.

- (6) There are no current proposals for sections of the Conservation Park to be excised for road widening or pedestrian tracks. Arrangements were made between the Department of Environment, the Department of Transport, the former Department of Lands and the Gold Coast City Council in 1989/90 for the excision of a strip of the Conservation Park (9.5 metres) to allow for duplication of the existing road. In August 1990, when Labor was in government, the Department of Lands approved the excision of this 9.5 metre strip of land from the Conservation Park, providing that the Department of Transport covered all associated costs. The Council concurred with this approval. The Department of Lands also advised that it had no objection to the construction of a bicycle/pedestrian path within the Conservation Park "... provided that all due care is taken not to unduly disturb the established vegetation".

- (7) The Department has been advised by Council that the landfill is not being dewatered.

- (8) Drainage pipes at the northern section of the Park have been in place for many years. The pipes may appear 'plugged' in as much as they are fitted with

tidal flap gates to allow freshwater to drain from the Park while preventing tidal water from flowing into the pipes. The Park is a purely fresh water environment—tidal waters would not have entered the Park in its pre-settlement history. Development of residential subdivisions and the construction of canals in the immediate vicinity of the Park prompted the installation of these drain pipes and flap gates to ensure no tidal waters enter the Park.

(9) The Park is being managed for the following values:

- maintenance of the diversity of fauna and flora;
- conservation of cultural values on the Park;
- provision of recreational opportunities that are compatible with other Park values; and
- development of an education and interpretation plan to service the needs of all users.

The Department of Environment is currently sole manager of the Pine Ridge Conservation Park. Trusteeship negotiations are ongoing, with the Council recently agreeing to be the sole trustee.

Once these negotiations have been finalised, the trustee of the Park will be obliged to ensure that any action in the Park will be in accordance with the objectives and strategies as outlined in the management agreement.

With regard to the possible effects from the adjacent landfill site, the Department of Environment recommended in April 1997 that Gold Coast City Council undertake a contaminated land study of the area to assess potential health and environmental matters and address public concerns. The study objectives were to assess land and water contamination and develop remediation and site management strategies to deal with any potential health and environmental concerns and identify suitable land uses.

Additional work was requested by the Department following assessment of the initial report. The site investigation has recently been completed and has been forwarded to the Department for review. Groundwater testing results presented to the Department do not show evidence of serious environmental harm or health risk. The normal contaminated land procedures are being followed in dealing with the site.

41. Positive Parenting Strategies

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (4/3/98)—

With reference to her Ministerial Statement of 4 March titled "Positive Parenting Strategies"—

- (1) What is the cost of this initiative in 1997-98?
- (2) What is the source of funding for this initiative?
- (3) What is the anticipated cost of the initiative for 1998-99, its first full year of operation?

Mrs Wilson (3/4/98): I am advised that the answers to the Honourable members questions are—

- (1) \$150,000.
- (2) Departmental Growth Funds.
- (3) \$200,000.

42. Maryborough Hospital

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (4/3/98)—

Why are the citizens of Maryborough being forced to access services at Hervey Bay which were until very recently available at their own hospital in Maryborough?

Mr Horan (2/4/98): Services at Maryborough hospital have been significantly upgraded under the Coalition Government and no Maryborough patient is being forced to access services at Hervey Bay.

Elective Surgery waiting times for both the Maryborough and Hervey Bay hospitals are coordinated by the Fraser Coast District Health Service and patients are offered the first available appointment irrespective of site. Patients then have the choice of accepting or declining and awaiting the next available appointment at the site of their choice. Both hospitals deliver surgery on time for both Category 1 and 2 elective surgery patients.

43. Queensland Levels of Student Performance

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (4/3/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Schools Curriculum Council newsletter Interlink Number 4 April 1997 which says trialling of the Queensland Levels of Student Performance would occur in terms 2 and 3 of 1997 and that following external evaluation in term 3 a report would be provided to him in term 4 for decision on the future of QLSP—

- (1) Has he received the report from QSCC?
- (2) Is the report publicly available; if not, why not?
- (3) What decisions has he made about QLSP or when will decisions be made?

Mr Quinn (15/4/98):

(1) The report of the external evaluation of the trial of Queensland Levels of Student Performance (QLSP) was completed at the end of October 1997 and presented to the Queensland School Curriculum Council at its 20 November 1997 meeting.

Council was requested to consider the report during the period December 1997 C January 1998 and provide strategic responses to the Office of the Queensland School Curriculum Council by 24 January 1998.

The Office was to provide a synthesis of all documentation relating to the trial of QLSP and highlight the strategic issues and conclusions for reporting to the Minister. Consequently, it is intended that I receive a report from the Queensland School Curriculum Council.

(2) When the report has been received and examined, consideration will be given to its dissemination and possible publication.

(3) Decisions about QLSP will be made following receipt and examination of the report.

44. Natural Resources Department, Cost of Meeting at Camooweal

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/3/98)—

With reference to the meeting in Camooweal and organised by his department—

- (1) What was the purpose of that meeting?
- (2) What was the total cost of the meeting and what was the (a) cost of transport to and from Camooweal, (b) cost of any consultants and (c) cost of food for the participants?
- (3) Were any attendance fees paid?
- (4) What was the cost of hire cars?
- (5) Will he give a break down of any other costs.

Mr Springborg (30/3/98):

1. As part of the Century Mine Agreement, the Queensland Government allocated \$400,000 for the funding of Aboriginal Land Act claims over Lawn Hill National Park. This meeting was necessary to help rationalise the various disparate claims on behalf of the Waanyi people over this land and to provide information to the various Waanyi groups on the nature and processes of claims under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and Native Title claims.

The meeting was organised by officers of my department and included representatives of the Aboriginal Land Tribunal and the National Native Title Tribunal. For many of the numerous Waanyi people attending, it was their first opportunity to be directly involved in the claims process.

Preliminary estimates indicate that about 150 Waanyi people attended on each of the three days of the meeting. Many people arrived the day before and departed the day after the meeting.

Although impacted by adverse weather the meeting achieved its objective of establishing a single mechanism for dealing with the funding of all Waanyi claims over the Lawn Hill National Park.

2. The total cost of the meeting was approximately \$110,000.

- (A) The cost of transport to and from Camooweal was approximately \$67,100 and comprised:
 - \$9,300 for domestic air travel
 - \$40,050 for air charter and
 - \$17,750 for bus charter.
- (B) No money was expended on consultants.
- (C) The cost of food for participants was approximately \$35,000.

3. No attendance fees were paid.

4. Two 4-wheel drive vehicles were hired at a cost of approximately \$1,800 with a further \$3,000 estimated expenditure on the reimbursement of private vehicle costs.

5. Although all accounts are yet to be finalised, in addition to the costs already outlined, it is estimated that approximately \$3,000 was expended on accommodation costs.

45. Queensland Health, Staff Training

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (4/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Horan (2/4/98):

(1) As training budgets form part of the general allocation to individual District Health Services, it is not possible to estimate the total amount spent on training.

A recent survey across the department indicated that over 2,000 courses are offered to Queensland Health staff, who numbered 63,000 in 1996/97. This is in addition to those provided by academic institutions, colleges and professional bodies.

(2) A considerable proportion of the training for Queensland Health staff is provided by external providers. Tertiary hospitals have direct links with universities to ensure appropriate training for medical, nursing and allied health professionals. The TAFE sector also provides many courses aimed at preparing and maintaining the skills of the health workforce including training for Enrolled Nurses, Assistants-in-Nursing, and staff in technical staff operational streams.

The Queensland Health Management Development Program has been developed by the Queensland University of Technology in partnership with the University of Southern Queensland and the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE.

(3) Queensland Health has a register of three preferred providers of organisational development consultancies: Response Consulting Pty Ltd, Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group and the Centre for Leadership and Learning, who were selected by a panel of Queensland Health managers following a purchasing process. Other consultants have also provided advice in District Health Services. This process is District driven and not coordinated by Corporate office.

(4) External providers are chosen according to the guidelines in the State Purchasing Policy. Specific criteria are set depending on the nature of the service to be provided and as such vary from provider to provider.

(5) For university courses the issue of accreditation is not applicable. All TAFE courses and courses from other institutions are accredited under national recognition arrangements. Information on all of the

internally provided courses would be difficult to obtain. Many of these are delivered by Nurse Educators and Staff Training Units but may not be accredited.

46. Burnett Shire Council

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (4/3/98)—

With reference to my Question on Notice No 1315 on 19 November 1997 regarding the alleged transfer of a \$500,000 loan and non-compliance with proper financial reporting requirements by the Burnett Shire Council and the subsequent information she provided in a letter dated 21 January which states "This new information while not necessarily contradicting council's previous advice and my answer to your Question on Notice, does however raise questions as to whether the loan raising was properly authorised by the council and also whether the receipts of the loan funds were properly recorded and disclosed in council's financial statements."—

- (1) As this issue has been raised with her and her department by Burnett Shire ratepayers as early as late 1996/early 1997 will she explain why her department has not been able to report on this matter?
- (2) Does her department have the resources to enable such a simple investigation to be carried out; if not, why not?
- (3) Has her department abrogated its responsibilities by not ensuring the proper financial reporting of Burnett Shire finances were followed; if not, will she ensure the proper investigations are carried out immediately to protect the interests of the residents of the Burnett Shire?

Mrs McCauley (6/4/98):

(1) A search by my Department of its files indicates an allegation of the possible transfer of some loan funds without proper authorisation appears to have been initially made in correspondence received in late September 1997. The first specific reference to the alleged transfer of the \$500,000 roadworks loan appears to be in correspondence received by the Department in November 1997 after receipt of your Question on Notice (Number 1315) of 19 November 1997.

(2) My Department, as is normal practice, sought advice from the Council. The Department regarded the Council's explanation of the circumstances as satisfactorily indicating the loan had not been transferred. That view remains unchanged. As indicated in my answer to your previous Question, the loan of \$500,000 forms part of the Council's \$3M expenditure on roadworks in 1995/96. It is not unusual for councils to expend from available revenue or cash reserves during the year and organise their borrowings toward the end of the financial year to 'replace' the cash previously used. This enables, for example, the replaced funds to be used for their original purpose. This type of cash management is quite legitimate.

(3) The Department has not abrogated its responsibilities. In fact, following new advice from the Council's Chief Executive Officer on a different issue (the original authorisation of the loan) discussions took place between the Department, the Council's Chief Executive Officer and the Queensland Audit Office on the matter. The Council acted on advice given in these discussions, following which the Assistant Auditor-General—Audit wrote to the Council on 3 February 1998 stating "All appropriate measures appear to have been taken to resolve this matter and no further action is required by the Council at this time."

On a general note, I would add that while the primary responsibility rests with councils to ensure—

- (a) their financial statements accurately reflect the true position of the council; and
- (b) the legal requirements relating to financial matters are observed

The Auditor-General is appointed by Parliament as the auditor of all local governments in Queensland. It is not the function of myself (as Minister) or my Department to duplicate the role of the Auditor-General.

The Auditor-General provides me, as Minister, with a copy of his annual audit report of each council at the same time he provides the report to a Council. Councils then respond to the Auditor-General on proposed action to remedy any shortcomings. Significant matters are followed up with councils by myself or the Department.

47. Ambulance Service Act

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (4/3/98)—

With reference to the assault committed on a female ambulance officer prior to Christmas 1997 in which she was seriously injured and indeed received a punctured lung and to the fact that the Ambulance Service elected not to use the protection of the provisions of the Ambulance Service Act to bring a prosecution against the assailant, on the grounds that the assailant was understandably distressed, and was in any case not seeking to attack the ambulance officer—

What is the Government's practice on the use of the protective provisions of the Ambulance Service Act and in what circumstances will he use the prosecutorial discretion?

Mr Veivers (3/4/98): The assault on the Ambulance Officer at Murgon was incorrectly reported in the media.

The Officer was injured when the assailant, in attempting to continue to attack his victim, accidentally struck the Officer. The injuries she received did not prevent the Officer from continuing with her patient care duties.

After the patient had been delivered to the hospital, the hospital doctor examined the Officer. She was diagnosed as having soft tissue injury to the chest and did not suffer a punctured lung as was reported in the media.

Section 46(1) of the Ambulance Service Act applies to persons who wilfully obstruct or hinder any person acting under the authority of the Act. Use and enforcement of the provision of the Act is a matter for the QAS and Queensland Police. Use of the provision is dependent upon the Ambulance Officer at the scene reporting wilful obstruction or hindrance to the police. In the first instance the Act instructs Police to require the person to leave and, if necessary, to forcibly remove the offender. Police may also arrest without warrant a person committing an offence of wilfully obstructing or hindering.

If the Government received clear evidence that these provisions of the Act had not been applied it would exercise its powers to give instructions to the Board of the QAS to take appropriate action under the legislation.

In this instance it was the clear opinion of those present that there was no wilful intention to obstruct or hinder the Officer in administering care to the patient. No further attacks were made on the Ambulance Officer due to enforcement of subsection (3) of the Act by Police. The provisions of the Act were therefore complied with.

Due to the assailants distressed state at the time of the incident, and following consultation with police, the Officer also declined to take the matter further. Without the agreement of the assaulted Officer to lay a criminal charge against the offender, a successful prosecution would be difficult.

48. Townsville, Policing During Floods

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/3/98)—

With reference to the recent disastrous floods in Townsville—

- (1) How many police were on duty during the worst of this flooding, how many received overtime and at what cost and does he believe this was a satisfactory response to this crisis?
- (2) Were several new 4WD police vehicles which were in Townsville at the time not put to use during the floods out of fear they would be damaged and does he condone such practices at such critical times?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98):

(1) Rain fell consistently in Townsville from the early hours of the morning of 10 January 1998. Flooding did not occur to any great extent until that night. The following is a list of the number of police, hours of duty and overtime incurred:

Date	Shift	No. Police	No. Civilians	Hours O/T
10/1/98	1600-2400	14	2	17.5
10/1/98	1800-0200	6	1	11
10/1/98	1900-0300	1	0	2
10/1/98	2200-0600	8	1	11.5
11/1/98	0000-0800	10	0	11
11/1/98	0600-1400	0	2	0
11/1/98	0800-1600	11	0	0
11/1/98	1000-1800	4	0	0
11/1/98	1200-2000	1	0	0
11/1/98	1400-2200	5	1	0
TOTAL		60	7	53

As well as the figures indicated above, a number of officers and civilians attended the station and performed duty in their own time without claiming overtime. The response was considered adequate bearing in mind the logistical problems of members being recalled to work through flood waters.

(2) There were two new 4WD vehicles at the police garage in Townsville that could not be used because the keys were held by the Officer in Charge who could not physically get to the garage due to flood waters. Two new 4WD vehicles were at the Radio and Electronic Section in Townsville being fitted out prior to being placed into service and these vehicles were used during the floods.

49. Wynnum Police Division, Reported Offences

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/3/98)—

With reference to the suburbs of Wynnum, Wynnum West, Manly, Manly West, Lytton and Lota which re situated within the boundaries of the Wynnum Police Division—

- (1) For the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, how many offences were reported respectively for each of the following offences (a) assaults (excluding sexual), (b) sexual offences, (c) robbery, (d) breaking and entering, (e) other property damage, (f) motor vehicle theft, (g) stealing (excluding motor vehicles) and (h) drug offences?
- (2) For the period 1 July 1997 to 28 February 1998 how many offences were reported respectively for each of the offence categories outlined in (1) above?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98):

- (1) TYPE OF OFFENCE—NUMBER
 - (a) Serious Assaults—96
 - (b) Sexual—75
 - (c) Robbery Offences—30
 - (d) Break and Enter Offences—728
 - (e) Property Damage Offences—534
 - (f) Steal Motor Vehicle Offences—194
 - (g) Stealing (Excluding Motor Vehicles)—628
 - (h) Drug Offences—350
- (2) TYPE OF OFFENCE—NUMBER
 - (a) Serious Assaults—75
 - (b) Sexual—36
 - (c) Robbery Offences—16
 - (d) Break and Enter Offences—438
 - (e) Property Damage Offences—351
 - (f) Steal Motor Vehicle Offences—104
 - (g) Stealing (Excluding Motor Vehicles)—272
 - (h) Drug Offences—278

50. Fish Kill, Bedford Weir

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (4/3/98)—

With reference to the recent malfunction of the inflatable crest on top of the Bedford Weir on the

Mackenzie River, near Blackwater, which contributed to a fish kill below the weir—

What action has the Department of Natural Resources taken to ensure that the inflatable crest does not fail again and when will a fish ladder or some other similar mechanism be installed at the weir to assist in the movement of fish into the weir and beyond?

Mr Springborg (30/3/98): The fish stranding at Bedford Weir occurred on the first testing of inflatable dams and when there was a significant flow going over the weir. The inflation rate was initially as specified but once the dams started to rise, water pressure above them decreased allowing them to move to full height rapidly unexpectedly shutting off water flow to the north side of the streambed and stranding fish away from the main flow channel.

Investigations are under way to determine whether this problem can be avoided in future by varying the operating arrangements.

Consideration will also be given to some works which would prevent fish stranding should a recurrence occur.

My Department has also reached agreement with Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and Department of Environment that a fishway will now be fitted to Bedford Weir.

Recent research has clearly demonstrated the need for a fishway and its design commenced some weeks ago. I expect that construction of the fishway will occur during the drier months of 1999.

Similarly, it is now proposed to fit a fishway on Binegang Weir downstream of Bedford Weir.

51. Beenleigh Indoor Sports Centre

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (4/3/98)—

With reference to the \$1.2m grant to the Gold Coast City Council for the construction of the Beenleigh Indoor Sports Centre, for which tenders have now been called by Gold Coast City Council for a site at the corner of Milne Street and Beenleigh-Beaudesert Road—

- (1) What conditions and guidelines apply to the provision of this grant by his department?
- (2) What conditions and guidelines apply for consultation with the community on the siting of this facility?
- (3) What sports and sporting groups or other community facilities will be accommodated in this facility?
- (4) What guidelines or conditions apply for consultation with sporting groups on the use of this facility?
- (5) Who or what organisation will be responsible for the management of this facility?
- (6) Does this grant replace the \$1m grant committed by the Goss Labor Government for the "Time Out" youth centre at Doug Larsen Park at Beenleigh which was cancelled by the current Government?

Mr Veivers (3/4/98):

(1) The 1997-1999 National Standard Sport Facilities Program is focused towards the development of facilities appropriate for the conduct of regional to national competitions. Applications received under this program are assessed on the demonstrated community need, the financial viability of the project, the eligibility of the applicant and other sources of finance to complete the project. The application for the Beenleigh 4 court indoor centre was submitted by the Gold Coast City Council. The Gold Coast City Council has identified the need for a facility in Beenleigh through its previous planning studies. Council is to provide 50% of the funds towards the construction of the project. The facility is to be managed along similar lines to the Runaway Bay facility.

(2) The community consultation involved in the siting of this facility is the responsibility of the Gold Coast City Council. The assessment process for the 1997-1999 National Standard Sport Facilities Program considered the level of community consultation as one component of a number that were required to establish funding priorities.

(3) Indoor court sports including Basketball, Netball and others will be accommodated in this multipurpose centre. It is expected that the centre's major sporting user groups will be identified in the local community.

(4) It is the responsibility of the Gold Coast City Council to consult with all relevant and potential user groups including local sporting organisations.

(5) The Gold Coast City Council has indicated that the facility will be managed along similar lines to the Runaway Bay facility. At this time specific management arrangements have not been determined for the facility. The Office of Sport and Recreation is awaiting confirmation of the proposed management structure and arrangements.

(6) I am advised that there are no records of any funds allocated by the Goss Labor Government for the "Time Out" Youth Centre at Doug Larsen Park at Beenleigh. The subsidy for the Beenleigh Indoor Sports Centre is provided specifically for the development of sporting opportunities in the Beenleigh area.

52. Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (4/3/98)—

With reference to the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991 which requires an employee to have accrued a minimum of 10 years service credits before long service leave entitlements are due and does not allow the authority or himself any discretion in allowing service credits to be paid to members of the scheme who don't qualify because they retire (65 years or older), are injured and can't work in the building industry or leave Australia never to return or die before the required credits of 10 years (2200 hours) are accrued—

When will he vary the Act to allow these deserving workers the right to claim their long service accrued

credits after long years of service to the building industry?

Mr Santoro (2/4/98):

"The objective of the Bill is to provide for an **equitable** and efficient system of portability of long service leave in the building and construction industry.

...

Entitlement to long service leave **corresponds** with the benefits available under the Industrial Relations Act 1990. This means that workers qualifying for leave in this industry are **not at an advantage** over employees in other industries." (emphasis added)

[Hon. N. G. Warburton, Second Reading Speech, Hansard, 13 November 1991, pp 2879-2880]

Under the legislation introduced by the Labor Party, the entitlement was to be equitable and corresponding to that available to other deserving workers who had entitlements under the industrial relations laws. I supported this in the House at the time (Hansard, 28 November 1991, pp 3397-3401) and I continue to do so.

I am advised that the tripartite Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Board has recently rejected a notion such as is advanced by the honourable member.

I do not intend amending the Act in the way suggested by the honourable member, which is not supported by the Board or his own Party, thereby putting these workers at an advantage over employees in other industries.

53. Energex, Memo to Mines and Energy Department

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (4/3/98)—

With reference to a memo from Energex to his department regarding sewerage failure as a result of power blackouts in Queensland—

- (1) How did this memo find its way to the media and what was the justification in releasing such an internal document?
- (2) Was Lord Mayor Soorley alerted to Energex's concerns before the memo was released to the media; if so, how and when?
- (3) Does he reject the Lord Mayor's assertion that the memo and its release were a "fraudulent" politicisation of Energex by the State Government; if so, on what basis?
- (4) Does he reject Councillor Soorley's assertion that on the first day of the blackouts (23 February) 20 sewerage pumping stations are down at one time, and more than 119 of the 197 pumping stations in the city were affected; if so, on what basis?
- (5) Does he reject Councillor Soorley's assertion that there were 10 sewerage overflows in Brisbane on this day which caused consequential environmental harm, or does he

support the claim by Energex that load shedding had only caused an overflow at Murarrie; if so, will he release publicly the information he bases this position on?

- (6) How does he react to the claim in The Courier Mail on 27 February attributing to a senior Liberal source, that he was a "dud" and had acted arrogantly on this issue?

Mr Gilmore (3/4/98):

(1) I do not know how the memo found its way to the media.

(2) I do not know when the memo found its way to the media. However, I am advised that Energex officers held discussions with Brisbane City Council officers on Monday 23 February 1998 about the problems with the sewerage network arising from interruptions to the electricity supply.

(3) Most definitely. As stated earlier, I do not know how or when the memo found its way to the media.

(4) While a number of sewerage pumping stations may have been without power for a period of up to two hours as a result of the load shedding on 23 February 1998, I understand that, on that day, Brisbane City Council officers advised Energex that only three locations were critical enough to be excluded from the load shedding.

(5) I am advised by Energex that, to its knowledge, Murarrie was the only location in the Brisbane City Council area where there was sewerage overflow as a result of the load shedding on 23 February 1998. Immediately this was known about, the relevant electricity feeder was excluded from future shedding and discussions were held with Brisbane City Council officers about other potential problem areas. In addition to Murarrie, only two other locations were identified by Brisbane City Council officers as critical, namely at Darra and the Control Centre at Newstead. Both of these locations were excluded from load shedding as soon as they were identified. Brisbane City Council officers advised Energex that all other sewerage locations were capable of operating without electricity for periods of up to two hours. While this was considered not be a problem during the rotational load shedding that occurred on 23 and 24 February 1998 when Energex planned for average power outages of one hour with a maximum outage of two hours, the fact that there is only a two hour reserve at sewerage locations is considered by Energex to be a significant problem in the event of unforeseen interruptions to the electricity supply such as outages caused by storm damage. Energex simply cannot guarantee that a two hour period without supply would never be exceeded. Given the public health and environmental issues involved, Energex intends to raise its concerns with Brisbane City Council officers at an operational level.

(6) I do not put much store in unsubstantiated stories in The Courier-Mail, supposedly quoting a source that can't or won't be identified.

54. Townsville Meatworks

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (4/3/98)—

With reference to the demolition of the Ross River meatworks in Townsville—

- (1) Is asbestos from the works blowing across Townsville being used as landfill and even being burnt; if so, what is he doing to address this matter?
- (2) Have workers been instructed to smash asbestos-cement sheeting and crush it with bobcats; if so, is this consistent with his department's guidelines for the safe disposal of asbestos; if not, what is he doing to address this matter?
- (3) Is water being used on site to prevent the discharge of dry asbestos fibres; if not, why not?
- (4) Have fires been deliberately lit on site in contravention of a fire permit now revoked by the Regional Fire Inspector?
- (5) Has rubble from the site, including asbestos been used as fill along the banks of Ross River and is the Port Authority aware of this dumping?
- (6) Will he give a guarantee that all asbestos-cement sheeting has been removed intact, kept wet and bagged before being buried at a council approved site; if so, which council site has been used and what numbers of sheets have been accepted to date?

Mr Santoro (2/4/98):

- (1) There is no evidence to suggest that asbestos fibre from the meatworks is blowing across Townsville. Neither is there evidence that asbestos-cement sheeting is being used as land fill or being burnt.
- (2) Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors are satisfied that the asbestos-cement sheeting is being removed by the most practical method and in accordance with the relevant Code of Practice.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) That question is one for the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport.
- (5) That question is one for the Minister for Local Government and Planning.
- (6) I cannot give such a guarantee. The roof is around 47 years old and very brittle. Broken exposed sheeting is being kept wet until bagged or stacked and wrapped. The demolisher has been given notice to wrap and seal a stockpile of sheeting stored in fertiliser bags in an enclosed shed. There has been no disposal at a council approved site to date.

55. Police Service, Corrective Services Commission and Office of Racing, Staff Training

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/3/98)—
With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?

- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98):

Queensland Corrective Services Commission

(1) \$131,800 has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and \$39,074.40 spent so far.

(2) \$29,694.52 has been spent on training provided by external training providers.

(3)

(i) Relational Management—This training was provided by T Burke (Public/Private Partnerships Pty Ltd consultant) and consisted of lectures and small group work, relating to change and corporatisation issues.

(ii) Cultural Awareness—This was provided by Ken Wano of Queensland Corrections (QCORR). It covered cultural diversity, indigenous fundamentals, Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Modern Indigenous Society and effective communication with indigenous people.

(iii) National Correctional Service (Standards) Advisory Committee—This consisted of design and development of a national training package for corrections based on endorsed competency standards. A pilot is currently under way.

(iv) Work Health and Safety—This was provided by Site Safe/National Training Council and consisted of a lecture, group work, questionnaires, assessment and course evaluation.

(v) Information Technology—This was provided by Micro Systems Australia Pty Limited and consisted of information technology knowledge, lectures and information sessions and new information about Solaris Systems.

(vi) Corrections Health Commission Seminar—This was provided by several specialist speakers in regard to inmate health and consisted of a Corrections Health Seminar, lectures and syndicate group work.

(vii) Indigenous Sexual Health—This was provided by the Corrections Health Commission and consisted of lectures, interactive learning processes which included videos.

(viii) Ending Offending—This was provided by the Queensland Corrections (QCORR) and consisted of information sessions and group discussions based on a training package called "Ending Offending".

(ix) Rehabilitation Coordination/WorkCover—This was provided by Working Edge and consisted of the role and function of the rehabilitation coordinator.

- (x) Outsourcing—This was provided by KMS Training and consisted of lectures, group work and a one day program with Outsourcing as the subject.
- (xi) Mediation Course—This was provided by Queensland University of Technology and consisted of mediation processes used in the Family Law and other Courts.
- (4)
- (i) Relational Management—Expert knowledge of corporatisation.
- (ii) Cultural Awareness—Expert knowledge and skills. Chosen because accredited to conduct the program with the OPS.
- (iii) National Correctional Service (Standards) Advisory Committee—General knowledge and expert knowledge of participants.
- (iv) Work Health and Safety—Expert knowledge.
- (v) Information Technology—Expert knowledge and new information regarding the Solaris System.
- (vi) Corrections Health Commissioner Seminar—Expert and professional knowledge.
- (vii) Indigenous Sexual Health—Expert knowledge and skills.
- (viii) Ending Offending—Expert knowledge and skills.
- (ix) Rehabilitation Coordination /WorkCover—Expert knowledge and skills.
- (x) Outsourcing—Expert knowledge and skills.
- (xi) Mediation Course—Expert knowledge and skills.
- (5)
- (i) Relational Management—Is an interstate program and will not be seeking accreditation.
- (ii) Cultural Awareness—Yes, approved by DTIR.
- (iii) National Correctional Service (Standards) Advisory Committee—Yes, ANTA and VETEC approved. Accredited through State Training Authorities and State Registration Authorities.
- (iv) Work Health and Safety—Yes, approved by VET and DTIR.
- (v) Information Technology—No, it is a specialist software package and will not be seeking accreditation.
- (vi) Corrections Health Commissioner Seminar—No, it is a seminar and not a program and therefore accreditation is not appropriate.
- (vii) Indigenous Sexual Health—No, it is a seminar and is not a program and therefore accreditation is not appropriate.
- (viii) Ending Offending—No, it is a therapeutic program and is not required to seek accreditation.
- (ix) Rehabilitation Coordination/WorkCover—Yes, approved by DTIR and WorkCover.
- (x) Outsourcing—No, it is an interstate program conducted by a private firm and therefore it is unlikely to be accredited.
- (xi) Mediation Course—It is a university course conducted by Queensland University of Technology and will not be seeking VET accreditation.

Queensland Police Service

(1) Budgeted: \$4,581,350; Expended: \$3,384,349 (as at 28 February 1998, exclusive of salary and wages)

(2) \$551,670

(3) The names of consultants engaged and the forms of training provided by them are shown under (a) and (b) respectively in the following list of Queensland Police Service training programs:

STAFF MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT—

(a) Hewlett-Packard, Success Solutions, Applied Multi-Media, AUUG (Australian Unix Users Group), Ideal Media, Fujitsu, ALC Training, DGA Consulting, Pollack Partners, GMB Research and Development, Sybase Australia, Polymorphic Solutions, Odyssey Training, Proactive Services, Unlimited Corporate Events, International Network Services, Apple Computer, Southbank Institute of TAFE, Moreton Institute of TAFE, MacPeople, Mincom, A Michelle Moynihan Pty Ltd, DPI Corporate Services, Northpoint Institute of TAFE, Brisbane Institute of TAFE, KPMG and Department of Treasury

(b) Computer training, computer workshops, specialist courses, workplace reform, stress awareness, sexual harassment referral officer training, selection panel training, communication room operators courses, information technology training, cultural awareness training, project management, handling difficult clients, quality customer service, stress management, conflict management, communication skills, telephone techniques, understanding behaviour, panel convenors workshop, career planning, report writing, job application skills, equal employment opportunities, first aid tuition, CPR, records management, and managing performance

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—

(a) Problem Based Learning (PBL). The Management Development Program did not use any private or external providers.

(b) Instructional design, problem based learning, assessment marking, examination supervision and module writing

INVESTIGATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE TRAINING PROGRAM—

(a) Ithaca TAFE College

(b) Training in methods of cutting and rejoining motor vehicle bodies during the Auto Theft Course and Stolen Motor Vehicle Course

ASSESSMENT CENTRE—

(a) Saville Holdsworth Limited

(b) Course work with resources provided

REGIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING—

(a) Department of Training and Industrial Relations, James Cook University, Commercial Skills Centre, Community Justice Program, Training Queensland, Pacific Institute, TAFE, University of Queensland, Queensland Ambulance Service, Fred Prior Institute, Work Cover Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, National Institute of Forensic

Science, Griffith University, Queensland Treasury, Logical Solutions, Federal Bureau of Intelligence, Price Waterhouse, CPA Society, Michelle Monihan Pty Ltd, DPI Corporate Services, Comtech, Hewlett Packard, Success Solutions, Applied Multimedia, Ideal Media, Fujitsu, and MAC People

- (b) Skills acquisition, computer training, client service, mediation course, personal excellence seminar, health seminar, first aid, project management, personal development, marine engine driver course, workplace health and safety, video and photo course, scientific officer course, Vietnamese language skills, finance, accounting, sexual harassment training, selection panel training, and multimedia presentation training

PROVE PROGRAM—

- (a) Australian Institute of Police Management, Driessen, QUT, Bremner TAFE and Success Solutions
- (b) Police management, cross cultural training, and skills acquisition

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE ACADEMY [NORTH QUEENSLAND CAMPUS]—

- (a) PBL and Queensland Police Service courses
- (b) PBL, PSE maintenance program, SAPR3 and workplace health and safety course

CONSTABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—

- (a) Griffith University
- (b) Development of Civil Law Module

SPECIALIST SUPPORT—

- (a) South Australian Police Service, QUT Management Development Program, Franklin Quest, Sports Medicine Association, Royal Life Saving Society, Smith and Wesson Academy, Department of Transport and Success Solutions
- (b) Management development, lifesaving skills, resuscitation, kinesiology course, firearms, heavy vehicle course, pistol coaching, firearms training, close quarter combat and project management

(4) External providers undergo a competitive selection process. Selection criteria include such matters as price, provider qualities/qualifications, value for money, curriculum content, reputation, product quality, product suitability, location, and recognised experience.

(5) The requested information is set out under each program as follows:

STAFF MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—

The TAFE courses accessed have either in-house credentials or VETEC and/or Accreditation Council accreditation. Courses and workshops provided by external agencies, in general, do not have these credentials. Courses offered by the Queensland Police Service, with VETEC and/or Accreditation Council accreditation, include:

CNCAB016 Certificate in Workplace Training
Diploma of Public Administration (accessed through the Open Learning Institute of TAFE)

It is proposed that current and future training courses and workshops delivered by the Queensland Police Service will have DEETYA (Department of Employment Education Training and Youth Affairs) approval and will be Accreditation Council (Australian National Training Authority) accredited. This proposal is due for implementation by 2000.

MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—

Negotiations are taking place with tertiary institutions for recognition of studies at Post Graduate Level.

INVESTIGATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE TRAINING PROGRAM—

Courses offered by the Queensland Police Service, with VETEC and/or Accreditation Council accreditation, include:

Detective Training Program—Advanced Diploma
Intelligence Officers Course—Advanced Diploma

ASSESSMENT CENTRE—

There is no proposal for this type of training to be accredited.

COMPETENCY ACQUISITION PROGRAM—

Negotiations are taking place to have CAP accredited. This process is expected to be completed by June 1999.

REGIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING—

The TAFE courses accessed have either in-house credentials or VETEC and/or Accreditation Council accreditation. Courses and workshops provided by external agencies, in general, do not have these credentials.

PROVE PROGRAM—

Australian Institute of Police Management is an accredited tertiary provider. A project is under way to have this program accredited.

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE ACADEMY [NORTH QUEENSLAND CAMPUS]—

Courses and workshops provided by external agencies, in general, do not have these credentials. A project is under way to have this program accredited.

FIRST YEAR CONSTABLE PROGRAM—

Training programs are not accredited through VETEC. Negotiations are taking place to have this program accredited.

CONSTABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM—

A project is under way to have this program accredited.

SPECIALIST SUPPORT—

Courses and workshops provided by external agencies, in general, do not have these credentials.

Office of Racing

(1) Due to Office of Racing's small size, staff training is not separately budgeted for but undertaken on an "as required" basis. Total amount spent to date in 1997/98 for staff training is \$6,540.

(2) Total amount spent on training provided by external providers to date in 1997/98 is \$6,540.

(3) Consultant details and form of training provided is tabled below:

Consultant—Form of Training
 Interface Training—Practical/Classroom
 Hewlett Packard—Practical/Classroom
 University of Canberra—Theory/Classroom
 Pollack Partners—Practical/Classroom
 National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)—Theory/Classroom

(4) All external training consultants were selected in accordance with Queensland State Purchasing Guidelines.

(5) It is understood that training provided by NATA and University of Canberra is VETEC approved and accredited. One-day courses on standard software packages (eg Excel and Word) provided by Interface Training and Pollack Partners are believed not to be approved or accredited. Office of Racing is unaware of any requirement for such training to be accredited.

56. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Staff Training

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (4/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by her department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mrs Wilson (3/4/98): I am advised that:

(1) The budget allocated through the Human Resources Branch for the current financial year is \$895,100. Year to date expenditure is \$616,300.

(2) \$40,600 for contracted training.

(3) Name of Consultant—Type of Training

Management Solutions—Development of policy skills
 ERSIS—CDATA96 and Map Info Training

Eric Fenn and Company (organised by HRM)—Conflict Management

Workskills Advancement Corporation Caboolture (Course conducted at NIL cost to Department)—Independent Grocery Retail Traineeship (10 Aboriginal employees)

Food Store (John McDonald)—Training of Retail Stores staff

VICTRIX Educational Management Resource Consultants (Course offered through HRM)—Management Training (3 staff)

Penny Gordon—Review and Planning Day

John White—Youth Crime

Top Office Personnel—Excel Training

Dr Phil Harker—Organisational Change by Choice

Lyn Varsin-Coad—Physiotherapist—Manual handling techniques—RCOs

Queensland Fire Service—Fire Safety Training—RCOs

Red Cross—First Aid Training—RCOs

Hans and Kristine Kwasny—Salary sacrificing SACS Award—CROs

(4) Departmental guidelines for the Use of Consultants.

(5) The Departmental strategy is to link all appropriate training opportunities to National Competencies and VETEC accredited programs.

57. Moorvale Shopping Centre, Police Beat Shopfront

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (4/3/98)—

With reference to the longstanding community interest in establishing a Police Beat Shopfront facility at the Moorvale Shopping Centre, Moorooka—

- (1) Is he aware of the strong desire by Moorooka residents and businesses to have such a facility established to help in combating crime?
- (2) What action has been taken to establish such a facility?
- (3) What further action will he take to establish such a facility?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98):

(1) Members of the Moorvale business community have been lobbying for a police beat shopfront to be located in the shopping centre for several years. Interest in the proposal increased in 1996 following a violent armed robbery in the area. Previous advice indicated the overall crime statistics for Moorooka were no higher than those of other suburbs in the Metropolitan South Police Region. As such, the Police Service considered that the establishment of a shopfront in the Moorvale Shopping Centre was not warranted. Current crime statistics indicate a decline in crimes being reported in the immediate vicinity of the shopping centre. Moorooka Police Station is located a short distance from the shopping centre and provides an adequate police service to the area.

(2) and (3) At this stage no action has been undertaken to establish a shopfront within the Moorvale Shopping Centre. The Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan South Police Region, is presently conducting a strategic resource evaluation for the entire Region. This evaluation will include consideration of the future locations of police stations and police beat shopfronts within the Region. When the evaluation is finalised, the Assistant Commissioner will arrange for a meeting with all

stakeholders to discuss any proposals arising from the project.

58. Sandgate Road, Boondall, Speed Limit

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/3/98)—

With reference to the 70 kph speed limit on Sandgate Road in the vicinity of Boondall State School—

- (1) Why won't the department respond to the genuine concerns of parents for their children's safety by lowering the speed limit to at least 60 kph?
- (2) Why won't the department accept the justification for this proposal given that its own records show that motorists regularly travel at over 80 kph past this school?

Mr Johnson (3/4/98):

(1) The principal aim of Main Roads speed zoning policy is to regulate traffic flow and reduce accidents. Parallel with this requirement is the need not to restrict drivers at locations where higher speed limits can be permitted in safety.

Sandgate Road is constructed to a high standard and the arbitrary imposition of a speed limit which did not reflect the road environment would have a very low level of compliance.

Before the introduction of speed cameras in 1997, Main Roads commissioned consultants to conduct a review of speed limits on all State-controlled roads within the Metropolitan District. During this review process, a number of factors were taken into account such as accident rates, vehicle speeds, road geometry and abutting land use.

The results of this review indicated that the appropriate speed limit for Sandgate Road was 70 kilometres per hour. Consequently, Main Roads will not be reducing the speed limit on Sandgate Road at this time.

(2) As mentioned previously, part of the speed review process includes the consideration of existing vehicle speeds. A number of surveys are conducted at various sites along the subject section of road to determine average vehicle speeds. This value is directly linked to the final speed limit.

Obviously if average vehicle speeds have been recorded around the 70 kilometre per hour mark, then such a limit is considered to be a safe and appropriate speed by the motoring public.

Motorists travelling significantly above the posted speed limit run the risk of being caught by one of the mobile speed camera units which regularly monitor Sandgate Road. It is unlikely that reduction in the posted speed alone will reduce the incidence of irresponsible individuals travelling at dangerous speeds.

59. Helicopter Rescue Services

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (4/3/98)—

With reference to the tax deductions and exemptions available to helicopter rescue services—

- (1) To what tax benefits are helicopter rescue services entitled?
- (2) Will he comprehensively list these entitlements?

Mr Veivers (3/4/98):

(1) The helicopter rescue services provided by the Department of Emergency Services in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns are Government services and as such are entitled to the same tax benefits as other Government Departments.

Each of the Community Helicopter Providers (CHPs) is an autonomous charitable body providing a service for the benefit of their community. The CHPs have advised me that due to their status as "public benevolent institutions", they are eligible under item 140 in the First Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act, for exemptions from paying sales tax on goods for use and not for sale. Public benevolent institutions are also eligible for an exemption from the payment of fringe benefits tax in accordance with Section 57A(1) of the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986. Exemptions under those Acts are granted by the Commonwealth Government.

If CHPs wish to apply for an exemption from paying stamp duty, they can do so in accordance with Section 59E of the Stamp Act 1894. The granting of exemptions from the payment of stamp duty is a State Government responsibility and the CHPs must apply on each occasion when wishing to claim the exemption. Exemption from stamp duty can be claimed for policies, of insurance, and/or the purchase of motor vehicles.

(2) CHPs receive the following tax benefit entitlements:

RACQ CareFlight (Gold Coast) receives exemption from sales tax, fringe benefits tax and stamp duty;

Energex Community Rescue (Sunshine Coast and Bundaberg), the Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service (Rockhampton) and the Central Queensland Helicopter Rescue Services (Mackay) receive exemptions from sales tax. These organisations do not provide fringe benefits to any employees and accordingly have not applied for a fringe benefits tax exemption.

60. Primary Industries Department, Staff Training

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (4/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?

- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Rowell (20/3/98):

- (1) 4% of the salary budget has been budgeted for training in 1997/98. This is equal to \$5.1m.

For the period July to December 1997, the Department had expended approximately \$1.37m on training and development. Training expenditure in the second half of this financial year is projected to be greater than that reported for the period to December 1997. Reporting lags including those for the Studies and Research Assistance Scheme and the effect on training activity of the establishment phase of the new DPI Institutes will result in a higher level of expenditure in the remainder of the financial year.

- (2) External training comprises approximately 34% of all training and development undertaken by DPI staff. This figure incorporates courses conducted by external providers specifically for DPI staff and existing training and development programs (including professional conferences) accessed by individuals and groups of DPI staff.

\$33,535.32 was expended on courses specifically designed and delivered for DPI by external training providers and organised through the Corporate Services Agency (CSA).

- (3) The following consultants conducted courses specifically for DPI staff :

Business Training; How to get that Job; In house presentation; Opening Learning Institute; Group Facilitation; In house presentation; Opening Learning Institute; Workplace Effectiveness; In house presentation; Opening Learning Institute; Advanced Marketing; In house presentation; Opening Learning Institute; Communication Skills; In house presentation; Opening Learning Institute; Workplace Trainer; In house presentation; Morley Consulting ; Job Application Writing; In house presentation; Morley Consulting; Progression Applications; In house presentation; Morley Consulting; Effective Business Writing; In house presentation; Monrob; Introduction to Microsoft; In house presentation; Michelle Moynihan; DPI—Sexual Harassment; In house presentation; Officer's Refresher course

In addition to the above, DPI staff attended existing training and development courses, conferences and workshops conducted by over 200 external agencies. (For example, Australasian Pacific Extension Conference, Copyright Seminar for Librarians—which were attended by individual DPI staff.)

- (4) Open Learning Institute and Morley Consulting are on the list of approved providers under Standing Offer Arrangement Number 13. The evaluation criteria used for determining preferred providers included:

The supplier's technical and commercial compliance with the Terms of Reference;

The ability of the supplier to offer flexible delivery;

The ability of the supplier to provide delivery, post-program service, upgrades on a long-term basis;

The supplier's relevant experience and general reputation for work competency;

The supplier's demonstrated ability to achieve and evaluate satisfactory training outcomes;

Registration of provider and recognition of training programs;

Value for money; and

The supplier's quality assurance system

Business Training and Monrob were selected in accordance with the Queensland Government's State Purchasing Policy "Instructions for the engagement and use of consultants".

Michelle Moynihan, who has provided Sexual Harassment Training to the department over a number of years, was initially selected in accordance with the then existing government policy on engagement of consultants and has continued to provide ongoing services in this specialist field.

- (5) Not all DPI training programs are accredited.

The DPI Corporate Standard for Training and Development states "where relevant, programs which reflect relevant competency standards and lead to a recognised qualification should be accessed." As mentioned above, one of the evaluation criteria for assessing "Standing Offer Arrangements" incorporated recognition of training.

Those programs conducted for DPI by the Open Learning Institute have been accredited and approved by VETEC and nationally recognised.

Where programs contracted by DPI incorporate content which could lead to a recognised qualification, external training providers who conduct accredited programs would be preferred over those providers whose programs were not accredited.

61. Ambulance Board, Cost of Meetings

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (4/3/98)—

- (1) Will he itemise all the meetings of the Ambulance Board which have taken place since its establishment, together with the locations of those meetings?

- (2) Will he itemise the costs of those meetings, including the costs of air rickets, hotel accommodation and meals?

- (3) Will he itemise particularly the cost of dinners held in Townsville on 15 December 1997 and at the Quay Hotel in Brisbane on 18 December 1997?

- (4) Did Board members resident in south east Queensland book in at the Quay Hotel to stay overnight on the occasion of the dinner, and will he itemise the costs to the taxpayers of such personal arrangements?

Mr Veivers (3/4/98):

- (1) The Board of the Queensland Ambulance Service has met eleven (11) times since its inauguration on 16

July 1997. Nine (9) of those meetings have been held in Central Office, Brisbane, one (1) meeting was held in the Townsville Region and one (1) meeting was held in the Greater Brisbane Region.

(2) The costs of these meetings are as follows:

Meeting fees—\$11,880.00

Air Travel—\$20,962.55

Accommodation/meals—\$2,334.85

Country members of the Board are conscious of costs and when in Brisbane regularly stay with relatives at no cost to the Ambulance Service.

(3a) The dinner in Townsville was an evening meal for Members of the Board and Board secretarial staff, to which, the Regional Executive Director for Northern Region, was invited. Costs were:

Food—\$247.00

Beverage—\$140.50

(3b) The dinner in Brisbane was the first opportunity for Members of the Board to meet and hold informal discussions with all the newly appointed Directors.

This was immediately preceded by a two hour formal meeting which clarified roles and strategic plans for QAS.

Costs of the dinner were shared between the Board and the Service.

Costs to the Board were:

Food—\$257.43

Beverage—\$76.50

(4) One Member of the Board from South East Queensland stayed overnight at the Quay Hotel on the night of 18 December 1997. The meeting/dinner extended late into the evening and the Member faced a two and a half hour drive home, including unsealed and unfenced country roads. Cost of accommodation and breakfast was \$109.00.

62. Fire and Rescue Authority, Staff Selection Process

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (4/3/98)—
With reference to the Francis Report into cronyism in the selection process for the senior officers in the Fire Service and, in particular, to the Francis finding that the selection process was flawed and that only a limited number of appointments under that process were overturned and also to demands by the Senior Officers Association that since the panels involved used the same selection criteria in the selection of all appointees, that the selection process for all 34 applicants should be conducted again, a demand which Francis, the "independent reviewer", refused to entertain—

- (1) If the process was found to be flawed, isn't it the case that the process must be flawed for all candidates whether or not any appeal is lodged against a successful candidate?
- (2) Was the so called "independent reviewer" who refused to entertain this demand for selection equity, also involved in setting up the selection process?

Mr Veivers (3/4/98):

(1) The FPO 4 selection and review strategy clearly outlines that only those employees who lodge a request for a review can be considered. Therefore regardless of the outcome of the review (even if there was a deficiency in the process) only those appointments which were reviewed can be impacted.

This is consistent across Government in relation to employees' right to appeal/review selection decisions.

(2) The selection process was developed and implemented in consultation with various experts in this field (outlined below) and that best practice recruitment and selection processes which encompass the principles of fairness, equity and natural justice were applied.

Internal

Internal Senior Management of then QFS, including Commissioner, seven Assistant Commissioners and nine officers from the HR Services area of the Department of Emergency Services.

External

Ian McGaw—Executive Director, Equity & Resolution, Office of Public Service

Alan Hough—A/Director, Grievance Hearing Division, Office of Public Service

Representatives of the Industrial Organisations—United Firefighters Union and the Senior Officers Association

63. South East Freeway

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/3/98)—

With reference to the restrictions on access now placed on Brisbane motorists attempting to join the South East Freeway, particularly at Logan, Mains and Marshall Roads, which are intended to enhance the journey of Gold Coast motorists during peak hours—

- (1) Is he aware that this is now increasing traffic on Brisbane "surface" roads?
- (2) Will he take urgent action to provide safer access on these roads, such as the Mt Lindesay Highway (Beaudesert Road) by providing right turn arrows at traffic lights and other improvements to these roads?

Mr Johnson (3/4/98):

(1) Traffic flow at the Logan, Mains and Marshall Roads on-ramp are metered as part of Main Roads' traffic control and safety strategy for the South East Freeway. Ramp metering has been implemented on the freeway since 1987.

Ramp metering or other entry restrictions also operate at the following locations on the South East Freeway and Pacific Motorway:

Cornwall Street Buranda inbound on-ramp

Sports Drive Underwood inbound on-ramp

Paradise Road Slacks Creek inbound on-ramp

Loganlea Road Slacks Creek inbound on-ramp

Stanley Street Woolloongabba outbound on-ramp

Marquis Street Greenslopes outbound on-ramp

The basic objective of the Department's traffic management strategy for the freeway involves the establishment and maintenance of free-flow conditions on the Freeway with priority access being given to public transport.

A staged traffic management scheme for the Freeway has been implemented and provides for a wide range of measures designed to improve traffic flow and safety. Accident rates tend to increase markedly in unstable freeway flow conditions. The scheme has involved the provision of extra traffic lanes, ramp entry and exit control and improved incident management facilities. By-pass lanes have been constructed at ramp meters to provide priority to public transport.

Ramp metering has been used in a number of countries for some time now with a notable degree of success. As a result of their operation, the traffic carrying capacity of the freeway is increased during peak hours, thus increasing the efficiency of the total road network.

The ramp meter signals operate when the freeway traffic flow is approaching capacity. The ramp signals are individually controlled by a central computer which monitors the traffic flow and congestion level at each segment of the freeway and regulates the ramp meter rates in an attempt to prevent the flows from exceeding critical levels. In free flow conditions, the maximum throughput of vehicles is higher than for stop-start congested flow. A shift of freeway flow conditions into congestion results in reduced flow, increased travel time, accidents, pollution, vehicle wear and fuel costs. Travels times become less predictable due to the increase in traffic incidents.

Since completion of the major elements of the scheme, the department is continuing to closely monitor conditions on the freeway. Significant improvements have been recorded in peak travel times and there has been a reduction in accidents.

Travel demand management strategies, as outlined above, clearly are necessary to keep abreast of congestion problems on major arterial roads such as the freeway. Therefore, Main Roads strongly supports initiatives to increase car pooling and the use of public transport.

(2) Main Roads has briefed a consultant to examine the operation of traffic signals on Beaudesert Road between Mortimer Road and Granard Road. After consultation with local community and stakeholders, the consultant has completed his report and Main Roads has determined a preferred arrangement of turn prohibitions, additional turning arrows and signal changes. This will provide safe, protected turns for access to localities to the east and west of Beaudesert Road, while eliminating minor turning movements which are safety hazards.

The proposal also discourages "rat running" along Postle Street. By redistributing the turning traffic, the traffic load at each intersection is more balanced and an adequate level of service along Beaudesert Road is maintained.

I am advised that this proposal will be circulated to householders and relevant stakeholders before 20 March 1998 to provide a further opportunity for comment and feedback to the Department.

Subject to the results of this consultative process, it is expected modification of the signals will commence by June this year.

64. Medical Aids Supply Service

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (4/3/98)—

With reference to his department's Medical Aids Supply Service—

- (1) Why is he saying there is no financial crisis when constituents who request assistance for sick elderly relatives are told by senior staff that MASS ran out of money over the Christmas period and that constituents would have to wait months for assistance?
- (2) Why have northside residents not received assistance from MASS when he promised individuals families that he would personally intervene to assist those families?

Mr Horan (2/4/98):

(1) There is no financial crisis affecting the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme. The amount of funds allocated to the scheme has been increased by over \$2 million since the Coalition State Government came to office.

(2) In two recent cases of northside residents about whom the Member may be referring, one has been approved for the supply of aids while the other has been referred to an expert clinician for reassessment.

Total home help funding under the Coalition State Government is now \$124 million, compared with \$101 million under the previous Goss Labor Government, an increase of almost 25% in just two years under the current Government. Home help services are provided to 94,000 Queenslanders, a significant increase on the 73,400 people who received assistance in 1995 under the previous State and Federal Labor governments.

65. Mount Isa Mines, Fatalities

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (5/3/98)—

With reference to fatalities at Mount Isa Mines situated at Mount Isa, Queensland over the past two years—

- (1) How many fatalities occurred at that mine?
- (2) What recommendations were made as a result of the Mining Warden's hearing?
- (3) How many of those recommendations have been implemented?
- (4) What is the status of those recommendations which to date, have not been implemented?

Mr Gilmore (3/4/98):

- (1) Five.
- (2) Recommendations made as a result of each Mining Warden's hearing were—
 - (a) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of Glen Burrows on 4 June 1996 made on 5 December 1996—

- (i) Safe Work Procedures should be developed and implemented with input, and in cooperation with, a vertical cross section of the workforce affected by, and competent in, the work to be performed.
- (ii) Safe Work Procedures should include audit mechanisms.
- (iii) Company Safety Management Systems be expanded to include training for a wide cross section of the workforce in relation to Hazard Identification and Risk Management.
- (iv) That a specific training module on Hazard Identification be included in the Induction and Refresher Training for all employees.
- (v) A means of tracking work carried out on items of equipment or delineated areas of structure be instituted.
- (vi) We are concerned about the level of non-compliance with present Regulations, mine site rules and standard work procedures. We strongly believe that management and all persons employed should comply with these rules and procedures and work in accordance with the methods in which they were trained.
- (b) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of Wayne Jackson on 6 October 1996 made on 18 June 1997—
- (i) Where a vertical edge will be used as a backfill/tipping location, a stop log should be constructed in accordance with a procedure developed using a recognised risk management process.
- (ii) Backfilling and tipping into stopes is to be carried out by competent personnel only and in accordance with the procedure developed by the above process.
- (iii) Supervisors allocating tasks should ensure that those carrying out the tasks are fully aware of the risks involved, have the correct equipment and are aware of the correct procedures to carry out the task.
- (iv) Supervisors must frequently audit use of correct equipment and procedures and must take appropriate action when non-compliance is observed.
- (v) Communications between management and employees must be improved to ensure that the commitment to an understanding of safe operations is mutual. It is recommended that a working group consisting of a cross section of all levels of employees be established to identify barriers to effective communications and determine means of removing these barriers.
- (vi) Current redrafting of Standard Work Instructions should continue. Formal auditing procedures should be implemented to ensure that the Standard Work Instructions are soundly established, maintained and observed.
- (c) Recommendations of the Wardens' Inquiry into the death of Barry Rooks on 27 October 1996 made on 29 April 1997—
- (i) Clearly defined Minimum Support Rules should be developed and implemented for the Deep Copper Mine.
- These Minimum Support Rules shall specify—
- Maximum drive widths;
- Maximum distance from the face to the last line of effective support;
- The number, type and pattern of the supports required;
- Safe work procedures for the installation of these supports.
- (ii) Safe work procedures should be developed and implemented with input from, and in cooperation with, a vertical cross-section of the workforce affected by, and competent in the work to be performed.
- Safe work procedures should include audit mechanisms.
- (iii) That an Industry Group consisting of representatives from the Deep Copper Mine Management Team and Employee Representatives with input from the Department of Mine's Inspectorate, investigate, select and implement an effective rock bolting system.
- An effective rock bolting system should provide immediate protection for persons engaged in the installation process and effective support for persons employed on other duties in the face area.
- (iv) That the Getman Scissor-lift Platform and other devices, used to elevate persons be fitted with falling object protection and guard rails as required by Part 7.32.1 of The Metalliferous Mining Regulations of 1985 (as amended).
- (d) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of John Barber on 4 June 1997 made on 5 February 1998—
- (i) Physical Barriers—Substantial physical structures or barriers should be installed to prevent mobile equipment falling into open stopes or hazardous openings.
- (ii) Job Instruction—A formal task or job instruction process should be implemented for work in hazardous areas, for example within 20 metres of open stopes.
- This instruction should include an easily understandable and up-to-date plan or job sketch which clearly shows the location and job specifications. The original job instruction should be maintained by the supervisor and a copy issued to the employee.
- (iii) Job Inspection—All jobs in hazardous areas should be inspected by the supervisor prior to the issuing of a job

instruction. This inspection should include an assessment of the likely hazards and how these hazards are to be controlled.

- (iv) Hazard Assessment—Management should actively promote and enforce the need to formally assess hazards at the commencement of every new job and provide employees with appropriate training to enable them to identify and assess such hazards.

Once trained, employees should undertake thorough and ongoing checks of their workplace and equipment to identify potential hazards and implement appropriate controls.

- (v) Competency of Supervisors—Management should implement a formal process to ensure the ability of supervisors to competently undertake their duties.
- (vi) Visibility around Hazardous Openings—Wherever possible suitable lighting should be installed to effectively illuminate the edge of hazardous openings.

Where mobile equipment is to operate in the vicinity of hazardous openings the selection of equipment should include consideration of both operator visibility and equipment lighting.

- (e) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of David Stratton on 19 June 1997 made on 30 November 1997—
- (i) The operator of the Komatsu Excavator/Loader or similar unit shall maintain a twenty-five (25) metre exclusion zone around the machine.
- (ii) A person shall not enter the exclusion zone of an operating machine until they communicate with and receive the approval of the operator.
- A person shall not enter the zone within the swing radius of the machine unless the engine speed is reduced to idle and the implements lowered to the ground.
- (iii) The Mines Inspectorate should in conjunction with Industry continue investigations into the feasibility and development of improvements in operator visibility and movement warning devices for mobile plant.
- (iv) Machines fitted with modifications that restrict the operators view should be subjected to a risk assessment to ensure that operating practices do not place people at unacceptable risk.

(3) Of the 26 recommendations all have been either fully or partially implemented.

(4) Many of the recommendations are of a generic nature rather than being specific. Implementation of such recommendations involves continuous and ongoing effort with introduction of processes to improve safety.

Action has been taken at MIM Ltd's Mount Isa operation to either implement the recommendations or introduce processes to implement the recommendations in all cases.

The status of the recommendations which had not been fully implemented on 5 March 1998 is—

- (a) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of Glen Burrows on 4 June 1996 at the MIM Ltd Copper Concentrator made on 5 December 1996—

Recommendation

- (i) Safe Work Procedures should be developed and implemented with input from, and in cooperation with, a vertical cross section of the workforce affected by, and competent in, the work to be performed.

Implementation Comments

MIM Ltd's Safety Health and Environment (SH&E) Management System defines SH&E Site Procedures across the operation. The SH&E Site Procedures endorsement/approval process involves a vertical "slice" from the organisation.

Whilst many procedures have been implemented, this process is ongoing.

Recommendation

- (iii) Company Safety Management Systems be expanded to include training for a wide cross section of the workforce in relation to Hazard Identification and Risk Management.

Implementation Comments

Training modules have been developed and extensive training carried out. This is ongoing throughout the mine.

Recommendation

- (iv) We are concerned about the level of non-compliance with present Regulations, mine site rules and standard work procedures. We strongly believe that management and all persons employed should comply with these rules and procedures and work in accordance with the methods in which they were trained.

Implementation Comments

Compliance is a condition of employment at MIM Ltd.

Education about legislation, rules and procedures is continuous an ongoing.

- (b) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of Wayne Jackson on 6 October 1996 in the MIM Ltd Lead Mine made on 18 June 1997—

Recommendation

- (iii) Supervisors allocating tasks should ensure that those carrying out the tasks are fully aware of the risks involved, have the correct equipment and are aware of the correct procedures to carry out the task.

Implementation Comments

There is continuous and ongoing monitoring of compliance with Standard Work Instructions which include correct use of correct equipment.

Recommendation

- (iv) Supervisors must frequently audit use of correct equipment and procedures and must take appropriate action when non-compliance is observed.

Implementation Comments

Supervisors are required to carry out audits. This is continuous and ongoing.

Recommendation

- (v) Communications between management and employees must be improved to ensure that the commitment to an understanding of safe operations is mutual. It is recommended that a working group consisting of a cross section of all levels of employees be established to identify barriers to effective communications and determine means of removing these barriers.

Implementation Comments

Standard communications programs between management and employees are specified in MIM Ltd's SH&E Management System.

The extensive communication meetings are part of an ongoing program.

- (c) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of Barry Rooks on 27 October 1996 in MIM Ltd Deep Copper Mine made on 29 April 1997—

Recommendation

- (ii) Safe work procedures should be developed and implemented with input from, and in cooperation with, a vertical cross-section of the workforce affected by, and competent in the work to be performed. Safe work procedures should include audit mechanisms.

Implementation Comments

Many Standard Work Instructions with accompanying audit mechanism packages have been developed.

This process is ongoing.

Recommendation

- (iii) That an Industry Group consisting of representatives from the Deep Copper Mine Management Team and Employee Representatives with input from the Department of Mine's Inspectorate, investigate, select and implement an effective rock bolting system. An effective rock bolting system should provide immediate protection for persons engaged in the installation process and effective support for persons employed on other duties in the face area.

Implementation Comments

MIM Ltd purchased a new Tamrock rock bolter in 1997 which allows remote installation and grouting of rock bolts. MIM Ltd personnel investigated new equipment overseas and a new Atlas Copco mechanised rock bolter has been ordered for delivery in 1998.

Evaluation of the equipment will be ongoing with Mines Inspectorate input.

Recommendation

- (iv) That the Getman Scissor-lift Platform and other devices, used to elevate persons be fitted with falling object protection and guard rails as required by Part 7.32.1 of The Metalliferous Mining Regulations of 1985 (as amended).

Implementation Comments

Technical, structural and practical difficulties exist concerning fitment of falling object protection to platforms and elevating baskets, and are not a requirement of the Regulations. Investigations to provide protection continues.

Use of equipment to remotely install rock bolts will considerably reduce the exposure to the hazards which existed at the time of the accident to Mr Rooks.

- (d) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of John Barber on 4 June 1997 in the MIM Ltd Deep Copper Mine made on 5 February 1998—

Recommendation

- (i) Physical Barriers—Substantial physical structures or barriers should be installed to prevent mobile equipment falling into open stopes or hazardous openings.

Implementation Comments

Substantial barriers in the form of concrete or muck stop logs are routinely used.

All downward openings are barricaded and signposted.

Installation of barriers is continuous and ongoing.

Mines Inspectorate monitoring shows good response to this recommendation.

Recommendation

- (ii) Job Instruction—A formal task or job instruction process should be implemented for work in hazardous areas, for example within 20 metres of open stopes.

This instruction should include an easily understandable and up-to-date plan or job sketch which clearly shows the location and job specifications. The original job instruction should be maintained by the supervisor and a copy issued to the employee.

Implementation Comments

A Permit to Work system with associated Standard Work Instruction has been introduced for some tasks adjacent to open stopes. Plans and job sketches with clear instruction are being issued to perform work in hazardous area.

This system continues to be developed.

Recommendation

- (iii) Job Inspection—All jobs in hazardous areas should be inspected by the supervisor prior to the issuing of a job instruction. This inspection should include an assessment of the likely hazards and how these hazards are to be controlled.

Implementation Comments

Supervisors formally assess jobs in hazardous areas. The Permit to Work system which involves supervisors and employees is being extended progressively.

Recommendation

- (iv) Hazard Assessment—Management should actively promote and enforce the need to formally assess hazards at the commencement of every new job and provide employees with appropriate training to enable them to identify and assess such hazards.

Once trained, employees should undertake thorough and ongoing checks of their workplace and equipment to identify potential hazards and implement appropriate controls.

Implementation Comments

Formal training in hazard assessment is carried out for all employees. Refresher training will be given as required.

The ISAFETY system of daily written reports on workplace safety is being promoted extensively.

Recommendation

- (v) Competency of Supervisors—Management should implement a formal process to ensure the ability of supervisors to competently undertake their duties.

Implementation Comments

A formal review of the selection process for and the training requirements and training content is under way.

Recommendation

- (v) Visibility around Hazardous Openings—Wherever possible suitable lighting should be installed to effectively illuminate the edge of hazardous openings.

Where mobile equipment is to operate in the vicinity of hazardous openings the selection of equipment should include consideration of both operator visibility and equipment lighting.

Implementation Comments

Installation of lighting in many areas is impractical due to blasting. Barricading, signposting and painting are used extensively.

The Permit to Work system includes assessment of suitable equipment.

- (e) Recommendations of the Warden's Inquiry into the death of David Stratton on 19 June 1997 at the MIM Ltd Scrap Yard made on 20 November 1997:

Recommendation

- (i) The operator of the Komatsu Excavator/Loader or similar unit shall maintain a twenty-five (25) metre exclusion zone around the machine.

Implementation Comments

SIMSMETAL, contractors involved in the operation at the scrap yard, has developed improved procedures to avoid the situation which arose in the fatal accident.

These procedures will be monitored.

Recommendation

- (ii) A person shall not enter the exclusion zone of an operating machine until they communicate with and receive the approval of the operator. A person shall not enter the zone within the swing radius of the machine unless the engine speed is reduced to idle and the implements lowered to the ground

Implementation Comments

SIMSMETAL, in conjunction with MIM Ltd, has developed improved procedures which avoid the situation causing the fatal accident and have improved communication systems. Radio communications are to be maintained between truck drivers and loader operators.

Recommendation

- (iii) The Mines Inspectorate should in conjunction with Industry continue investigations into the feasibility and development of improvements in operator visibility and movement warning devices for mobile plant.

Implementation Comments

Mines Inspectorate is involved in standards committees and conferences concerning movement warning devices. No specific action has yet been taken concerning operator visibility.

Recommendation

- (iv) Machines fitted with modifications that restrict the operators view should be subjected to a risk assessment to ensure that operating practices do not place people at unacceptable risk

Implementation Comments

This is ongoing and can only be implemented case by case.

66. State Public Servants, Maternity Leave

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/3/98)—

With reference to the issue of six weeks maternity leave for State Public Servants—

- (1) What amounts were paid under this scheme in 1996-97 and what has been paid to date in 1997-98?
- (2) To how many public servants were these amounts paid in each year?
- (3) Will she give an undertaking to the House that she supports the scheme and that she will continue to do so into the future?

Mrs Sheldon (6/4/98): (1, 2 & 3) Responsibility for the government's policy in relation to maternity leave for State Public Servants is a matter for the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations.

67. Humpybong State School

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Education (5/3/98)—

With reference to the amalgamation of Humpybong State School with Humpybong Infant School about which promises were made on the Government's behalf to P & C groups and to the school community which included (a) new library/resource centre, (b) covered walkways linking the two campuses, (c) new staffroom for the increased teaching and ancillary staff and (d) a new combined tuckshop servicing both campuses—

- (1) Is he going to provide for these facilities in the 1998-1999 Budget?
- (2) What is the timeframe for construction and completion of these facilities?

Mr Quinn (15/4/98): The only project promised to the Humpybong State School as a direct consequence of the amalgamation was a new modular building. This was completed for the commencement of the 1998 school year.

However, I have announced that the following projects, valued at \$575,000, will proceed, as soon as possible, to boost facilities and services for this school:

upgrade of several classrooms, including enclosure of verandahs

construction of a covered walkway linking the upper and infants' sections

extension to the administration facility to create more staff offices and student sick bays

installation of fibre optic cabling to provide computer access to the Internet and to link the resource centre with the administration

integration of the two schools' previous telephone systems for easier communication

conversion of spare classroom to reference area for teachers

general upgrade in resource centre, including lighting, painting and other repairs.

68. Wide Bay TAFE Institute, Marketing Division

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (5/3/98)—

With reference to the decision to move the marketing division of the Wide Bay Institute of TAFE to Hervey Bay—

- (1) What is the reason for this move?
- (2) How many jobs are involved in the marketing department?
- (3) Will there be any job losses as a result of the move?

Mr Santoro (2/4/98): The Marketing Unit for the Institute, which has a staff of three, has been located at Hervey Bay for the past two years and has not and is not moving to or from anywhere.

(1, 2 & 3) There has been no decision, no move, no jobs moved, and no jobs lost.

69. Main Street Program

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (5/3/98)—

With reference to the Department of Local Government and Planning's Main Street Program and as she would be aware, an amount of \$30,000 was committed to Mount Morgan Shire Council under the Main Street Program with this funding to be provided in \$10,000 allocations over a three year period and as it is alleged that the Mayor of Mount Morgan is advising local residents that the Main Street Program is unable to be completed because the State Government has not yet handed over all the funds, as promised—

What payments have been made under this program to Mount Morgan Shire Council, on what dates were these payments made and do these payments represent the full allocation of funding as originally committed?

Mrs McCauley (27/3/98): The Main Street Program is not administered by my Department. Accordingly I am unable to respond to this question.

The honourable member should note that the Main Street Program is administered by the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry and as such, he should address his question to the Minister responsible for that portfolio.

70. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Staff Morale

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (5/3/98)—

With reference to tensions within his department that are having particularly damaging effects on National Parks and Wildlife Service staff located in his Ann Street headquarters—

- (1) Did the entire head office staff of the service hold what virtually amounted to a stop work meeting mid-afternoon on 4 March; if so, what drove them to this point?
- (2) Was part of their grievances the on-going unfair pressure these people are under from himself, his office and his Director-General?

- (3) Has he instructed his senior departmental staff to target these staff for retribution and how does he justify this instruction?
- (4) Are we to believe that minor delays in Ministerial correspondence and occasional errors in the preparation of subordinate legislation are sufficient justification for the quite pointed victimisation these hard working staff are currently receiving?
- (5) What does he intend to do to address this matter before the discontent spreads to the regions and hamstrings his administration?

Mr Littleproud (12/3/98):

(1-4) No.

(5). See 1-4.

One would have thought that an Opposition Leader would have more significant issues to occupy his mind than office gossip. However, I am advised that central office members of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service met over afternoon tea on 3 March (not 4 March) at the invitation of the Director of that Sub-program.

This was a routine meeting, one of the frequent meetings which are held with staff and supervisors throughout the Department, to ensure that the efforts of the Department's highly motivated and creative staff are coordinated to achieve the best outcomes for all.

This particular meeting allowed discussion on a number of administrative matters associated with providing the best possible service to government. One of the matters discussed was the need for staff to focus on producing work of a high quality which reflects their substantial professional abilities. Staff highlighted a number of issues which, as is always the case with such matters, have been brought to the attention of senior management of the Department.

A suggestion that I would ask senior officers of this professional and highly motivated Department to exact retribution on staff members simply because they have made suggestions on ways to improve the functioning of the Department, or that they would even consider doing that, is mischievous and does not deserve further comment.

71. Public Works and Housing Department, Staff Training

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment

Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Dr Watson (6/4/98):

(1) The department has an annual training budget for the 1997/98 financial year of \$5,658,873 and against this budget, as at 28 February 1998, approximately \$2,422,275 has been spent on staff training.

(2) Approximately \$2,178,056 has been spent on providing training by external providers.

(3) The department has engaged the services of a large number of consultants and organisations to provide a wide range of specific and general training. The form of training provided was courses, conferences, conventions, forums, information sessions, seminars and workshops.

(4) Training providers have been selected in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy.

(5) Where appropriate, the department uses training programs that are accredited by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission (VETEC), including the provision of apprenticeships and traineeships. The department uses accreditation as one of the measures for assessing the quality of training offered by external providers. Often, however, training is conducted as "one-off" short courses and is specifically tailored to the business needs of the particular business units. This type of training is not appropriate for accreditation.

A considerable amount of the training provided within the department is at a level equivalent to post-graduate levels and is therefore not appropriate for accreditation within the VETEC system.

72. Natural Resources Department, Staff Training

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Springborg (30/3/98):

1. There is no dedicated budget towards staff training. Operational areas include an unspecified component of their operational budget for training activities. The inclusion is dependent upon a number of factors including nature of project, workforce skill requirements and local access of training providers and activities. These amounts are at the discretion of

local management and not specified per se in budget forecasts or allocations.

\$747,669 has been spent on training from 1/7/97 to 28/2/98. This figure excludes salary and travel costs of staff attending training activities and attendance at conferences and seminars.

2. The Department has spent \$572,363 on training provided by external training providers.

3. Attachment A lists the names of external providers and the media used to deliver training activities (where information is available).

As identified in the attachment, training was delivered through a variety of media including workshops, computer based training, lectures and distance education using technology such as the internet.

4. The Department is party to a Standing Offer/Preferred Supplier Arrangement for Corporate training activities, which is administered by Corporate Services Agency. The Standing Offer/Preferred Supplier Arrangement is in accordance with the Queensland Government's State Purchasing Policy.

Criteria used in selecting providers under this arrangement include:

- I. The Supplier's technical and commercial compliance with the Terms of Reference
- II. The ability of the supplier to offer flexible delivery
- III. The ability of the supplier to provide delivery, post-program service, upgrades on a long term basis
- IV. The suppliers relevant experience and general reputation for work competency
- V. The suppliers demonstrated ability to achieve and evaluate satisfactory training outcomes
- VI. Registration of Provider and Accreditation of Training Programs
- VII. Value for money
- VIII. The Supplier's Quality Assurance system

The Corporate Services Agency, on behalf of the Department, coordinates and brokers training under The Standing Offer/Preferred Supplier Arrangement. The Preferred Suppliers include Open Learning Institute, TAFE, Morley Consulting, MacQuarie House, Stolar Training, Terry Coman & Associates. In instances where the preferred supplier is unable to meet training specifications, procurement processes in accordance to Queensland Government's State Purchasing Policy are adhered to.

Training activities to address immediate and local exigencies are determined and coordinated by local management and comply with the Department's practices for procurement processes in accordance with Queensland Government's State Purchasing Policy. In these instances, combination of several of the following criteria are used:

- IX. The Supplier's technical and commercial compliance with the training specifications provided
- X. Suppliers demonstrated ability to achieve and evaluate satisfactory training outcomes

XI. The suppliers relevant experience and general reputation for work competency

XII. Flexibility in delivery

XIII. Value for money

XIV. Timeliness of the training (available when required)

XV. Local access

5. A significant number of training programs is provided by organisations such as Universities, TAFE Colleges, Open Learning Institute through the Corporate Services Agency which deliver VETEC approved programs.

Training courses delivered to meet short-term and individual needs are focused on skilling staff in government specific internal systems and processes or provide knowledge required to meet immediate workplace needs. Some of these programs are not and need not be accredited.

73. Economic Development and Trade Department, Staff Training

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Slack (3/4/98):

(1) The Department of Economic Development and Trade's 1997-98 revised budget for staff training is \$262,300. Actual expenditure (as at 6 March 1998) is \$108,642.

(2) As at 6 March 1998, the Department has spent \$108,642 on external training providers in the 1997-98 financial year. This includes training run in-house by external training providers as well as staff attendance at external training programs, seminars and conferences.

(3) Major training providers used include DGR Consulting, Management Technology Education, Management Effectiveness Pty Ltd, Business Training Group Pty Ltd, and QUT Continuing Professional Education Unit.

(4) The Department selects training providers in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy, Departmental strategic objectives, business unit requirements and individual development needs.

Potential providers are required to evidence their ability to meet these specific requirements through the delivery of their service. A consideration of "best fit" with business unit needs and of "value for money" is undertaken before engaging the provider.

(5) The Department utilises both VETEC approved and non-approved providers in the delivery of its training requirements.

The criteria used to identify appropriate training provision for the Department rests heavily on specifically identifying business requirements and accurately addressing them in services contracted. Occasions have arisen where non-VETEC approved providers have most closely met the "best fit" and "value for money" considerations.

74. Premier's Department, Staff Training

Mr BRADY asked the Premier (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Borbidge (6/4/98):

(1) 1997/98 revised budget: Department of the Premier and Cabinet (excluding Ministerial Offices) \$287,300, Ministerial Offices \$79,000, total \$366,300. Actual expenditure (as at 28 February 1998): Department of the Premier and Cabinet (excluding Ministerial Offices) \$210,286, Ministerial Offices \$37,455, total \$247,741.

(2) To date, the Department has spent \$48,617 on external training providers in the 1997-98 financial year.

(3) For the purpose of this question, an 'external training provider' is considered to be a Private Sector Training provider who has conducted 'in-house' training for the agency.

These details have been collected utilising available data from centralised financial records. It should be noted that decentralised purchasing arrangements across the Department do not necessitate recording of all engagements through these records. This process will be refined under the new SAP financial system where it will be a requirement to raise a commitment purchase order for every consultancy entered into.

There were no consultants listed on the Departmental records provided. There were six training providers who were engaged as contractors. They were: Management Technology Education (Software

Training), Business Training Group Pty Ltd (Written Communication Training), St. Johns Ambulance Australia (Workplace First Aid Training), Rowland (QLD) Pty Ltd (Media Training), Arthur Anderson (Accrual Accounting Training) and GMB Research and Development (System Administration Training).

Training was conducted as 'in-house' workshops. Course content was tailored specifically to the needs of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and its staff.

(4) The Department selects training contractors in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy, Departmental Strategic objectives, Business Unit requirements and individual developments needs.

Potential providers are required to evidence their ability to meet these specific requirements through the delivery of their service. A consideration of 'best fit' with business unit needs and of 'value for money' is undertaken before engaging the contractor.

(5) The Department utilises both VETEC approved and non-approved providers in the delivery of its training requirements.

The criteria used to identify appropriate training provision for the Department rests heavily on specifically identifying business requirements and accurately addressing them in services contracted. Occasions have arisen where non-VETEC approved providers have most closely met the 'best fit' and 'value for money' considerations.

75. Education Department, Staff Training

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Education (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Quinn (15/4/98):

(1) The amount set aside across the whole Department specifically for registering at training courses in 1997-98 is \$1.976 million. To the end of February \$0.905 million has been spent.

In addition, the Centre for Teaching Excellence and the Centre for Leadership Excellence develop and coordinate courses and packages to meet the training needs of teachers and public servants across the whole Department. The operational budget for these centres during 1997-98 is \$8.023 million (approximately 22% of this money had been expended by the end of February).

Grants to schools for training in relation to preschool curriculum guidelines totalling \$1.667 million have been paid in 1997-98. The training is provided by 3 consortia—

James Cook University;

Queensland University of Technology and the Early Childhood Teachers Association; and

University of Southern Queensland, Central Queensland University and the Lady Gowrie Centre.

Grants are provided to schools, but it is the individual school's decision on when it avails itself of the training and by which provider.

Grants to Leading Schools for professional development totalling \$0.217 million have been paid in 1997-98. A budget of \$0.470 million has been set aside for key teacher training in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net, and is due to be paid as grants to schools in April.

(2) The amount identified as being paid in 1997-98 to external training providers (to the end of February) is \$0.793 million.

(3), (4) & (5)

Provider—Amaya & Associates

Service—Facilitate forum & conduct evaluation

Criteria—Ability to fulfil terms of brief, previous experience, cost effectiveness, qualifications
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—Williams Pacific Consulting

Service—Leadership development training

Criteria—Experience with cultural transformation process in large organisation, capacity to provide independent strategic advice, value for money
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—Erik Frangenheim

Service—Facilitate conference for LOTE beginning teachers

VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—Dr Marie Brennen (UCQ)

Service—Facilitate conference for Community Participation Unit, pre- & post-conference tasks

Criteria—Previous experience/expertise in school community development & professional development/training

VETEC Accreditation—Now obtaining certification from VETEC—by April 1998

Provider—Griffith University

Service—Students with Challenging Behaviour and Autism (30-hour course)

Criteria—Departmental tender procedures followed
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—COMTECH

Service—Systems Technician Training in NT 4.0 Admin. & Core Technologies

Criteria—Request for Offer distributed to suppliers
VETEC Accreditation—Yes

Provider—Success Solutions

Service—Workshops for Information Management staff on estimating, task monitoring & control, etc.

Criteria—Request for Offer distributed to suppliers
VETEC Accreditation—Yes

Provider—Mallard Consultants

Service—Consulting Skills Program—a two-day workshop on a Client Service Model

Criteria—Based on experience/selection by Sunshine Coast Regional Education Office
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—Pollak Partners Sunrise

Service—SMS Finance—computerised "hands on" course & training manuals

Criteria—Part of contract for Computerised School Admin. Program
VETEC Accreditation—Yes

Provider—Gold Coast Institute of TAFE

Service—Basic Accounting in Schools—face-to-face or remote training with manual

Criteria—Invitation to offer
VETEC Accreditation—Yes

Provider—4C 1997 Conference

Service—Multimedia Professional Development

Criteria—Appropriate, available

Provider—Australian College of Education Conference

Service—Update on School Based Management

Criteria—Availability

Provider—Australian Exhibition Services

Service—Effective Marketing Displays

Criteria—Appropriate, excellent price

Provider—Griffith University

Service—ADOBE AfterEffects for video design

Criteria—Appropriate, timely opportunity

Provider—Image Word

Service—Frontpage; Windows95 training; Microsoft Access

Criteria—competitive pricing, availability, satisfactory interview, proven service record
VETEC Accreditation—Unknown; (unknown)

Provider—QISEO Conference

Service—Network with Senior Education Officers

Criteria—Availability

Provider—Robert King—Rob Thomsett & Associates.

Service—Project Management—tailored group session over three days.

Criteria—proven service record, competitive pricing, international expertise, satisfactory interview, ability to tailor to client needs

VETEC Accreditation—No (consultancy customised for OAU requirements)

Provider—Southbank Institute of TAFE

Service—Photoshop software for graphic art manipulation—group session over two days

Criteria—leaders in the field, competitive pricing, availability
VETEC Accreditation—Yes

Provider—Southbank Institute of TAFE

Service—Category 2 trainer—group session over eight days

Criteria—leaders in the field, competitive pricing, met requirements for category 2 training accreditation, satisfactory interview

VETEC Accreditation—Yes

Provider—WWW7 Conference

Service—Web design and programming

Criteria—Appropriate, rare opportunity

Provider—National Schools Network
Service—Middle Years of Schooling
Primary/Secondary

Criteria—Standards Framework for Professional
Development and Training, Draft Standards
Framework for Teachers
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—SPELD and University of Queensland
(7 presenters)

Service—Managing the education of students with
learning disabilities

Criteria—Draft Standards Framework for Professional
Development and Training, Draft Standards
Framework for Teachers
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—Dr John Munro

Service—Literacy across the curriculum in the lower
secondary years

Criteria—Draft Standards Framework for Professional
Development and Training, Draft Standards
Framework for Teachers
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—Dr John Munro

Service—Literacy and numeracy in the lower
secondary years

Criteria—Draft Standards Framework for Professional
Development and Training, Draft Standards
Framework for Teachers
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—QUT and Early Childhood teachers Assoc.

Service—Delivery of modules to support
implementation of the Preschool Curriculum
Guidelines

Criteria—Education Queensland procurements
process, Standards Framework for Professional
Development and Training
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—JCU

Service—Delivery of modules to support
implementation of the Preschool Curriculum
Guidelines

Criteria—Education Queensland procurements
process, Standards Framework for Professional
Development and Training
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—Partnerships for Learning (CQU, Creche
and Kindergarten Association, Lady Gowrie Child
Centre, USQ)

Service—Delivery of modules to support
implementation of the Preschool Curriculum
Guidelines

Criteria—Education Queensland procurements
process, Standards Framework for Professional
Development and Training
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—QUT

Service—Graduate Certificate in Education
(Computers in the classroom)

Criteria—Education Queensland procurements
process
VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—UQ

Service—2 units to skill alternate program teachers
who work in the area of behaviour management

Criteria—Education Queensland procurements
process

VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—QUT

Service—Graduate Certificate in Education
(Mathematics Education)

Criteria—Education Queensland procurements
process

VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—USQ

Service—2 units to upgrade the skills of Guidance
Officers in the field to accredit them to conduct
Psychoeducational Assessment

Criteria—Education Queensland procurements
process

VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—QUT

Service—Graduate Diploma in Education (Information
processing and technology)

Criteria—Education Queensland procurements
process

VETEC Accreditation—No

Provider—Universities throughout Australia

Service—Tertiary inservice project provides financial
support to upskill teachers in a range of priority areas
that have been identified as shortfaling

Criteria—Courses matched to priority areas

VETEC Accreditation—No

76. Training and Industrial Relations Department, Staff Training

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Training
and Industrial Relations (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his
department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in
1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided
by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the
training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these
external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the
Vocational Education Training and Employment
Commission and accredited by the Accreditation
Council; if not, will the training be accredited
through them and when?

Mr Santoro (2/4/98):

(1) The target set by the Department of Training and
Industrial Relations for staff training and development
for 1997-98 is 2.5% of total salary expenditure, this is
a total budget of \$9.4M. The actual expenditure for the
first six months of 1997-98 was \$3,590,374.

(2) To date the Department of Training and Industrial
Relations has spent \$1,437,686 on external training
providers.

(3) Major external consultants are Cross Tech Pty Ltd,
Mellish & Associates, Ian Ferguson & Associates,
Macquarie House Pty Ltd, SGS International

Certification Services Pty Ltd, Romtec, Dennis Long Consulting, and Stace Management Networks.

The training was delivered in a variety of ways depending on the requirements of individual business units. The method of delivery undertaken was in-house training, conferences, seminars, facilitated workshops, action learning and self-paced learning packages.

(4) External providers are selected in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy. Evaluation criteria are established and are included in the tender document for each training service required. A selection panel is established and rates each proposal against the criteria. The most meritorious proposal is recommended. In some cases the Department may use the Standing Offer Arrangement available through the State Purchasing Council.

(5) Not all training programs in a Government Department are accredited through the Accreditation Council of VETEC.

The accreditation process is a voluntary one and gives rise to nationally recognised qualifications or statements of attainment. The Accreditation Council accredits courses based on endorsed industry standards, and in the absence of these relies upon industry to determine the competencies to be achieved.

Training programs offered within the Department are often of an experiential/action learning nature and are difficult to accredit due to the differing outcomes that would be sought by the individual and the Department. The nature of the accreditation process is not ideally suited to leading edge developmental staff training programs that are not assessable against a set of standards.

77. Emergency Services Department, Staff Training

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Veivers (6/4/98):

(1) The Department of Emergency Services (including the Statutory Authorities) staff training budget for 1998 is \$13,385,844. The Department of Emergency Services expenditure on staff training to 28 February 1998 was \$5,001,891.

(2) The Department of Emergency Services (including the Statutory Authorities) expenditure on training provided by external providers amounts to \$1,088,083.

(3) It is too onerous a task to list all consultants who provided training and the form of training undertaken. For example there are in excess of 200 external providers providing training to staff of the Department.

(4) The criteria used in selecting an appropriate training or individual development seminar are based on the appropriateness of course content; standing Government arrangements; the reputation of the presenter and/or the presenters past performance as determined via our course evaluation process and their cost competitiveness with other training providers. For example, the external providers selected for aviation training are those used by most aviation companies and are accredited by Aviation Statutory bodies.

(5) Where appropriate, training programs are approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council.

78. Tourism, Small Business and Industry Department, Staff Training

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Davidson (6/4/98):

(1) The amount of \$739,117 has been budgeted by the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry for staff training and development in the 1997/98 financial year. At the end of February 1998, \$344,887 had been spent.

(2) \$171,334

(3) Consultants used for in-house training include PDE Australia, Eric Fenn & Associates, Ken Gilbert & Associates, Jim Wood Computing, PA Holland & Associates, Business Training Group, Network Australia, Image Media Services and Centre for Leadership for Excellence.

(4) External trainers are selected through processes laid down in the State Purchasing Policy.

(5) No, accredited and non-accredited training is used as appropriate to meet the business needs of the department.

79. Mines and Energy Department, Staff Training

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Gilmore (3/4/98):

- (1) Total departmental training budget is \$283,084. Total expended to date is \$222,334.
- (2) Total expended on external training providers is \$169,660.
- (3, 4 & 5) Please see details in the attached document.

80. Local Government and Planning Department, Staff Training

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by her department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mrs McCauley (6/4/98):

- (1) Budgeted: \$121,500; Year to Date Expenditure: \$51,400 (end February 1998)
- (2) \$47,500
- (3) Please see attachment A
- (4) All purchases of external training provision are in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy
- (5) Approvals for staff to attend training programs conducted by external training providers are based on the relevance of the course material to business needs. Short courses of 0.5 to 2 days duration are regarded as appropriate. Such courses are not usually accredited.

81. Transport Department and Main Roads Department, Staff Training

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Johnson (6/4/98):

(1) The Department of Main Roads and Queensland Transport's annual budgets for training in 1997-98 from external providers amounts to \$4.5 million. Expenditure to the end of February 1998 amounted to \$2.82 million. In addition, up to the end of February 1998, \$528,000 in assistance has been provided under the Study and Research Assistance (SARAS) Scheme.

(2) All of these amounts relate to external training which is largely of a developmental nature. Having said this, a significant amount of internal training of an operational nature is conducted, including technical symposia comprising professional development components; however, the cost is not identified separately as it forms part of internal operational budgets.

(3) The training provided by external providers given the size and diversity of responsibilities covers technical, management, professional development, systems and financial management and is given by a wide range of providers.

(4) All providers are selected on an open, competitive and value for money basis, in accordance with the principles and requirements of the State Purchasing Policy.

(5) The training function in both Main Roads and Queensland Transport is managed by individual business units which select and offer training courses based upon individual and business needs.

Some of the courses that are offered within Main Roads by external providers are competency based programs that have VETEC or VETAB accreditation. Other courses are by tertiary institutions such as TAFE (where courses are VETEC accredited) or universities.

82. Environment Department, Staff Training

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Littleproud (26/3/98):

- (1) \$1,042,500 was budgeted for staff training in 1997/98.

Expenditure to 27 February 1998 was \$774,060

- (2) \$314,060 has been spent on training provided by external training providers at the time of compilation.
- (3) No training has been identified as having been provided by consultants.

In some instances, external contractors have provided training services for the Department. The contractors have mostly provided internal, course-based training for departmental employees.

- (4) The criteria used to select external training providers have varied, as providers have been engaged to provide different types of training. The Queensland Government purchasing guidelines have been adhered to in all instances. Course content and proposed training processes, cost, reputation/service experience and availability in particular locations at specified times are amongst the criteria considered in any decision to select an external training provider.
- (5) Wherever possible, external training providers engaged to deliver safety-related training are accredited training providers and the training is VETEC approved and accredited.

However, there is an extensive range of useful and effective training which need not be VETEC approved and accredited. Training programs provided by external training providers in a range of other areas as diverse as computer software training, driver training etc. are examples.

My department has officers in many locations across the State and in some instances accredited training is not available, nor is it cost effective or feasible to access. Accreditation in itself is not a guarantee of effective training outcomes, as delivery of accredited programs by different external providers across the State can be inconsistent in quality.

Where VETEC approved and accredited training is available, appropriate, cost effective and essential for the task, it will be used.

83. Treasury Department, Staff Training

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by her department—

- (1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?
- (2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?
- (3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?
- (4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?
- (5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mrs Sheldon (6/4/98):

- (1) Queensland Treasury's total budget for staff training and development for 97/98 is \$1.6M. At end of February, \$0.798M had been spent.

(2) The majority of this total training budget has been spent on external training. This includes training run in house by external providers as well as staff attendance at external training programs, seminars and conferences. Additionally, internal staff conduct training programs to induct new staff and increase awareness of anti-discrimination and sexual harassment as needed.

(3) Major consultants used in-house include Business Training Australia, Eric Fenn and Co, Oliver and Langford, Insight Training, Delta Technology, Helen Gietzel Training, Stolar Training Systems, Network Australia, Melissa Agnew Training, Improved Communication Skills and Mellish and Associates.

(4) Training providers conducting in-house courses are selected in line with Government guidelines for selecting external consultants including as a minimum a Request For Offer and selection against key criteria.

(5) Queensland Treasury utilises both VETEC approved and non approved providers in the delivery of its training requirements.

Since the criteria used to determine appropriate training delivery for Treasury Department rests heavily on identifying specific business requirements and ensuring that the Department's needs are addressed, there have been occasions where non VETEC approved providers have most closely met the "best fit for the organisation" and "value for money" considerations as outlined in the State Purchasing Policy.

84. State Government, Election Promises

Mr ELDER asked the Premier (5/3/98)—

With reference to the fact that he repeatedly says that his Government has implemented 90 per cent of the policies promised at the last election—

Will he furnish the list of policies showing the 90 per cent which he alleges have been achieved and the 10 per cent which have not?

Mr Borbidge (6/4/98): I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the 1st Annual Report and other published documents which outline the many achievements of the Coalition Government.

85. Sun Metals Zinc Refinery

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (5/3/98)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 1338 of 1997 regarding the Sun Metals Zinc Refinery at Stuart—

- (1) Why were trees cleared on the development site buried or burned instead of mulched as specified in the projects environmental plan?
- (2) Was this environmental plan considered as part of the environmental authority granted by the department; if not, why not?
- (3) Will he now admit that he misled Parliament by asserting that "environmental guidelines are not being ignored"?
- (4) How many other elements of the environmental plan does he propose to ignore or deny exist?
- (5) Does the IEMS not reflect or take account of the environmental plan which has been breached; if not, why not?
- (6) In view of his allegation that the Member for Everton is "negative", does he now understand the difference between negativity and accountability for Ministerial incompetence?
- (7) When will he apologise to Parliament and the Member for Everton?

Mr Littleproud (26/3/98):

(1) Under the heading "Recycling" in the waste management plan prepared by Sun Metals Corporation for the construction phase of the development, it was clearly stated that:

"tree wastes from site clearing will be chipped and stockpiled for future use in landscaping"

and that:

"dead trees, exotic pest species and tree stumps will be stockpiled and burnt".

Firstly, tree clearing has been limited to those areas where access is required for construction purposes. Other areas remain untouched.

Where tree clearing has occurred approximately 3000 cubic metres of tree waste has been produced by mulching. This mulch is now stockpiled on site for future use in landscaping. This volume of tree waste represents a significant proportion of the trees felled that were suitable for recycling.

There are times when it is not practical to chip all waste such as large tree stumps that are too large to be chipped, or dead trees, tree roots and tree stumps that are contaminated with soil because these rapidly deteriorate the efficiency of the chipping equipment. As a result these types of waste were either burnt or buried on site.

It is sound environmental management practice to destroy exotic pest species by burning so as to limit the potential for such species to propagate.

(2) Yes. It is a requirement of the company's environmental authority that it comply with the objectives and management measures contained in the environmental management plan developed for the construction phase of the development.

(3) No. The Department is not ignoring environmental guidelines.

(4) The other elements of the environmental management plan detail the management of stormwater run off, noise, dust, waste and cultural heritage issues.

I have never denied the existence of these management plans and have never ignored their existence.

(5) No. The requirement that Sun Metals develop an integrated environmental management system (IEMS) is a statutory requirement for the carrying out of multiple environmentally relevant activities at one or more sites, under a single licence.

The IEMS does not encompass the environmental management plans that were developed for the construction phase of the project since there are no environmentally relevant activities being carried out on the site by Sun Metals Corporation at this time.

The IEMS is being developed for the operational phase of the development when the environmentally relevant activities commence.

(6) There is no doubt whatsoever about my understanding the difference between negativity and accountability. By allowing 2500 businesses to move from an annual licence to an approval only, yet subject these businesses to the full force of the Environmental Protection Act is accountability. The Member for Everton's motion of disallowance of the Regulation that makes this possible is anti-business and ignores assessment of risk analysis and reeks of negativity on his part. The business sector will no doubt be fully aware of the Labor Party's plans to once again impose unrealistic regulations and will resist your party at the next election because of this unrealistic attitude.

(7) See (1) to (5).

86. Wynnum Police Division, Juvenile Offences

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/3/98)—

With reference to the Wynnum Police Division for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and to date in 1997-98—

- (1) How many juveniles have been (a) charged and (b) cautioned under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act (for offences against the person, against property and other offences)?
- (2) How many convictions have been recorded and what is the nature of the offences involved?
- (3) Of persons who have been dealt with for graffiti and similar offences, (a) how many persons (adults and juveniles) have been involved, (b) what was the general nature of the penalties involved (eg fine, community service, jail, probation) and (c) of those offered probation and/or community service conditional upon cleaning up graffiti, how many successfully completed their order and how many were breached for failure to comply?

Mr Cooper (6/4/98):

(1)(a) During 1995-96 288 juveniles were charged with 762 offences and 602 juveniles were cautioned for 1,106 offences.

(b) During 1996-97 278 juveniles were charged with 734 offences and 612 juveniles were cautioned for 1,672 offences.

(c) During the period 1 July 1997 to 8 March 1998 105 juveniles were charged with 251 offences and 377 juveniles were cautioned for 609 offences.

(2) The requested information is not readily available to the Queensland Police Service and this question should be directed to the Honourable Denver Beanland MLA, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

(3)(a) Graffiti offences for period 1 July 1995 to 8 March 1998:

Adults—14 offenders for 78 charges

Juveniles—49 offenders for 68 charges

(b) The requested information is not available to the Queensland Corrective Services Commission and this question should be directed to the Honourable Denver Beanland MLA, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

(c) This information is not readily available to the Queensland Corrective Services Commission. In calendar year 1997 the local community corrections office reports three offenders were supervised on probation and community service orders relating to offences of wilful damage. All three were returned to court for failure to complete their order.

87. Wetlands, Funding and Management

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Environment (5/3/98)—

With reference to the State Government grant of \$250,000 to a proposed foundation to manage wetlands—

- (1) Was he consulted about this funding?
- (2) What is the source of the funding and where does it appear in the 1997-98 Budget papers?
- (3) Who are the members of this foundation and what is its name?
- (4) Will the work of the foundation be confined to any part of Queensland or does its charter extend to other parts of Australia and what Queensland wetlands will be affected?
- (5) Who appointed the foundation steering committee and how will the future membership of the committee be appointed?
- (6) Under what funding program was this grant given?
- (7) What other organisations or individuals have received funding for wetlands management or research?
- (8) Why was there no public tender or call for public submissions for this allocation for funding for wetland research?

- (9) Does he support this pork-barrel approach to environmental funding whereby \$250,000 is allocated to one yet-to-be-created organisation while dozens of other local environment organisations collectively receive only \$190,000?

Mr Littleproud (26/3/98):

The Honourable Member has not identified the organisation which is alleged to be the beneficiary of a State Government grant. In these circumstances I am unable to answer the question.

In addition I reject any allegation of pork barrelling and find it hypocritical in the extreme for a member of the former Goss government to make accusations of pork barrelling.

That administration had refined the process to an art form and the Hon. Member was party to it.

88. Queensland Rail, Security Cameras

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/3/98)—

With reference to the announcement during the week ending 28 February that Queensland Rail would hire officers to monitor security cameras on the Brisbane Metropolitan Rail Network and to the fact that there are some 115 stations on the Metropolitan Network and a further 21 on the Inter-Urban Network to destinations such as Nambour and the Gold Coast—

- (1) How many security cameras are there, on average, at each station including car parks and surrounding areas?
- (2) Given that accepted industry standards suggest that one person can properly monitor no more than forty such cameras, how many staff at any one time will be required to monitor the hundreds of cameras needed to surveil all metropolitan stations?
- (3) What is the total budget for this project broken down into capital, staffing and ongoing operational expenses?
- (4) Will the service be provided within Queensland Rail or contracted out to a private provider?

Mr Johnson (6/4/98):

(1) On average there are 10 security cameras at each station.

(2) Advice from a reputable security consultant indicates there is no Australian Standard relating to the number of cameras one individual may monitor. However, the accepted practice is to prioritise locations for viewing at particular times during the course of the day and conduct guard tours. The proposed number of QR officers to proactively monitor the security cameras will meet the above standard security practice.

Other factors which affect monitoring practices are:

whether the signalling is time lapse or in real time;

if real time and the system is in sequential mode, the system will have problems if it does not further have a capability to record all of the visions from all cameras while the sequences

are being monitored, in case something is missed by the monitoring person;

should there be a response to an emergency at a particular location; then this would dictate the dedication of resources until the emergency was over;

the speed of the signal back from a multiplex system.

There are two systems a Multiplexer and Super-VHS VCR available for monitoring.

(3) The total estimated budget cost is \$400,000.

Staffing costs are estimated to be \$180,000 per annum.

Ongoing operational costs, including maintenance costs, CCTV tapes and dubbing costs are \$200,000 per annum.

(4) The service will be provided within Queensland Rail.

89. Main Roads Department, Stafford Road-Airport Corridor

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/3/98)—

With reference to his Department of Main Roads long held desire to build an East-West connector linking Stafford Road to the airport—

Has the department purchased or considered purchasing any land or undertaken any other planning activities linked to further development of this proposal during the last two years; if so, what land has been purchased and what planning or other work has occurred?

Mr Johnson (6/4/98): Over the past two years, the Department of Main Roads has not purchased, and is not in the process of purchasing, any properties in the transportation corridor between Stafford Road and the airport. In addition, no further planning has been undertaken on the corridor over that period other than activity by the private sector associated with the Brisbane Airport Rail Link in the area between Toombul and the Airport.

The decision to dispose of properties acquired previously in the corridor between Lecke and Kent Roads was publicly announced on 12 March 1998. This decision will ensure that the East-West Connector will never be constructed.

The Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) for South East Queensland, endorsed in 1997 by State Cabinet, articulates this Government's vision for the transport system in the region. The IRTP clearly indicates that this road is not needed.

90. Justice Department, Staff Training

Mrs BIRD asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (5/3/98)—

With reference to the training offered to staff by his department—

(1) How much has been budgeted for staff training in 1997-98 and how much has been spent so far?

(2) How much has been spent on training provided by external training providers?

(3) Who were the consultants and what form did the training take?

(4) What criteria have been used to select these external providers?

(5) Are all of the training programs approved by the Vocational Education Training and Employment Commission and accredited by the Accreditation Council; if not, will the training be accredited through them and when?

Mr Beanland (8/4/98):

(1) The total amount budgeted across all Divisions of the Department, the Electoral Commission and Anti Discrimination Commission for staff training for 1997-98 is \$826,650. Total expenditure across the Department to date has been \$431,652.00.

(2) \$214365

(3) There is a total of 57 providers which delivered a wide variety of training across the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission and Anti-Discrimination Commission. Ten providers regularly used by this Department are:

Company: Type of Training—Accreditation

Odyssey Training: Software training—Not accredited at this stage

Qld Treasury: Financial/Budget—Accredited

Office of Public Service: PSM Course—Accredited

DTIR: Cross Cultural training—Accredited

Network Australia: Management Development—Not accredited at this stage

Park Road Group: Coping with Change and Stress Management—Not accredited at this stage

Cullen Egan Dell: Designing and assessing Job descriptions—Accredited

MTE: Software training; Information writing; Team building—Currently in process of accreditation

Business Training Group: Time management; Business writing skills—Not accredited at this stage

QDEV: Negotiation Skills—Accredited

(4) Providers were selected according to the guidelines outlined in the Financial Management Standard, State Purchasing Policy and Departmental financial guidelines.

(5) Where appropriate VETEC approved courses were chosen. Many courses have not been VETEC approved as they were tailored to meet specific needs of Divisions or the Department and it was not seen as economical to undergo an accreditation process at the time.

91. Dr K. Levy

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (5/3/98)—

With reference to the recent transfer of Dr Ken Levy, the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General to the staff of her department—

- (1) To what position has Dr Levy been appointed?
- (2) On what terms and conditions has he been employed including salary level, existence of contract or otherwise, length of any contract and any special terms of the contract?
- (3) What are Dr Levy's duties and responsibilities?
- (4) Where does the position occupied by Dr Levy fit in the organisational chart of the department? (eg which positions report directly to Dr Levy and to whom does he report?)
- (5) What, if any, changes have been made to the duties and responsibilities of the Director-General and Deputy Director-General of her department, as a result of Dr Levy's appointment?

Mrs Wilson (6/4/98): I am advised that:

- (1) Dr Levy has not been appointed to any position in the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.
- (2) Dr Levy is on attachment from the Department of Justice for a period of up to three (3) months, although I have agreed with him that there is an expectation that his role would probably be completed by 30 April 1998. He is attached on his existing contract with the Government. He is a Senior Executive Service Level 4 officer and no special or additional allowances are payable and no variation to his salary or terms of employment have been made or will be made. The only practical effect is that the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care will reimburse the Department of Justice for Dr Levy's costs while in the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.
- (3) His role is to help the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care to develop its interface with my ministerial office, it is planned that he will:
 - (a) advise on legal and administrative policy matters for which I am responsible.
 - (b) assist as an interface between myself and the Department with respect to policy aspects of legal, accounting, managerial and effectiveness issues of the responsibilities of the portfolio during his secondment; and
 - (c) gain a statewide view of potentially difficult issues for myself as Minister to address at an appropriate time, with respect to policy initiatives, legislative reform or resourcing imbalances.
- (4) The work being undertaken does not fit formally into the Department establishment as it is a temporary role in the Nature of a Senior Executive Level Project.
- (5) Dr Levy's role is a special and short-term one, it does not involve any executive decision making. Consequently, it has not affected the duties and responsibilities of the Director-General or Deputy Director-General of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

92. Mr W. Jenkins

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (5/3/98)—

With reference to the launch of the Department of Primary Industries and Hungry Jack's campaign to highlight rural production in Queensland, at which he said that it was vital primary industries established alliances with food retailers, marketers and processors to explore different ways to get its message to consumers—

- (1) Will he explain why a Mr Bill Jenkins, in his efforts to gain support for a potato promotion, had the door slammed in his face by the previous Minister for Primary Industries, the Heavy Produce Committee, the Fruit and Vegetable Growers and the Department of Primary Industries?
- (2) Will he make contact with Mr Jenkins to ascertain whether Mr Jenkins' promotion "Sports Potatoes" is now being embraced by industry in Australia and overseas?
- (3) What is the difference between the Hungry Jack's campaign and the Sports Potato campaign?

Mr Rowell (20/3/98):

- (1) Nobody slammed the door in Mr Jenkins face. The previous Minister and the Department listened intently to Mr Jenkins, thoroughly discussed his Sports Potato promotion proposal and sought the advice of the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers Heavy Produce Committee—the peak industry body responsible for representing and promoting the potato industry in Queensland. The Department advised Mr Jenkins that it would give the promotion consideration if the idea was supported by this peak industry organisation.

The Heavy Produce Committee of the QFVG advised the Department that it could not support the Jenkins promotion. The Committee said it was inappropriate for an industry organisation to commit grower funding or endorsement to a program that was highly commercial and profit motivated. The Department advised Mr Jenkins that, under these circumstances, it was not in a position to offer endorsement or financial assistance.

- (2) The Heavy Produce Committee of QFVG recently advised the Department that it has not embraced Mr Jenkins promotional campaign and is unlikely to change its position in the future. It is industry Mr Jenkins has to convince about the value of his program. The Department wishes Mr Jenkins well and congratulates him on any success he achieves with his promotion interstate or overseas.
- (3) The difference between the Hungry Jack's campaign and the Sports Potato campaign is very simple—the Jenkins Sports Promotion proposal was rejected by industry and the Hungry Jack's promotion was unanimously supported by industry as a major breakthrough in increasing public awareness and understanding about the economic importance and benefits of primary industries.

This view is reflected by the president of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Lex Buchanan who devoted his entire column in Queensland Country Life on 5 March to praising the DPI-Hungry Jack's initiative. Mr Buchanan said—"QFF has been working to get this important message across to the

community and I congratulate Hungry Jack's and the DPI for this approach."

93. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Psychiatric Unit

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Health (5/3/98)—

With reference to the report on psychiatric services at the Princess Alexandra Hospital which failed to address a number of patient deaths and serious injuries but highlighted staff shortages, low staff morale, poor security and low standards of care—

- (1) What measures has he taken to fully investigate the increasing public concern about the unit?
- (2) What more has to be revealed before he initiates a full, open, independent inquiry?

Mr Horan (3/4/98):

(1) In late 1997, following a request from the Princess Alexandra Hospital and District Health Service (PAH & DHS), a review of the Integrated Mental Health Service at the PAH & DHS was undertaken. This demonstrates an open and honest approach by the Hospital Administration into identifying and rectifying issues within their service.

The review made 13 recommendations for consideration by the PAH & DHS. Following receipt of the report, a Project Manager was appointed to evaluate and facilitate implementation of the recommendations.

The recommendations identified the need to review the model of care, the physical environment of the inpatient unit, roles of various levels of nurses within the service and the nursing management, levels of staffing within the service, inpatient access to staff of specialised disciplines, quality assurance, and the management and leadership of the service.

Four working groups have been formed to analyse, evaluate and recommend strategies to address the recommendations.

These groups commenced on the 24 February 1998, and comprise members of all health professions involved in delivering care, from both inpatient and community settings, as well as consumer representation.

A number of strategies have already been implemented as a matter of urgency, including:

a review of the assessment of patients on admission to the inpatient unit and of the level of observation carried out;

an acceleration of the redevelopment program for the inpatient unit, with design of the area in an advanced stage;

a reorganisation of Consultant Psychiatrist rosters, which has provided additional Consultant presence on weekends and access after hours; and

the appointment of a Clinical Nurse Consultant to provide specialist psychiatric advice and support within the Emergency Department after hours.

The working groups are systematically working through the other recommendations to identify and implement strategies to address the issues raised.

(2) The PAH & DHS is addressing the recommendations contained within the recent review in a swift and effective manner. This has been an open, honest and mature managerial response to the issues identified. Moreover, there is wide consultation and involvement of consumers and staff. There is nothing to be gained by duplicating the present review.

94. Mon Repos, Marine Eco-tourism Centre

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Environment (5/3/98)—

With reference to the Centenary of Federation funding for projects of national significance and the application for funding of a marine eco-tourism centre at Mon Repos Bundaberg and in view of the importance of eco-tourism in Queensland and the need to develop protocols and management strategies for sustainable eco-tourism industries—

- (1) Has he supported this project for funding?
- (2) Will he support the implementation of a management committee of community representatives to expand the scope of the Mon Repos centre?

Mr Littleproud (1/4/98):

(1) Yes.

(2) Mon Repos continues to have and hold strong community interest and involvement, including the local volunteers who assist so admirably in the provision of visitor services during the turtle watching season.

The direct financial support for turtle research by Bundaberg Rum, and turtle-friendly street lighting projects by the Burnett Shire Council are highly valued.

There is merit in the concept of a locally based committee to advise in relation to the ongoing future of the centre. I will ask my Department to consider the suggestion further.

Should Centenary of Federation funding be approved, such a committee could expand to the role suggested.

95. Corrective Services Commission, Hummer Armoured Vehicles

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/3/98)—

With reference to his announcement of the purchase of six (6) hummer armoured vehicles for use as perimeter vehicles at Queensland correction centres, a decision reportedly taken in opposition to the recommendations of the Mengler Report into the Sir David Longland Prison escapes and to his announcement of the provision of new weapons for prison officers—

- (1) Is the decision on new armoured vehicles contrary to the recommendations of the Mengler Report?

- (2) On what basis was that decision made?
- (3) What weapons are attached to, or will be carried in or on the new hummer armoured vehicles?
- (4) What range will those weapons have?
- (5) What potential dangers exist for neighbouring residents by the use of these new weapons?
- (6) What precautions will be put into place to protect residents from these potential dangers?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98):

(1) No, the provision of additional armoured perimeter vehicles was canvassed in the Mengler report. However there was no recommendation against such vehicles. What Mr Mengler recommended was in fact that careful consideration be given by the Commission prior to committing to the purchase of additional or upgraded armoured vehicles. In response to this incident the Commission considered a range of options and views including the observations of Mr Mengler and made a balanced decision to approve the procurement of additional armoured vehicles. As we now know this escape was not an isolated incident and the decision of the Commission has been justified as an armed assault on a correctional centre was replicated shortly after at the Borallon Correctional Centre.

(2) The purpose in providing armoured vehicles of this type is to preserve the life and safety of those officers responsible for patrolling correctional centre perimeters. In the light of two separate armed attacks on correctional centre perimeters it must now be recognised that there is a responsibility to provide a fit for purpose vehicle to conduct perimeter patrols.

(3) In the interests of public safety I do not think it advisable to go into detail with regard to the type or range of weapons which will be provided in or on the armoured perimeter vehicles. The element of surprise has been in the favour of the criminal element up to now and I am advised that additional information would not be in the best interests of security.

(4) I am prepared to make those details available to the Honourable Member if there is a justifiable reason to do so and the question is asked out of more than curiosity.

(5) The advice of the specialist areas of the Queensland Police Service has been sought by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission in determining the most suitable weapons for use at correctional centres. The final choice of weapons will take into consideration all the relevant factors with respect to the surrounding locations of the correctional centres.

(6) My Government has supported the formation of a specialised Proactive Support Group which will comprise a highly trained body of staff that can contribute to the maintenance of security and the integrity of the correctional system through the provision of a strong audit function which will support Centre management through the delivery of specialised training to operational staff at correctional centres. Only properly trained and appropriately qualified staff will be authorised to perform duties involving weapons at correctional centres.

96. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Cardiac Unit

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (5/3/98)—

With reference to often repeated promises to establish a cardiac unit at Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital which he said would be operational by mid 1997—

- (1) How many of each of these procedures for open-heart surgery, diagnostic catheterisation, coronary angioplasty and electrophysiology and pacemaker procedures have been performed in this new unit?
- (2) What was the final cost of the unit?
- (3) Has the unit operated within budget; if not, what was the amount of the over-run?
- (4) What was the full salary package, allowances and conditions offered to the incoming director of the unit and how does this differ from packages offered to other senior medical staff?
- (5) What is the current staffing profile of the unit?

Mr Horan (3/4/98):

(1) The Unit will open shortly, the delay has been mainly due to immigration arrangements for the new director.

(2) Until the Unit is opened, no final costing is available.

(3) See (1) and (2) above.

(4) The Director is expected to take up duty on or about 12 May 1998. His salary package will be in accordance with the Senior Medical and Resident Medical Officers' Award.

(5) It is anticipated that the staffing profile of the Unit will comprise a Director, two Visiting Medical Specialists (2 sessions/week), Registrar and RMO. Full time Anaesthetist (Director), two Visiting Medical Officers and a Registrar. Nursing staff will be provided for Cardiac Theatre, ICU and Ward.

97. Tourism, Small Business and Industry Department, Industry Support

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (5/3/98)—

- (1) Why has his department abandoned its "industry wide" focus in its activities, eg scrapping the food processing project?
- (2) Does he believe that such projects have no benefit for Queensland?

Mr Davidson (6/4/98): (1 & 2) The Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry continues to provide focused, strategic support to a range of industry sectors including the food manufacturing sector through its regional Business Centre network.

98. Telesystems; School Computer Software

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (5/3/98)—

With reference to the approval given by his Director-General, Frank Peach, to expend \$185,326 on software provided by computer company Telesystems two months after that company arranged for Mr Peach to attend a conference in San Francisco—

- (1) Will he guarantee that the State purchasing policy was fully complied with in relation to this transaction?
- (2) Were tenders called for the software package to be piloted in Queensland schools; if so, how many companies responded?
- (3) If tenders were not called, was approval given to exempt the transaction from the State purchasing policy and who gave that approval?
- (4) What processes were used to seek and/or evaluate alternative suppliers for this type of education software so that an exemption could be sought and who conducted the evaluation?
- (5) Can no purchasing order be located in respect of this transaction; if not, at what point was the approval given to fund the transaction?
- (6) Has he given any direction to the Director-General in relation to dealing with this company at any stage in the past?
- (7) Does he as Minister still have confidence in the Director-General of Education?

Mr Quinn (20/4/98):

The Opposition frequently seeks to claim the high moral ground on issues of natural justice, so I find it astonishing that the honourable member would ask these questions after making his unsubstantiated allegations of corruption under the protection of parliamentary privilege.

It is a matter of public record that ever since this government announced its Leading Schools program last year, the Director-General has been subjected to sustained personal (and in some cases, quite improper) attacks by yourself and other senior members of your party.

I am at a loss to understand this vitriolic treatment, given his excellent record under governments of both political persuasions. The honourable member would hardly need to be reminded that Mr Peach was appointed to his present position by a Labor Government, and deservedly so.

The honourable member would also be more aware than most that past allegations have been referred to independent investigating authorities such as the Criminal Justice Commission and the Office of the Public Service, with no adverse findings.

In the past, I have given no credence to persistent rumours that the Queensland Teachers' Union has sought an undertaking of reprisals against the Director-General and other senior officers of Education Queensland in the event that there is a change of government. Now, I am not so sure.

I note that you have offered no information which would support your allegation of corruption. My inquiries on your behalf have been met with departmental assurances, independent of Mr Peach, that there is absolutely no basis or justification for such a serious and defamatory charge.

In response to your specific questions, I understand that it was the late Mr Max Sawatski who arranged for Mr Peach to be invited to the conference in San Francisco, not Telesystems. I am further advised that:

- (1) The State Purchasing Policy was complied with in relation to this transaction.
- (2) Tenders were not called for the software package as it was a sole supplier arrangement.
- (3) On the recommendation of the former Deputy Director-General (Corporate Services), the Director-General approved the purchase as a sole supplier arrangement.
- (4) The assessment of whether this purchase constituted a sole supplier arrangement was conducted by the former Deputy Director-General (Corporate Services) and was based on experience in the purchase of computer assisted learning systems for pilot in schools in the then Peninsula Region and an evaluation of computer assisted learning systems conducted elsewhere.
- (5) No purchase order was generated in respect of this transaction. Approval was given prior to payment of the initial invoice.
- (6) No.
- (7) Yes.

99. Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (5/3/98)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No 1472 dated 6 November 1997—

If he cannot provide me with the document I asked for in the format to which I referred, would he kindly provide me with the documents to which he referred in the format in which he can provide them?

Mr Veivers (6/4/98): The Ambulance Integrated Management System (AIMS) is collating a range of response and activity statistics for the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) which will enable it to monitor and improve response capability to various demands for service.

The information relative to response times is collated for critical examination on an annual basis. The QAS has found that monthly analysis lends itself to misleading indicators as data is subject to a number of variable factors that average out over the collection period. Complete data collation is two months in arrears.

The QAS publishes the data in the Annual Report as a composite of both metropolitan and rural responses.

The response indicators currently used by QAS are based on the British ORCON Standards and are:

50% of metropolitan code 1 cases responded to within 7 minutes

95% of metropolitan code 1 cases responded to within 14 minutes

50% of rural code 1 cases responded to within 8 minutes

95% of rural code 1 cases responded to within 18 minutes

Ambulance Service Melbourne currently aims for:
 50% of code 1 cases responded to within 10 minutes
 90% of code 1 cases responded to within 16 minutes

The QAS is cooperating with other Australian Ambulance Authorities to determine a national standard for response times.

The QAS continues to monitor its response to demands for service by gathering a range of statistical data that will assist it in determining staffing levels and locations, vehicle types and numbers and service locations.

100. Acacia Ridge Police Station

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (5/3/98)—

When will he take action to bring the actual number of uniformed police at Acacia Ridge up to establishment to enable prompt attention to complaints such as those occurring at night and weekends and also to follow up on the number of invasions of residential garden sheds and industrial premises?

Mr Cooper (2/4/98): As at 11 March 1998 Acacia Ridge Police Station had the following staff levels:

Authorised strength—26

Vacancies—4

Actual strength—22

Three First Year Constables, who are surplus to the above staff numbers, are also allocated to the Station. Because of staff absences arising from leave, transfers and training courses, there will always be some fluctuation in staffing levels at such establishments. However, every effort is made to keep staffing numbers at Acacia Ridge Station as near as possible to full strength and action is being taken to fill the four current vacancies.

101. Redcliffe Hospital, Intensive Care Unit

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Health (17/3/98)—

With reference to the development of the Redcliffe Hospital—

- (1) What is the completion date for the Intensive Care Unit presently under construction?
- (2) What is the estimated completion date for the full redevelopment?

Mr Horan (15/4/98):

(1) Construction to be completed 10 June 1998; commissioning completed 17 June 1998.

(2) Construction work completed by 3 September 1999; commissioning completed by 17 September 1999.

102. Maryborough TAFE Institute

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (17/3/98)—

- (1) As the marketing department of Maryborough TAFE has been transferred to Hervey Bay without one word of consultation with the TAFE Community Council, will he confirm or deny reports that the total management of Maryborough TAFE College is under consideration for transfer to Hervey Bay as well?
- (2) Will he consult with the council regarding any further proposed transfers of management or will he continue to use them as a rubber stamp as in the past?

Mr Santoro (2/4/98): I refer the honourable member to my answer to Question on Notice No. 68.

(1) There have been no discussions and there are no plans relating to the transfer of the total management of Maryborough TAFE College to Hervey Bay.

(2) As Minister, it would be improper for me to propose any transfers of personnel or functions. Such operational issues are the responsibility of senior Institute and Departmental managers.

I would expect these managers to consult Institute and College Councils if such a change were being contemplated, but I reject the honourable member's slight on the valuable role played by Institute and College Councils when he suggests that they are treated as rubber stamps.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**103. Bundaberg Railway Station**

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (17/3/98)—

With reference to my question to him in October 1996 regarding the proposed upgrading of the Bundaberg station and as it was estimated the upgrade would cost \$1.2m to be spent over 2 years—

- (1) Will he urgently commence this upgrading of the Bundaberg Railway Station so that the renovations are completed before the introduction of the tilt train?
- (2) When will tenders be called for this project and work commence?

Mr JOHNSON (16/4/98):

(1) Queensland Rail has developed a scope of works for improvements to Bundaberg station to accommodate the introduction of the tilt train in 1998.

The following scope of works has been developed to identify the funding required—

- Raise the entire platform
- New public toilets including disabled toilet facility
- Upgrade station entrance and landscaping
- Improvement to station building interior
- Stabling and secure area for the Tilt Train

Representatives from Queensland Rail will conduct community consultation meetings in early 1998 to gain input and issues regarding the introduction of the tilt train service and the upgrade of stations.

(2) Tenders will be called as soon as funding has been confirmed and work will be completed prior to the commissioning of the tilt train.

104. Mount Gravatt Police Station

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (17/3/98)—

With reference to police officer staffing levels at the Mt Gravatt Police Station—

- (1) What are the police units that are currently located at this station and what are their current staffing levels?
- (2) What is the current uniformed police establishment at Mt Gravatt and what has been the establishment at 30 June for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997?
- (3) What is the current uniformed police strength for each shift at the Mt Gravatt Police Station and how does it compare with the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 at 30 June?
- (4) Since July 1997, how many shifts at the Mt Gravatt Police Station were below the recommended strength and what are the details?
- (5) How many offences against the person and offences against property were recorded for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 for each of the following suburbs—Sunnybank, Eight Mile Plains, Runcorn, Kuraby, Sunnybank Hills, Calamvale, Stretton and Underwood?

Mr Cooper (11/5/98):

(1) The following police establishments are located at the Mt Gravatt Police Complex:

- Station—Current Staffing level
- South Brisbane District Office—6
- South Brisbane District Brief Manager—1
- South Brisbane District Inquiry Office—16
- South Brisbane District CIB—15
- South Brisbane District Community Liaison Office—1
- South Brisbane District Crime Manager—1
- South Brisbane District Training Office—4
- South Brisbane District Intelligence Office—2
- South Brisbane District JAB—9
- South Brisbane District Scenes of Crime—6
- South Brisbane District Traffic Branch—27
- Upper Mt Gravatt Police Station—46

(2) Staffing levels for uniformed police officers at Upper Mt Gravatt Police Station are:

- 30 June 1995—42
- 30 June 1996—42
- 30 June 1997—43
- 31 March 1998—46

(3) Numerous issues/conditions affect the rostering of police officers on shifts and, as such, it is the responsibility of the Officer in Charge to roster according to the needs of their police station. These issues include the actual time and location of criminal activity, community policing programs, police involvement in both government and community committees, leave taken by officers, courses undertaken by officers, transfers, and secondments to other establishments.

The Upper Mt Gravatt Police Station has staff rostered on a 24 hour basis, with police officers both at the Station and on patrol. There is no requirement to have a set number of police officers on duty on any particular shift, however all Officers in Charge of police stations within the Metropolitan South Region, must roster sufficient staff on duty to provide a timely and effective police response to all calls for assistance.

With the abovementioned increase in staffing levels at the Upper Mt Gravatt Police Station, more staff would be rostered throughout the day to ensure an adequate police presence within the Upper Mt Gravatt Police Division.

(4) As stated above, there is no set number of officers required to be rostered for any shifts, however sufficient staff must be rostered to provide a timely and effective police response to all calls for assistance.

However, on occasions when rostered police officers can not attend to their duties, officers from other police stations assist in providing an adequate police presence within the Upper Mt Gravatt Police Division. These situations occur due to illness or other urgent matters that may require the removal of an officer from patrol duties.

(5) The following tables indicate the number of offences against the person and offences against property (excluding motor vehicles) recorded for the years 1995, 1996, and 1997 for the nominated suburbs:

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON

Suburb	1995	1996	1997
Sunnybank	79	97	86
S'Bank Hills	30	51	47
Eight Mile Pl	30	33	46
Runcorn	22	35	44
Kuraby	8	11	10
Calamvale	29	40	34
Stretton	2	2	2
Underwood	25	36	29

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY (excluding motor vehicles)

Suburb	1995	1996	1997
Sunnybank	374	505	463
S'Bank Hills	382	504	487
Eight Mile Pl	284	377	426
Runcorn	325	340	376
Kuraby	93	122	100
Calamvale	201	261	308
Stretton	26	65	62
Underwood	259	300	260

105. Korean Space Base Consortium

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (17/3/98)—

With reference to the loss to Queensland of the Korean Spacebase consortium who were looking at Weipa on Cape York as a possible launch site—

- (1) What level of support did he and his department give this consortium to ensure this facility was located in Queensland and why did they leave?
- (2) Is he aware that this firm has now selected the Australian Territory of Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean as their new launch site?
- (3) Is he aware that two Federal Government Departments, that is Territories and Industry, Science and Tourism are readily assisting the consortiums' move to Christmas Island?
- (4) Is he aware that the Federal Ministers responsible for these two departments are both Queensland based, being Alex Somlyay and John Moore respectively?
- (5) How does he counter the charge that Queensland has lost a major industry initiative to a collection of Canberra based bureaucrats and politicians?

Mr BORBIDGE (16/4/98):

1. In an effort to ensure that potential regional development projects such as the Asia Pacific Space Centre (APSC) are realised, my Government awarded Major Project designation to the project. Such a designation places a project amongst the State's most important and ensures that the proponent receives all the necessary Government attention within the shortest possible time frame.

2. Yes.

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

5. The decision for APSC to move the site for a Spacebase from Cape York to Christmas Island has

been a commercial decision based on the requirements of key technology holders, native title uncertainty and the difficulties of identifying safe trajectory for polar orbit launches over Papua New Guinea. In this instance, commercial concerns have led to APSC choosing a site that is more suited to the rocket type that it proposed to use.

106. Ipswich Rail Technology Centre

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Rail Technology Centre development at North Ipswich—

- (1) What is the anticipated cost of this project?
- (2) What is Queensland Rail's contribution to this overall cost?
- (3) What sum has been allocated to the project by the Queensland Government from its Budget?

Mr JOHNSON (16/4/98):

(1) In accordance with the Master Plan prepared for the development of the Ipswich Rail Technology Centre, the anticipated development cost for this project is \$26m over three years.

(2) Queensland Rail's anticipated contribution to the overall cost is \$4.1m over three years.

(3) Funding of the project is currently being considered by the Government through the Queensland Committee—Centenary of Federation.

107. Pumicestone Passage, Commercial Fishing

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (17/3/98)—

With reference to media comments by the National Party candidate for the seat of Caboolture, when discussing fishing issues, that there are legitimate recreational and commercial uses for Pumicestone Passage—

Will he categorically rule out any resumption of commercial fishing in Pumicestone Passage?

Mr ROWELL (16/4/98): Pumicestone Passage, the sheltered waterway between Bribie Island and the mainland, north of Brisbane including associated tidal creeks is closed to all commercial fishing. This closure is established under the provisions of the Fisheries Regulation 1995 (section 16(1) and 17(1) and Schedule 2, part 18).

I have no intention of recommending that this regulation be amended or rescinded.

Some clarification has been sought in relation to the Marine Park Zones which were recently established in Pumicestone Passage as part of the Moreton Bay Marine Park.

I give an assurance that it was not intended that commercial fishing should resume in Pumicestone Passage as part of the new Marine Park Zoning arrangements.

108. Emergency Services and Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr VEIVERS (16/4/98):

- (1) The total cost of advertising and promotion activities for the period 1 July 1997 to 1 March 1998 is as follows:

Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—\$9,635
 Queensland Ambulance Service—\$512,348
 Office of Sport and Recreation—\$162,545
 Emergency Services Division—\$114,000
 Corporate Services—Nil
 TOTAL—\$798,528

- (2) All advertising and promotion expenditure for this period is directly related to departmental initiatives.

- (3) The advertising and promotion expenditure comprises:

Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—Fire Awareness Week

Queensland Ambulance Service—Subscription television campaign; QAS Regional centres (based in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Caloundra, Brisbane, Toowoomba, and Beenleigh spent also on local advertising, publicity, public relations and direct mail campaigns designed to achieve regional subscription revenue targets.

Office of Sport and Recreation—Royal National Association project; INFORM Magazine; Grants Schemes; Internet site; Pre-Olympic training; Outdoor Recreation Centres; Export Directory

Emergency Services Division—Annual storm surge and tropical cyclone public awareness campaign; Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) annual conference; Launch of older Queenslanders storm preparedness brochure; SES Week launch; LGAQ Protocol launch; Surf Life Saving Queensland and Department of Emergency Services Protocol launch; Production of the Emergency Services Division corporate video; Promotion campaign for SES cadets; Production of a corporate video for Aviation Services

- (4) Expenditure for the remainder of the year is expected to be:

Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—Nil
 Queensland Ambulance Service—\$415,102
 Office of Sport and Recreation—\$160,742
 Emergency Services Division—\$14,000
 Corporate Services—Nil
 TOTAL—\$589,844.

109. Non-State School Status

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (17/3/98)—

- (1) Since the Government took office, how many applications for new non-State School Status have been submitted and of these, how many have gained non-State School Status and how many have failed to gain non-State School Status?
- (2) Will he list the applications which have failed to gain non-State School Status?
- (3) When did the document titled "Queensland Non-State Schools Planning Assessment of Individual Applications" become operative and under what executive head of power?
- (4) When was the form titled "Planning Information for Proposed Non-State Schools" first issued, and under what authority?

Mr QUINN (15/4/98):

- (1) Twenty-five applications for new non-state school status have been received since February 1996.

Of these, fifteen have been approved, three have not been approved and seven are presently being assessed.

It is possible that some additional applications have been received in regional offices but withdrawn by the proponent prior to assessment and recommendation.

It should be noted that state policy in relation to planning approval has been established to replace the Commonwealth Government's New Schools Policy which was abolished from January 1997. Planning approval is a precondition for non-state school status.

- (2) Keppel Christian College (Yeppoon); Christian Academy of Life (Laidley); Kimberley College (Mount Cotton)

In addition, Camelot College (Ormeau) and Logan West Christian College (Park Ridge) did not gain planning approval. (Camelot College has an appeal under consideration). These schools did not formally proceed to the second stage of submitting an application for non-state school status.

- (3) The document "Queensland Non-State Schools Planning Assessment of Individual Applications" was approved by the Minister for Education on 26 September 1997.

- (4) Following the announced abolition of the Commonwealth New Schools Policy, the Minister for Education approved on 19 December 1996 the development of policy and processes for managing the development of non-state schools in Queensland and that interim arrangements would apply until policy was developed.

The form "Planning Information for Proposed Non-State Schools" was developed in response to these

ministerial approvals. The form was first sent to proponents for new non-state schools on 8 April 1997.

110. Local Government and Planning Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has her department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by her department in 1997-98?

Mrs McCAULEY (16/4/98): The honourable member will recall that in my response to his Question on Notice No. 1460 of 26 November 1997, I provided him with information on the matters which are the subject of the current question. The information I supplied in response to Question on Notice No. 1460 related to the period 1 July 1997 to 30 November 1997 inclusive. Accordingly, my response to the current question will relate only to the period 1 December 1997 to 1 March 1998.

1. The total cost of campaign advertising for the period 1 December 1997 to 1 March 1998 is \$22,910.
2. All campaign advertising expenditure for this period is directly related to departmental initiatives.
3. The campaign advertising expenditure comprises:-

Promotion or Campaign—Expenditure	
Regional Planning Projects	
Regional Growth Management Framework for the Wide Bay 2020 Project—\$17,637	
SEQ 2001 Newsletter—\$3,000	
Publicise new Web Site for SEQ 2001—1,470	
Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP)—803	
TOTAL—22,910	
4. \$168,106 of the 1997/98 allocation for advertising and promotion activities is available for the remainder of this financial year.

111. Economic Development and Trade Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr SLACK (14/4/98):

- (1) The total cost of campaign advertising, including media, service fees and production charges for the period 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998 is \$58,897.
- (2) The money incurred on campaign advertising during this period was for departmental initiatives that were not coordinated by the Premier's department.
- (3) The campaign advertising expenditure comprises:

Trade Promotion—\$7,412
Business Promotion—\$30,347
Regional Headquarters Attraction—\$21,138
- (4) The Department's advertising budget is contained within the category "other administrative expenses" and is therefore not readily identifiable particularly as it represents minor expenditure.

Other administrative expenses include costs such as production/promotions, venue/equipment hire, postage, freight, cartage, professional memberships, external agency computer charges, workers' compensation payments, advertising and other miscellaneous expenses.

112. Queensland Health, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Health (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr HORAN (15/4/98):

- (1) There is no set advertising budget for the Department of Health. Advertising expenditure is related to programs (for example health promotion programs) which then determine the amount of funding allocated to promotion as opposed to other requirements eg. research and training programs. The funding allocation for Advertising and promotion will dealt with in the Annual Report.

(2) The matter of expenditure on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department should be directed to the Honourable the Premier.

See (1) above for the outlay on Departmental initiatives.

(3) The following amounts have been identified as expenditure this financial year to 1 March 1998 on advertising for particular campaigns:

Illicit Drugs/Dance Parties—\$16,066.00
Drink Smart—\$1,795.00
100% IN CONTROL—\$93,590.00
Food Safety—\$231,868.00
Injury (Scalds)—\$238,000.00
Water Safety—\$68,960.00
Immunisation (including Mackay Shop a Docket)—\$9,186.00
Disease Outbreak Management
Meningococcal Disease—\$511.00
Measles—\$50,312.41
Breast Cancer Screening—\$104,281.00
Cervical Cancer Screening—\$6,644.00
CAPITAL WORKS—\$23,630.56

OTHER

Classified advertising (for example recruitment and capital works tenders) is not included in this response due to the generic nature of this advertising (ie these are advertising costs borne by all government departments).

(4) 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 will be dealt with in the annual report for 1997/98.

113. Public Works and Housing Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Dr WATSON (16/4/98):

(1) The total departmental cost of advertising and promotion, including media and service fees, for the period 1 July 1997 to 1 March 1998 is \$26,689.

(2) All advertising and promotion expenditure for this period is directly related to departmental initiatives.

(3) The advertising and promotion expenditure comprises the following:

Advertising and Promotion Expenditure 1 July 1997-1 March 1998

Project	Gross Media	Service Fee	Total
Corporate	523		523
Leichhardt Village	4,862	486	5,348
Property Assets Group (PAG)	5,385	486	5,871
Canberra Launch SAP *	-2,503	-187	-2,690
Corporate	2,625	196	2,821
Public Access System	18,154	1,361	19,515
CITEC	18,276	1,370	19,646
Corporate	1,172		1,172
GOPRINT	1,172		1,172
TOTAL	24,833	1,856	26,689

* The Canberra Launch SAP was held last financial year, CITEC were invoiced a credit this financial year for expenditure in the previous financial year, resulting in minus figures for 1 July 1997 to 1 March 1998.

(4) The anticipated expenditure for the remainder of the financial year will be \$61,000.

114. Treasury Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr HAYWARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has her department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by her department in 1997-98?

Mrs SHELDON (16/4/98):

(1) The total cost of campaign advertising, including media and service fees, for the period 1 July 1997 to 1 March 1998 is \$1,302.

(2) All campaign advertising expenditure for this period is directly related to departmental initiatives.

(3) The campaign advertising expenditure comprises one advertisement only, involving advertising in the Cairns region for women to attend a Women 2000 Jobs for Women Info Expo, a service of the Office of Women's Affairs.

(4) No specific allocation has been made for campaign advertising for the remainder of the year.

115. Justice Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr De LACY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr Beanland (16/4/98):

- (1) Nil. However, \$347,499 was spent on educational campaigns.
- (2) No campaign was coordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. However, the Department of Premier and Cabinet contributed \$100,000 (\$347,499 is net of this amount) to the educational campaign to highlight changes to laws relating to the Criminal Justice System.
- (3) The educational campaign highlighting changes to the Criminal Justice System accounted for the total amount spent.
- (4) No moneys have been allocated for advertising and promotional activities. However, \$137,000 remains for educational campaigns.

116. Environment Advertising and Department, Promotional Budget

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr Littleproud (14/4/98): There is no specific department-wide budget allocation for advertising and promotion as these functions are costed into program and sub-program budgets according to project requirements. Cost of advertising to be met by the Department from 1 July 1997 to 28 February 1998 was \$102,134.50. Of this \$629.50 was for environmental

licence fees, \$1505 for Coastcare and \$100,000 for a highly regarded and successful National Parks campaign coordinated by Premier's Department.

117. Gogango State School

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Education (17/3/98)—

With reference to community concern and uncertainty emanating from reports that the coalition, if returned to Government at the forthcoming State election, will move to implement policy that will result in the closure of the Gogango State School, located west of Rockhampton on the Capricorn Highway—

Is it the intention of a re-elected coalition Government to close the Gogango State School?

Mr QUINN (15/4/98): There are no immediate plans to implement school closures within the Rockhampton or Fitzroy local authority areas.

However, I would remind the Honourable Member that the Department of Education, regardless of which political party is in government, is directed by Treasury to apply service standards in an objective way across the state. These standards seek to match present school space supply with future demand (over a fifteen-year period). In this way, areas of oversupply and undersupply are identified. Neither this identification process nor the service standards that drive it would change with the nature of the government.

The honourable member would also be aware that, when in government, the Labor Party closed schools and removed a significant number of services from rural and regional Queensland.

118. Cape York and Torres Strait Islands, Health Services

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Health Annual Report for 1996-97, p.15, under the last dot point where it states "Health services in remote Cape York and Torres Strait Islander communities gained access to email, telemedicine and electronic health training with the beginning of a \$1.5m telecommunications expansion to those areas and as several communities have indicated that this is new to them and to the next dot point p.16 which states that "Strategic Health Plans" have been developed for these communities—

- (1) Which Cape York communities have so far received access to these services and have any Torres Strait island communities also be given access?
- (2) Which communities were involved in developing these strategic plans and which have received copies of their respective plan?

Mr HORAN (15/4/98):

- (1) As of 22 March, 1998 the following communities have been connected to email:

Cape York, Torres Strait, Weipa, Thursday Island, Bamaga

Telstra is currently unable to provide a data service to meet Queensland Health's application requirements in other communities. However, under an information Queensland joint initiative between Queensland Health, Education Queensland and Queensland Treasury, it is planned to connect a further seven communities in Cape York and 22 communities in the Torres Strait.

The Cairns Rural Health Training Unit has developed a number of audiographic in service training packages for health workers throughout Queensland including Cape York and the Torres Strait. Packages developed include, Induction and Orientation; Diabetes Education; Women's Health; Clinical Assessments and basic First Aid. The following Cape York Communities have access to electronic health training: Mapoon, Weipa, Lockhart, Kowanyama, Coen and Pormpuraaw.

Currently Weipa Hospital (Cape York) and Thursday Island Hospital (Torres Strait) have access to telemedicine. Queensland health is looking at opportunities to expand telemedicine to other remote indigenous communities under the Information Queensland initiative.

(2) An initial major strategic planning workshop for the now Cape York District Health Service took place on 5-6 September 1996. Representatives from the following communities participated: Weipa, Napranum, Mapoon, Lockhart River, Kowanyama, Aurukun and Pormpuraaw. The Cape York District Health Service is presently reviewing and updating the original plan.

119. Capricornia Declaration; Dawson and Comet River Dams

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (17/3/98)—

With reference to the answer he gave at the public meeting he called in Rockhampton on 16 March regarding the Capricornia declaration—

- (1) Does he agree that the five tasks raised in the declaration are reasonable and necessary and should be completed before any decision to build super-dams on the Dawson and Comet Rivers?
- (2) Will he provide a copy of the written response he intends to make to the declaration to all media outlets in Central Queensland?

Mr SPRINGBORG (15/4/98):

1. The Capricornia Declaration calls for the Government to delay planning, design and approval for the Dawson and Comet dams until such time as five distinct planning tasks have been completed.

The first four of the tasks listed are generally consistent with those carried out by my Department of Natural Resources in the normal course of investigations for projects of this type and are considered to be both reasonable and necessary.

In contrast to the conduct of these exhaustive investigative processes, the previous Labor Government flagged both the Nathan and Comet Dam proposals in the "Leading State" document in April 1995, without reference to such comprehensive investigations. Labor made absolutely no

commitment, for example, to any Water Allocation and Management Planning (WAMP) process.

Labor's "Leading State" document stated in its 'Building Blocks for Growth' section (pp42): "This dam (Nathan) will underpin the expansion of extractive industries and irrigated crop production at a cost of \$180 million". Labor's cost estimates for the dam were \$60 million more than the \$120 million proposed by the Coalition.

Labor's "Leading State" document for growth further stated: "The availability of a high quality and reliable supply of water is an essential ingredient for the continued economic development of the State. Clearly essential for towns and cities, water is equally vital to the sustainability of industry, particularly in remote areas".

The Government is satisfied that sufficient studies have been carried out to demonstrate that there are no impacts of such a magnitude that would prevent the dam from going ahead, and that any impacts are manageable.

Further studies to enable my Department to have in place mechanisms for the management of any downstream impacts will be conducted as part of the WAMP process and as part of the development of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the project.

For the Comet Dam proposal, studies to date have proceeded within the same framework, but no decisions have yet been made.

The fifth task dealing with the financial arrangements for the proposed dams will be the subject of a separate decision-making process following consideration by Government of proposals for development of the dam by a preferred private sector developer.

2. My written response to the Capricornia Declaration will be provided to all media outlets in Central Queensland. A copy of the response is attached.

120. Lawnton West State School Site

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Natural Resources (17/3/98)—

With reference to the proposed sale of the Lawnton West State School site and the Pine Rivers Shire Council's offer to purchase this site, in recognition of its environmental significance—

- (1) Has the offer made by the Pine Rivers Shire Council been accepted; if not, what are the reasons for its rejection?
- (2) Is he willing to meet with the council to discuss and reach agreement on the terms on which the council can acquire this site?
- (3) What is the current assessed market value of the land?
- (4) Are there presently any leases or agistments over this land?

Mr SPRINGBORG (9/4/98):

1. The offer made by the Pine Rivers Shire Council has not been accepted by the owner of the land, being the Department of Education. The Department of Education did not accept the offer as Government

Land Management System principles dictate that the sale of surplus government property must be at current market value. Council's offer fell well short of that figure.

2. The Lawnton West State School site is not a property which is under the direct control of my Department of Natural Resources.
3. The current assessed market value of the land is \$760,000.00.
4. There are presently no leases or agistments over this land.

121. Heavy Vehicles, Parking in Residential Streets

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (17/3/98)—

- (1) At the present time has the State no power to regulate the parking of heavy and lengthy vehicles in residential streets?
- (2) Is this power now vested in local authorities?
- (3) In 1997 did the Brisbane City Council submit a proposed local law precluding heavy vehicles from parking in residential streets; if so, why has such local law not come into force?
- (4) If local authorities fail to exercise legislative responsibility in this area, will the State Government step in to legislate?
- (5) Is the National Road Rules reform project considering a recommendation to ban all vehicles of more than 7.5 metres in length and in excess of 4.5 tonnes from built up areas?
- (6) Will the Government be adopting such a proposal or a similar proposal in order to deal with the unsightly and noisy problem of heavy vehicles being parked in residential streets?

Mr JOHNSON (16/4/98):

1. Local authorities have, since 1965, had the power to regulate the parking of all vehicles by time and for safety purposes under the provisions of the Traffic Act. The issue is predominantly one of residential amenity, and given that local governments look after all other amenity issues such as noise, visual pollution and land use under provisions of the Local Government Act, it was both reasonable and desirable to clarify the powers of local government to regulate the parking of heavy vehicles. This was done in 1994 in conjunction with a number of other changes. A section of the Traffic Regulation which related to the parking of heavy vehicles by time was removed as it conflicted with the powers of local governments to regulate parking by time.

A further amendment in 1997 provided for local governments to be able to add to parking by time parking restriction signs at the boundaries of local traffic areas to indicate vehicles which may or must be parked in the area. However the fundamental issue is one of maintaining residential amenity and the provisions of the Local Government Act are better suited to local laws about residential amenity.

2. As mentioned in the answer to the preceding question, the power has been available to local government since 1965.

3. The South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils (SEQROC), which includes Brisbane City Council, submitted a draft model local law on Heavy Vehicle Parking to my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Local Government and Planning for consideration in October 1997. The draft was reviewed by a number of state agencies, and their comments were provided to SEQROC in December 1997. The Minister invited individual local governments to prepare draft local laws for consideration.

To date Brisbane City Council have not submitted a draft local law on heavy vehicle parking, and hence nothing has been put into place in that jurisdiction.

4. Given the clarification of the available power to local authorities and the fact that, as I have stated, the issue is primarily one of residential amenity, the State Government will not step in to legislate if it is believed that local governments have not exercised their responsibilities in this area.

However Queensland Transport has demonstrated a willingness to assist local governments who wish to develop and enact local laws. In particular, officers from Queensland Transport have been working closely with a special subcommittee of Ipswich City Council for several months to develop a comprehensive local law on heavy vehicle parking. As I understand it, the draft is soon to be submitted to the full Council for a vote.

I am of the view that this is an appropriate role for the State Government in this issue.

5. The Draft Australian Road Rules dated November 1996 contain provision to restrict the parking of heavy vehicles in built up areas to 1 hour for vehicles more than 7.5 metres long or with a Gross Vehicle Mass of more than 4.5 tonnes. However such a provision will not be adopted in Queensland as the regulation of parking is a local government function.

6. If such a proposal is included in the final Australian Road Rules package, Queensland would ensure that provision was made in the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 for local governments to continue to manage local traffic issues including heavy vehicle parking, as we believe that this is the most appropriate means by which to deal with the issue.

Local governments, as far as possible, need to have control over local issues. The parking of heavy vehicles in residential areas, as with other parking issues, is one which lies within the responsibilities of local government. The State Government has worked closely with local governments over a period of time to ensure that the appropriate powers and responsibilities are established at the local government level.

122. Challinor Centre, Relocation of Residents

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (17/3/98)—

With reference to the contract awarded to JJB/Quantum Management Pty Ltd to design, construct and operate a residential facility in the

Logan area for people relocating from the Challinor Centre—

- (1) What progress, if any, has been made to identify a suitable site for this facility?
- (2) If a site has been identified, what is the address of this site?
- (3) If no suitable site has been identified, when does she anticipate a site being identified?
- (4) If no site has been identified, when does she anticipate this centre being completed and ready for people to move in?
- (5) If the centre is not complete upon the handover of Challinor to the University of Queensland, what temporary accommodation will be provided to those residents waiting to move into the centre?
- (6) What measures will be put in place to ensure that an effective consultation process is implemented to avoid the residents of Logan being treated with the same contempt as the residents of Chuwar?

Mrs WILSON (16/4/98): I am advised that—

- (1) Refer to answer (6).
- (2) Refer to answer (6).
- (3) Refer to answer (6).
- (4) Refer to answer (6).
- (5) Negotiations are currently under way with the University of Queensland to clarify what options exist for the continuing occupation of the Challinor Centre site by a small number of the existing residents beyond the current deadline for relocation of 30 June, 1998. I have every confidence that a suitable arrangement can be reached with the University of Queensland. I am very concerned to ensure that the people with intellectual disabilities and their families are not subjected to any unnecessary stress through having to move to interim accommodation.
- (6) The consultation process for major works of this nature are currently under review, and a full and sensitive consultation process will be undertaken before any building work proceeds in the Logan area.

123. Mackay Region, Respite Services

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (17/3/98)—

With reference to the urgent need for new respite and other support services for people with a disability in the Mackay region—

- (1) What action has been taken to secure respite services including funds allocated, construction time frames and tender processes?
- (2) What proportion of the funds allocated to unmet needs in the mid-year budget review will be allocated to individuals and families in Mackay and surrounding regions?
- (3) When and how will the availability of these funds be publicised and what assessment process will be used to distribute them?

Mrs WILSON (16/4/98): I am advised that—

(1) Respite services have been targeted as a major component of the use of funds provided in the Mid Year Budget Review to address unmet need in disability services. In the Mackay area, it is anticipated that 12 people will be provided with respite services. As the funding is for the enhancement of existing services, no specific new respite facilities are being funded. Hence, construction time frames and tender processes are not relevant.

(2) Of the Mid Year Budget Review funds of \$2.5m to address unmet needs, the exact proportion allocated to provide services to people with disabilities and their families in Mackay and surrounding areas is not finalised at this stage. The allocations include \$90,000 for the establishment of a new accommodation support residence and provision for operating costs of \$200,000 annually, as well as funds for respite services for 12 people. The level of respite funds for individuals will depend upon individual needs and the equitable distribution of funds to address needs throughout the Central Queensland region.

(3) In relation to the provision of these Services, Organisations are required to submit a detailed expression of interest and address a number of selection criteria.

In relation to the additional respite places, departmental officers will meet with the 12 people recommended and their families/carers to discuss their respite needs. The people concerned and their families/carers will be consulted about the choice of their preferred service on which service provider they wish to have respite provided by. The nominated organisation will be invited to submit an application on behalf of the client.

124. Mackay Taxi Holdings

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (17/3/98)—

With reference to statements by himself in the Daily Mercury of 14 February that the five year contract to Mackay Taxi Holdings "was part of reforming public transport", and comments by National Party candidate for Whitsunday that Mackay Taxi Holdings has a commitment to the Proserpine area—

- (1) Will he investigate if the removal of the only subsidised taxi to stay and be based in Proserpine breaches Mackay Taxi Holdings contract conditions?
- (2) Will he personally make ministerial representation to the company on behalf of the people of Proserpine (especially the elderly and the disabled) to ensure the permanent basing of taxis in Proserpine?

Mr JOHNSON (16/4/98):

(1) I have asked Queensland Transport staff to closely monitor the situation in regard to taxi services in Proserpine. A taxi service contract has recently been signed with Mackay City Taxis which requires that the company provide certain levels of service to the community contained within the Mackay taxi service area, of which Proserpine is a zone within the taxi service area. Queensland Transport will be closely monitoring waiting times in the area to ensure

acceptable levels of service are being provided and maintained. Should the required service levels not be achieved, Queensland Transport will take action to rectify the matter.

(2) Having one car based in Proserpine is not necessarily the best means of achieving adequate waiting times. When the vehicle is occupied, cars are sent from other areas to provide services. It could be argued that the placement of a vehicle permanently in Proserpine acts as a disincentive to other taxis to operate in the area because the Proserpine car has first right to any hirings. The move to remove the Proserpine based car is a trial of new operational procedures which the company believes will better meet the needs of the community including the elderly and disabled. Queensland Transport has already informed Mackay City Taxis of the need to ensure that the service in the Proserpine area at least meets and, if possible, exceeds the minimum service levels prescribed in the service contract. The trial will be monitored and if it is not successful then Queensland Transport will intervene and ensure the company's operations are modified to adequately service the needs of users in the Proserpine area.

125. Primary Industries and Department, Advertising Budget and Promotional Budget

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr ROWELL (16/4/98):

1. The total amount spent on campaign advertising by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) between 1 July, 1997 and 1 March, 1998 has been \$92,673. However, \$25,538.25 of this amount is to be reimbursed by other Australian agencies under the Papaya Fruit Fly Eradication Public Awareness Campaign. Costs are shared by the Commonwealth and all State Governments with Queensland meeting fifteen percent of the costs. Therefore, DPI's total campaign advertising commitment for this period was \$67,134.75 comprising media costs and service fees.

The amount spent on major promotional activities (i.e. with a budget more than \$5,000) during this period was \$61,811. These activities included: 1997 RNA DPI display, \$38,193; Hungry Jack's primary industries trayliner and poster promotion, \$11,618; and AgShow Toowoomba, \$12,000.

Smaller promotions such as field and open days have also taken place throughout the year but the costs of these day-to-day promotional activities have been written into each program's yearly operational budget.

2. DPI has not participated in an advertising campaign coordinated by the Premier's Department during this period. DPI has initiated and committed all expenditure.

However, DPI is committed to a display in the Government Pavilion at the RNA, Brisbane, each year, as is every Government Department. The RNA is a whole-of-Government promotional activity coordinated by the Premier's Department.

3. The most significant campaign advertising that DPI has undertaken during this period has been the Papaya Fruit Fly Eradication Public Awareness Campaign costing \$30,045 of which \$25,538.25 is to be reimbursed by other Australian agencies as noted in Question 1 above.

Other significant advertising expenditure has included: swimmer safety campaign, \$9,155; tick fever research, \$3,716; timber research, \$1,607; Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority, \$6,495; and Web Services, \$3,780.

4. No specific allocation exists for advertising expenditure. However, remaining promotional budgets for the financial year include: Primary Industries Week, \$15,000; and the Emerald Meat Profit Day, \$5000.

126. North Stradbroke Island, Petrol Prices

Mr BRISKEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (17/3/98)—

With reference to her promise during the fuel subsidy scheme debate that she would "Protect the interests of Queenslanders" and "prevent petrol price rises"—

Will she take immediate action to ensure that "Queenslanders" who live on North Stradbroke Island in the Redland Shire stop paying up to 20 cents per litre more for petrol (76.5 cents per litre for leaded and 74.4 cents per litre for unleaded) than those "Queenslanders" who live on the mainland in the Redland Shire where petrol can be purchased for 56.9 cents per litre?

Mrs SHELDON (16/4/98): The Queensland Government does not exercise any direct control over petrol prices in the State. The price is determined by commercial factors and Commonwealth imposed taxes. The Queensland Government has never imposed a petroleum franchise fee on fuel.

As a result of the 5 August 1997 High Court decision, which effectively invalidated other State and Territory fuel franchise fees, the Commonwealth Government introduced a surcharge on its fuel excise to replace other State and Territory fuel tax revenues.

In order to prevent fuel prices rising in Queensland from the Commonwealth's excise surcharge, the Queensland Government introduced a fuel subsidy scheme. Under this scheme, fuel retailers (mainly service stations), off-road diesel users and bulk end-users (up to a specified limit) are licensed to receive fuel at a price exclusive of the additional

Commonwealth excise, with the State Government providing a full subsidy to fuel sellers on behalf of these licensees.

Consequently, there is no tax related reason why fuel prices should have risen in Queensland.

Furthermore, there is no tax related reason why the fuel price differential between any two regions in Queensland should be any different from the differential that existed before the introduction of the fuel subsidy scheme.

The Queensland Government made a commitment to ensure that fuel prices would not rise by the amount of the Commonwealth fuel excise surcharge. This commitment has been kept and, in fact, fuel prices generally are currently the lowest they have been in Queensland for 10 years.

127. Nudgee Electorate, State Schools

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Building Better Schools program and (a) his answer to my Question on Notice No 78 and (b) his correspondence to me dated 27 February (ref:A98/1062)—

- (1) Why have security upgrades planned for 1996 and 1997 at Banyo High, Boondall, Zillmere, Geebung, Northgate and Nudgee State Primary Schools and Pre-schools been deferred?
- (2) Is he aware of increasing levels of break and enter offences in the vicinity of these schools, evidenced by the need for schools such as Banyo High and Geebung Primary to hire private security guards after hours?
- (3) Why, as indicated by his correspondence dated 27 February, has the promised upgrade of six classrooms at Zillmere State School been removed from this program?

Mr QUINN (15/4/98):

(1) As part of the School Security Program the risk rating of schools on the list is revised at the start of each financial year. Although Banyo High, Boondall, Zillmere, Geebung, Northgate and Nudgee State Primary Schools and Preschools were deferred, they are scheduled on the high priority program for the 1998-99 financial year, subject to available funds.

(2) Throughout Queensland the number of break and enter incidents in schools is decreasing by approximately 11% each year. All reported break and enter incidents in schools are recorded by Education Queensland.

Banyo State High School reported seven (7) incidents in 1995-96; six (6) incidents in 1996-97 and only two (2) incidents, to date, this year financial year. This is a decrease of approximately 50% over the period stated. The number of break and enters reported by Geebung State School for 1995-96 was two (2), 1996-97 three (3) and only one (1) incident, to date, this financial year.

Other schools mentioned, such as Boondall, Zillmere, Geebung Special, Northgate primary and preschool and Nudgee primary and preschool, on average experience a lower number of reported incidents when

compared to other schools in the Brisbane area which are enduring break and enters every weekend.

It should be noted that it is a requirement that schools report all break and enter and other security related incidents to Education Queensland. The above information is based on those reported incidents.

(3) Zillmere State School is currently planned for classroom upgrade work in 1998. It is anticipated that documentation of the project will be completed this financial year to enable construction to commence in July 1998.

128. Mines and Energy Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr GILMORE (17/4/98):

1. The Department of Mines and Energy spent \$197,348 on advertising and promotions campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998. This consisted of media costs and service fees. Of this amount, \$196,948 was spent on an electrical safety campaign for the community. This campaign was conducted by the Electrical Safety Office and was funded from licensing revenue.

2. The Premier's Department was not involved in any advertising and promotional campaigns. All expenditure was spent on campaigns which were departmental initiatives.

3. The amount of \$196,948 was spent on an electrical safety campaign for the community prior to Christmas 1997.

4. It is the Department's best estimate that \$250,000 will be spent in the remainder of the 1997/98 financial year. Of this amount, \$220,000 will be spent by the Electrical Safety Office on a safety campaign for the community. This campaign will be funded from licensing revenue.

129. Cairns Hinterland, Harvesting of Timber for Production of Didgeridoos

Mr ARDILL asked the Premier (17/3/98)—

With reference to the debate on the Century Zinc project on 27 August 1997 during which he agreed to

take steps to preserve certain heritage sites, to keep access open to Lawn Hill and to ensure that the vast stands of the timber which is the ideal resource for the production of didgeridoos now on the lease area would be harvested for that purpose and not destroyed during development—

- (1) Is he aware of the problems now being experienced in the hinterland of Cairns where important forests are being exploited for this purpose, perhaps unlawfully?
- (2) Will he take steps to have his promise put in to action to solve the waste of a good resource and to solve the problem now identified in the Cairns region?

Mr BORBIDGE (16/4/98):

1. Yes, I am aware of the reported occurrence of isolated incidences in the hinterland of Cairns, whereby people are alleged to have taken timber from State lands without a permit for the purpose of producing didgeridoos. I am also aware that the Department of Natural Resources is currently investigating the matter, with a view to prosecution. The Department has also released media statements in order to make the public aware of the situation.

2. There is no such arrangement in the Century Zinc agreement to allow for harvesting timber for the purpose of producing didgeridoos.

130. SES Confectionery; Datafund Pty Ltd

Mr NUTTALL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (17/3/98)—

- (1) Will he confirm that his department was advised on 15 December 1997 that sale of the so called SES confectionery had begun prior to the approval of his department being obtained?
- (2) Will he also confirm that he was at the same time advised that false claims were being made by Datafund, in order to encourage people to purchase sub-distributorships, including false claims that the contract they would be signing is State Government sanctioned?
- (3) In the light of the fact that he has the power to terminate the appeal under the Collections Act, why did he not do so?

Mr BEANLAND (16/4/98):

(1) By letter dated 15 December 1997, Gilshenan and Luton, solicitors advised the Office of Consumer Affairs that the boat canister and the confectionery packets had already been placed in retail outlets. While this was prior to the approval of the advertising, the agreement between Datafund Pty Ltd and the State Emergency Service Volunteer Support Unit Inc. had already been approved.

(2) No advice was provided at the time that false claims were being made by Datafund. However, a perusal of the copy of the document entitled "Datafund Fund Raising System" dated 6 November 1997 forwarded with Gilshenan and Luton's letter of 15 December 1997 to the Office of Consumer Affairs raised some concerns in the Office and legal advice was sought.

(3) The legal advice obtained was to the effect that there was no evidence of any misconduct which would justify the withdrawal of the sanction.

131. Cannon Hill Abattoir Site

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (17/3/98)—

- (1) When will he or his office get back to myself in regard to the questions raised in relation to a license issued by his department to carry on a smelly business behind the Cannon Hill Abattoir?
- (2) As no public consultation has taken place before this license was issued, will he confirm that the company is operating correctly under legislation administered by his department?
- (3) Why are settling ponds being allowed to be used in residential areas?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (1/4/98):

(1) Your question to me regarding an operation behind the Cannon Hill Abattoir is currently being investigated by Departmental officers. I expect to have the information shortly and will reply to you on receipt of the information. A number of complaints have been forwarded by Brisbane City Council to my Department regarding odour from the business known as Queensland Abattoir at Colmslie Road, Cannon Hill. Departmental officers have carried out a preliminary investigation of the allegations. The investigation of the abattoir site determined the potential source of the odour to be a composting operation that carries out activities on a portion of land leased from the abattoir. My Department has advised that this operation has the potential to generate odour if not managed correctly.

A licence has been issued by my Department to carry out an environmentally relevant activity within the definition of "Compost manufacture" at the premises of Queensland Abattoir at Colmslie Road, Cannon Hill. The licence for compost manufacturing at this location took effect on 19 February 1997. The current holder of this licence is Intermediate Bulk Containers Pty Ltd.

(2) The provision of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for public notice of applications for licences had not commenced at this time and as such no public consultation was required or had taken place before this licence was issued.

My Department has scheduled a compliance inspection of this operation to assess whether there are any areas of non-compliance with the statutory requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1994, including conditions of the licence. This action is standard procedure for complaint investigation.

(3) Settling ponds or sediment ponds are a recognised and accepted technique for managing stormwater. The purpose of the sediment pond is to intercept contaminated runoff from the composting area and allow sediment to settle. The waste water may then be recirculated over the compost windrows.

The composting site is zoned 'general industry'. Adjoining and surrounding land use is zoned as 'general industry', 'waterfront activity', 'non-urban', and 'unserved land'. I draw to your attention that surrounding land is not zoned 'residential' and as

such, these settling ponds are not used in a residential area.

The use of settling ponds on an industrial site is not inconsistent with urban stormwater management practices requiring the management of activities that are likely to affect the quality of stormwater runoff. In many cases ponds are an acceptable environmental method for treatment of industrial water.

132. Local Government and Volunteer SES Units

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (17/3/98)—

With reference to the latest edition of "SES News" dated February 1998 and to the Mast head that contains the inscription "Local Government Volunteer SES Units", an inscription that has never appeared there before—

- (1) Is this a prelude to the State Government withdrawing in any way from support of the SES?
- (2) Will he provide an assurance that neither in terms of funding, nor in terms of organisational arrangements, the State Government will retreat from support of the SES?

Mr VEIVERS (16/4/98): (1 & 2) The Government through the Department of Emergency Services confirmed its commitment and support to Local Government and Volunteer SES Units with the signing of a Protocol with the Local Government Association of Queensland last year. The Protocol for the first time formalises the respective roles and responsibilities of Local Governments and the State Government in respect of disaster management as well as Local Government Volunteer SES Units (a copy of the Protocol is attached). State Government support to Local Government Volunteer SES Units has in fact increased and a number of specific initiatives have been implemented including:

the appointment of three additional District Training Officers in Mackay, Roma and Mount Isa;

greater delegation to Emergency Services Division District Offices granting increased autonomy to deliver a wider range of client services (such as disaster management and training advice) to Local Government Volunteer SES Units and to the community;

making the supply of stores and equipment to SES Units more efficient; and

the provision of additional funding to the Emergency Services Division to assist permanent staff provide more support to Local Government and Volunteer SES Units.

The Department of Emergency Services recognises and values the contribution of Local Government and in particular the Volunteer SES Units in their service to the local community. Support has not only increased, but organisational arrangements have been improved to enhance service delivery to both.

133. Dutton Park, Cross-River Tram Bridge

Mr FOLEY asked the Premier (17/3/98)—

With reference to the State Government's Briztram proposal which includes an option for a cross-river tram bridge between Dutton Park and Queensland University—

- (1) Is he aware of serious concerns among Fairfield residents over parking and traffic problems arising out of the current use of the Dutton Park ferry to Queensland University?
- (2) Is he aware of the likely increase in parking and traffic problems for residents of Fairfield if the proposed cross-river tram bridge is constructed?
- (3) Is he aware of the gross inadequacy of consultation with residents of Fairfield, Annerley and Yeronga to date and what action will he take to ensure that they are properly consulted before any decision is taken in relation to the Dutton Park cross-river tram bridge proposal?
- (4) What impact would the changed traffic patterns arising from a Dutton Park cross-river bridge have on the amenity of the suburbs of Fairfield, Annerley and Yeronga?
- (5) Will he give an assurance that the proposed cross-river tram bridge will not be used for bus and taxi traffic?

Mr BORBIDGE (16/4/98):

1. I am aware of some community concerns which emanated from a meeting which the Honourable Member attended at St Ita's School Dutton Park on 10 March, 1998 and which was chaired by the Member for South Brisbane. I am informed that this meeting was attended by approximately 40 people.

2. I am aware that some residents have these concerns, but as the planning studies on the alternative routes are not yet completed, it would be premature to speculate on the various traffic and other implications of the various routes options. Residents who have these concerns are encouraged to forward their submissions to the Consultant Coordinator, Briztram Project, PPK Environment and Infrastructure Pty Ltd.

3. The Member for South Brisbane requested that the initial consultation period be extended, and I immediately consented to the request, and determined that the initial consultation period be extended until 3 April, 1998

4. I refer you to my answer to (2) above

5. Yes.

134. Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport, Ministerial Expenses

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (17/3/98)—

With reference to his Ministerial expenses—

- (1) Is he in the habit of charging any of his Ministerial expenses to his Director-General's office, or any other departmental account; if so, when has this occurred, what amounts are

involved and how does he justify this practice; if not, will he give the Parliament an unequivocal assurance that this is the case?

Mr VEIVERS (16/4/98): I am advised that all Ministerial expenses have been appropriated in accordance with established government guidelines.

135. Advisory Council of Justices of the Peace

Mr SMITH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Advisory Council of Justices of the Peace—

- (1) What are the names of the present members of the Advisory Council, their qualifications which justified their appointment to the council and the Justice of the Peace level each presently holds?
- (2) Are some members of the Advisory Council not Justices of the Peace?
- (3) What budget has been allocated for the operation of this Advisory Council, what support staff does the council have and what classification are these staff?
- (4) When was the inaugural meeting of the council held, where, which members attended and what was the duration of the meeting?

Mr BEANLAND (16/4/98):

(1) The majority of Advisory Council members have been Justices of the Peace for a considerable amount of time and have a diversity of experience in Justice of the Peace matters. Mr Bill Skinner JP (Mag CT), the current President of the Queensland Justices' and Community Legal Officers' Association (QJA), and Mr Pat Tiley JP (Qual) Past President of that same organisation, are both very active and experienced Justices of the Peace. They are more than qualified not only to represent the views of members of the QJA but also to have significant input into issues currently effecting the roles of Justices of the Peace throughout the State. Mrs Carmel Coonan JP and Ms Amanda O'Brien JP (Mag CT) are from the Magistrates Courts and deal with issues confronting Justices of the Peace on a daily basis. Mr Jim Parke JP is a solicitor from Toowoomba who will assist the Council greatly with legislative matters and legal issues. Mrs Gail Copley JP has been a JP for over twenty years and has years of experience working with many other successful boards and councils. Mrs Pattie Smith JP and Mr Barry Vickers JP (Qual) also have twenty years hands on experience as Justices of the Peace and will be able to provide practical advice in relation to everyday Justice of the Peace matters. Mrs Daisy Caltabiano, while not appointed as a Justice of Peace, is heavily involved with community justice issues on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and will assist the council in understanding Justice of the Peace matters relating to these remote communities. Ms Caltabiano's involvement in the Council is essential to ensure that the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are brought to the attention of the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is made up of knowledgeable people who will

be able to assist greatly in providing advice on Justice of the Peace issues.

(2) As indicated previously, Mrs Daisy Caltabiano is not a Justice of the Peace but has undertaken Justice of the Peace training. She will provide essential advice on community justice issues relating to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. There are some 190 Justices of the Peace appointed in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Their views and those of their communities must be acknowledged and understood.

(3) No actual budget amount has been allocated to the Advisory Council. Any expenditure will be absorbed by the Justices of the Peace Branch budget. The council is very well supported by a Secretary at the Administrative Officer (AO2) level and the Registrar of the Justices of the Peace Branch, who is appointed at the AO6 level. Other Department of Justice resources will be made available to the Advisory Council if required.

(4) The Advisory Council had its first meeting on 19 February 1998. Unfortunately, Mrs Coonan was ill and could not attend. The meeting went for three hours. The council also met on 6 April 1998 to discuss the issues paper released by the independent Queensland Law Reform Commission. I understand both these meetings were very successful.

136. Training and Industrial Relations Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr SANTORO (16/4/98):

(1) The total cost of campaign advertising, including media and service fees, for the period 1 July 1997 to 1 March 1998 is \$246,895.

(2) All campaign advertising expenditure for this period is directly related to departmental initiatives.

(3) The campaign advertising expenditure comprises: Workplace Health and Safety, \$16,496; Year of Training, \$45,782; Workplace Reform, \$21,773; Go For It, \$148,296; TAFE Qld Handbook, \$12,275; Qld Training, 942; Departmental Wide Promotions, 1,331; TOTAL—\$246,895.

(4) Estimated expenditure for the remainder of the year is \$123,500.

137. Tourism, Small Business and Industry Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr DAVIDSON (16/4/98):

(1) Advertising expenditure up until and including 28 February 1998 was \$326,535.63*. In addition there was a service fee from AIS Media of \$10,974.29.

* This figure also includes \$92,400 for television advertisements and \$65,059.51 for press advertisements, which was paid for by AusIndustry to promote the final rounds of AusIndustry grants. These figures include \$15,000 of media billing which was over-booked by AIS Media and for which the department has received a credit note.

(2) Of the abovementioned expenditure \$18,677 was spent on a campaign coordinated by the Premier's Department. The remaining monies were spent on departmental campaigns.

(3)

- (i) Allan Pease Seminar Series—TV \$10,492, radio \$3,002, print \$4,182

This seminar was organised on a cost recovery basis. As attendance at the seminar included more than 2,000 people all monies spent on advertising were recouped by ticket prices.

- (ii) International Association of Science Parks conference—\$3,850—advertisement in the Asian Business Review
- (iii) Opening of new departmental Business Centres—print \$8,537.30, which covers advertisements in various Quest newspapers and the Courier Mail
- (iv) Business Opportunities for the Olympic Games—print \$788.58
- (v) Queensland Business Licence Information Service—print \$6,793.20
- (vi) Business Opportunities and Franchise Expo—print \$2,223
- (vii) Responsible Service of Alcohol training package—print \$2,482
- (viii) Liquor Licensing's Schoolies Week campaign—print \$3,500
- (ix) Retail Shop Leases—print \$4,500

- (x) Red Tape Reduction Taskforce public meetings—print \$5,482.80
- (xi) Women in Business—print \$1,762
- (xii) Management and small business seminars—print \$6,288.70
- (xiii) Departmental industrial estates promotions—print \$2,000
- (xiv) Liquor Licensing 'No More It's The Law'—television \$14,956, radio \$3,090
- (xv) Ita Buttrose Seminar Series—television \$8,000, press \$4,000
This seminar was organised on a cost recovery basis and was underwritten by the Wide Bay Capricorn Building Society.
- (xvi) AusIndustry—television \$92,400, press \$65,059.51
- (xviii) Departmental services, seminars and corporate advertising—\$54,469.63

(4) Total campaign budget for the department is \$194,805 plus another \$42,000 to promote the services and activities of the Liquor Licensing Division*. Up until 1 March 1997 the Department had spent 71.4 per cent of its advertising budget.

*These figures exclude the extra funding received from AusIndustry to promote their programs in February on television and in print.

138. Police Service, Corrective Services Commission and Office of Racing, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (17/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98):

(1) \$1,455,000 (including Gun Buy Back advertising costs met by Commonwealth).

(2) All expenditure has been on departmental activities.

(3) Areas incurring advertising costs in 1997-98:

Area, Advertising Costs—Reason

Racing, \$11,000—Recruitment and Selection

Recruitment, \$99,000—Recruitment and Selection

Information Systems Branch, \$11,000—
Recruitment and Selection

Police Powers, \$6,000—Review of Police
Powers Discussion Paper

Crime Commission, \$35,000—Qld Crime
Commission Discussion Paper

Community and Policing Partnerships, \$9,000—
Recruitment and Selection

Other, \$26,000—Mainly Gazette Advertising

Gun Buy Back, \$1,258,000—As per Gun Buy
Back Legislation (costs met by Commonwealth)

(4) With the ending of the Gun Buy Back Program it is estimated that there will be between \$30,000 to \$50,000 expenditure during the remainder of the year.

139. Main Roads Department Land, Woolloowin

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (17/3/98)—

- (1) Is he aware that tenants living in houses owned by the Department of Main Roads found out about their impending eviction by reading an article in the local media where the main spokesman was the Minister for Industrial Relations and by a letter from the Minister for Industrial Relations?
- (2) Is he aware that residents who phoned their landlord, the Department of Main Roads, were told by officers of the Property Section that they knew nothing about the sale of land in the Kalinga/Woolloowin area?
- (3) Why didn't his department inform residents personally of the decision to sell their houses?
- (4) Why is there no reference to houses owned by the Government in other parts of Woolloowin along a "transport corridor" set aside for future use?

Mr JOHNSON (16/4/98):

(1) Once the Government had decided to dispose of the properties owned by the Department of Main Roads between Kent and Leckie Roads and situated on a proposed future transportation corridor between Gympie Road and Rose Street at Woolloowin, the local member notified residents, including those renting houses, by a letter dated 9 March 1998. A joint announcement by myself and the member for Clayfield was reported in the press on the 12 March 1998.

(2) I am aware that some officers of the Department of Main Roads were not aware of the decision to sell or otherwise dispose of the properties when questioned soon after the Press Release. Therefore, tenants may have been so advised by departmental officers. Main Roads is proceeding to write to affected residents.

(3) The Member for Clayfield had been urging, for some time, that Main Roads sell the properties to provide certainty to local residents. Once the Government had made its decision it was appropriate that the Member advise his constituents as the elected representative for the area.

(4) With respect to the properties owned by Main Roads in the northern arterial transportation corridor

south of Rose Street, I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to a recommendation of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP). It states that, whilst the northern arterial transportation corridor is not required for road purposes, it should be investigated for possible use by public transport as part of a regional network of busways.

When the review is completed the Government will be in a position to decide whether any of its land holdings in that corridor should be sold.

140. Premier's Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on whole of Government campaigns coordinated by his department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr BORBIDGE (17/4/98):

(1) The total cost of campaign advertising, including media and service fees, for the period 1 July 1997 to 1 March 1998 is \$1,285,572.

(2) The Department of the Premier and Cabinet, as lead agency, has a role to initiate and coordinate promotion of policies and initiatives that have a whole of Government impact on the entire state. As such, most campaign advertising expenditure for this period is directly related to such initiatives.

(3 & 4) An outline of the campaign advertising expenditure is as follows: Business Investment Opportunities—Awareness Advertising \$815,238; Infrastructure/Capital Works \$233,082; Fuel Subsidy \$139,654; Specific Initiatives (Justice, Environment, Education) \$73,793; and Government Corporate Advertising/Information \$23,805.

Additional expenditure in the final quarter will primarily relate to current campaigns.

141. Premier's Department, Information Planning Branch

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Premier (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Information Policy Branch of his department—

- (1) Will he detail the budget for the branch showing total income from all sources and total expenditure?
- (2) What is the total number of employees of all categories, eg. full-time, casual, temporary, part-time or secondment?

- (3) Will he provide a detailed organisational diagram of the branch?
- (4) What is the total floor area occupied by the branch?

Mr BORBIDGE (17/4/98): The Branch name referred to was incorrect. It is the Information Planning Branch.

(1) The total budget for the Information Planning Branch is \$1,907,100. Expenditure to 19 March 1998 is \$925,233.

(2) The number of employees of all categories as at the 19 March 1998 is:

Full-time—11
Casual—0
Temporary—2
Part-time or secondment—1
Vacant—3

(3) An organisational diagram of the Information Planning Branch is attached (Attachment 1).

(4) The total floor space occupied by the Information Planning Branch is 515.10 square metres.

142. Springwood, Police Resources

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/98)—

With reference to police officer staffing levels at the Springwood Police Station—

- (1) What are the police units that are currently located at this station and what are their current staffing levels?
- (2) What is the current uniformed police establishment at Springwood and what has been the establishment as at 30 June for the years 1995, 1996 and 1997?
- (3) What is the current uniformed police strength for each shift at the Springwood Police Station and how does it compare with the years 1995, 1996 and 1996 as at 30 June?
- (4) Since July 1997, how many shifts at the Springwood Police Station were below the recommended strength and what are the details?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98): Springwood is a suburb policed by a number of police divisions and falls within the Logan District. As of 30 February 1998 the District had a policing strength of 900. There is no police station in the suburb of Springwood or named Springwood Police Station.

143. Public Works and Housing Department, Communications and Information Technology Division

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Communications and Information Technology Division of his Department—

- (1) Will he detail the budget for the division showing total income from all sources and total expenditure?

(2) What is the total number of employees of all categories, eg. full-time, casual, temporary, part-time or secondment?

(3) Will he provide a detailed organisational diagram of the division?

(4) What is the total floor area occupied by the division?

Dr WATSON (17/4/98):

(1) The Department does not have a Communications and Information Technology Division. It does have an Information and Procurement Division and a business unit called CITEC. Budgeted total expenditure for the Information and Procurement division is \$4.012 million; budgeted total income is \$0.24 million.

(2) The total number of employees in the division as at 25 March 1998 is as follows: Permanent 14; temporary 14; agency 1.

(3) The structure of the division is presented in the Department's annual report, see page 21.

(4) The total floor area occupied by the division is 905 square metres.

144. Jacobs Well, Canal Development; Peakhurst Properties Pty Ltd

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (18/3/98)—

With reference to his answer to my question regarding the canal development at Jacob's Well being constructed by Peakhurst Properties Pty Ltd in which he states that provisional approval was granted to Peakhurst to construct canals at Jacob's Well by Executive Council Minute dated 20 March 1997 and as the destruction of the mangrove and the wetlands area commenced a decade ago on this site and canals dug five or six years ago—

- (1) What inspections were carried out by this department on the site?
- (2) What environmental impact studies were carried out by the department, not the developer?
- (3) Will he provide me with a copy of the department's critical analysis of the developer's environmental impact study?
- (4) Has the developer been issued with any notices or directions regarding the blatant destruction of the wetlands?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/4/98):

1. Over recent years the site has been inspected on a number of occasions by Departmental officers. Departmental records show three inspections in 1997.

2. An impact assessment pursuant to the Canals Act was undertaken by Peakhurst Properties Pty Ltd for the Calypso Bay Canal Estate.

A whole of government review report was prepared by the Department of Environment in October 1996.

3. A copy of the review report has been forwarded to the Member separately.

4. Management of mangroves within the terms of the Fisheries Act is a matter for the Minister for Primary Industries. However, Department of Environment records show no notices have been issued to

Peakhurst Properties Pty Ltd concerning wetlands on the site.

145. Consolidated Fund, Property Income Receipts

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (18/3/98)—

With reference to the burgeoning receipts to the Consolidated Fund in property income which by the end of January 1998 had totalled \$2.007 billion or almost \$300m more than the full year budget estimate—

- (1) What part of the 2007 billion is attributed to (a) interest, (b) tax equivalents paid by Government enterprises and (c) dividends paid by Government enterprises?
- (2) Why have receipts burgeoned in the first seven months of 1997-98?
- (3) What further property income receipts are anticipated between February and June (inclusive) this year?

Mrs SHELDON (17/4/98):

- (1) The disaggregation of the receipts to the Consolidated Fund in property income as at the end of January 1998 is detailed in the table below.

	1997-98 Budget \$'000	1997-98 Actual \$'000
Interest	803, 731	1, 423, 549
Dividends	764, 933	426, 098
Tax Equivalents	81, 249	126, 694
Rent	72, 859	30, 975
Total	1, 722, 772	2, 007, 351

- (2) The increase in actual receipts with respect to the 1997-98 Budget estimate is due to larger than expected interest returns on QIC investments which are primarily in respect of the State's superannuation assets, set aside to meet accruing superannuation liabilities. As such these investments are not available to fund general Budget expenditures. QIC investment interest returns are some \$600M in excess of the 1997-98 Budget estimate.

- (3) A further \$284M in property income receipts is anticipated between February and June of 1997-98.

146. Emerald, Mental Health Service

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Health (18/3/98)—

With reference to Question on Notice No 1044 of 1997 which refers to Mental Health Services at Emerald and part three of the Minister's answer which states that "thanks to the return of genuine community input, the need for a locally based Mental Health Service has now been recognised" and also to the contents of a letter to the Central Highlands Mental Health Lobby Group from Dr Harvey Whiteford, Director of Mental Health dated 6 January 1997, which states "the establishment of a locally based Mental Health Service at Emerald is a priority for Queensland Health in progressing the implementation of the ten year Mental Health Strategy", and "in the first instance, it is envisaged that the local service would be established

with up to four Mental Health professionals, with some administrative support"—

Has he lobbied the Treasurer for funding to be included in the 1998-99 Health Budget for the specific purpose of putting in place a locally based Mental Health Service in Emerald, which includes four Mental Health professionals and administrative staff; if so, has he been successful; if not, does this mean he is no longer committed to establishing a locally based Mental Health Service in line with that sought by the Central Highlands Mental Health Lobby Group?

Mr HORAN (16/4/98): In the first instance, I would point out for the Honourable Member that the Question referred to by him was actually asked in 1996 and not 1997. The establishment of a locally based mental health service in Emerald remains a priority for the reform of mental health services in Queensland as outlined in The Ten Year Mental Health Strategy. Emerald will be one of the first areas considered for the enhancement of mental health services, and every attempt will be made to ensure the establishment of a locally based team of four clinical staff with appropriate administrative and operational support.

147. Townsville, Police Resources

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Warwick Daily News article of 5 November 1997 in which his spokesman agreed to provide the paper with answers to previous Questions on Notice the Minister originally refused to answer because "it would be totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources" and since this is obviously not the case any more—

- (1) How many police left Townsville Police District in 1996-97 and to March 1998 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into Townsville Police District in 1996-97 and to March 1998?
- (3) Of those police that moved to Townsville Police District during 1996-97 and to March 1998, 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 (16/4/98): My office has at no stage told the Warwick Daily News that the newspaper would be given the details as stated. My Media Adviser told the journalist we had distributed a media release relating to extra staff for the area and offered to again send the information. That information was faxed to the paper as promised.

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.

148. Emergency Services Department, Payments to Non-Public Servants

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (18/3/98)—

Will he list, by amount and recipient, the sums of money paid in return for work performed for the department by persons other than public servants during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98?

Mr VEIVERS (17/4/98): The Department of Emergency Services as with all government departments engages the services of temporary staff, from time to time, to cover peaks and troughs in workloads or temporary vacancies in a wide range of general administrative areas. These staff are engaged through professional agencies in accordance with Standing Offer arrangements and there would be little purpose served in listing each one as they are numerous and may range from less than one day to longer.

In some instances professional contract staff are hired to carry out specialised project work such as financial, computing and internal auditing under the supervision of departmental managers, if there is not available in-house expertise. Once again these are engaged through reputable firms and, normally, under Standing Offer arrangements.

In respect of consultancies undertaken for the Department, details were listed in the 1996/97 Annual Report. Details of consultancies for 1997/98 will be included in the 1997/98 Annual Report when the present financial year is concluded. I do not propose to list them here. I reiterate, temporary engagement of contract staff and engagement of consultants is made to meet a specific need where in-house staff or expertise is not available and where there is clear value for money. In these instances the relevant guidelines are adhered to as required.

149. CITEC, Income and Expenditure

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (18/3/98)—

With reference to CITEC—

- (1) Will he detail the budget showing total income from all sources and total expenditure?
- (2) What is the total number of employees of all categories, eg. full-time, casual, temporary, part-time or secondment?
- (3) Will he provide a detailed organisational diagram of CITEC?
- (4) What is the total floor area occupied by CITEC?

Dr WATSON (17/4/98):

(1) Information regarding the total income and total expenditure for CITEC can be found in the 1997-98 Ministerial Program Statements (MPS), refer to pages 27 and 28.

(2) Information in relation to the total number of employees for CITEC can be found in the 1997-98 MPS, refer to page 29.

(3) The structure of CITEC is provided in the Department's Annual Report, see page 39.

(4) The total floor area occupied by CITEC is 12,253 square metres.

150. Tourism, Small Business and Industry Department, Information Industries Branch

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Information Industries Branch of his department—

- (1) Will he detail the budget for the branch showing total income from all sources and total expenditure?
- (2) What is the total number of employees of all categories, eg. full-time, casual, temporary, part-time or secondment?
- (3) Will he provide a detailed organisational diagram of the branch?
- (4) What is the total floor area occupied by the branch?

Mr DAVIDSON (17/4/98):

(1) The 1997/98 Budget for the Information Industries Branch (IIB) with income for all sources, is:

Queensland Government—	3,845,929
South Australian Government—	25,000
Federal Government—	30,000
AusIndustry (State/Federal)—	284,658
Total—	4,185,587

Expenditure to 20 March 1998 is: \$2,455,010

- (2) Total number of IIB employees of all categories is 14.
- (3) Organisational chart is attached.
- (4) The total floor area occupied by the IIB is approximately 400m².

151. Maryborough Hospital, Rescheduling of Services

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Health (18/3/98)—

With reference to dozens of letters on Fraser Coast Health Service District letterhead which have been sent to patients in Maryborough in the last two months informing them that appointments for laparoscopic and colonoscopic procedures have either been cancelled or rescheduled for Hervey Bay—

- (1) Is this true; if so, why have such cancellations or reschedulings occurred?
- (2) Why have many of these letters been sent out unsigned, how many have gone out in this way and does he accept this practice as good medical administration?
- (3) Do the letters state "failure to attend the pre-admission clinic (in Hervey Bay) will result in your

name and address being taken off the waiting list"?

- (4) Why don't the contents of these letters match the explanation he has given the media about this rescheduling?
- (5) Why doesn't he admit he has intentionally misrepresented waiting list figures throughout Queensland for the last two years and misled the people of Queensland in that time?

Mr HORAN (16/4/98):

(1) The District Health Service is unaware of any colonoscopic services cancelled or rescheduled for Hervey Bay Hospital. Patients when responding by telephone to appointment offer letters are given the choice of Maryborough Hospital or Hervey Bay Hospital. The appointment offer letters have now been amended to reflect this option rather than solely relying on an explanation by telephone.

Only two laparoscopic procedures are believed to have been affected and these were due to the commencement of Dr Maguire at the Hervey Bay Hospital. Dr Maguire was recruited for Hervey Bay Hospital but worked at the Maryborough Hospital for some time before taking up duty at Hervey Bay Hospital in January 1998. One patient accepted the alternative offered of seeing a different specialist at Maryborough and the other decided not to proceed with the operation at all.

(2) Unsigned computer generated form letters are common practice in large organisations, such as hospitals, with high volume correspondence. Initially Hervey Bay Hospital sent unsigned letters for clinic appointments (approx. 300 per week, which included colonoscopic and laparoscopic appointments) but this practice recently ceased and letters are now signed.

(3) It is standard clinical practice for patients undergoing a procedure to attend pre-admission clinics. Whilst the letters relating to pre-admission clinics at both Maryborough and Hervey Bay Hospitals do state removal can occur for non-attendance, in fact the patient who does not contact the hospital or fails to present is sent two follow-up letters. If there is still no reply an attempt is made to contact the patient by telephone after which the patient is removed from the waiting list and advised of this action in writing. Appointments are offered at either site at the choice of the patient which until recently was conveyed verbally at the time of making the appointment.

(4) Letters sent to patients once they have been placed on a waiting list have been amended to make it clear that they have the choice of sites. Previously this information was conveyed verbally to patients.

(5) The Surgery on Time strategy, initiated by the Coalition Government has been an outstanding success in reducing the proportion of urgent Category 1 patients waiting longer than 30 days from 49.1% under the previous Goss Labor Government to now just 1% as at 1 April 1998. In Category 2, the proportion of patients waiting clinically inappropriate times has been reduced from 42.6% under the previous Goss Labor Government to 26.1% as at 1 April 1998, the lowest ever Category 2 waiting figure recorded in Queensland's history.

152. Treasury Department, Income and Expenditure

Mr NUNN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (18/3/98)—

- (1) What is her department's Whole-of-Government Information Technology and Telecommunications activity?
- (2) Will she detail the budget showing total income from all sources and total expenditure?
- (3) What is the total number of employees of all categories, e.g. full-time, casual, temporary, part-time or secondment?

Mrs SHELDON (17/4/98):

(1) The Under Treasurer is a member of the Information Planning Board which meets on a monthly basis to consider Whole-of-Government IT&T issues. The Financial Management and Systems Division is responsible for the provision of advice to Treasury management on a range of IT&T related issues including:

- assessment of IT&T business cases and funding strategies;
- advice on electronic commerce; and
- advice on decision support strategies.

In addition the Financial Information Systems Branch provides Whole-of-Government support and training for the Queensland Government Financial Management System and for agencies implementing the SAP/R3 Human Resource and Payroll System.

Other areas of Treasury which are involved in information related activities include the Government Statisticians Office, the Corporate Administration Agency and the State Library of Queensland. The Information Systems Division of the State Library is responsible for the management of information technology and telecommunication services used by the State Library for the delivery of library services.

(2) The Financial and Management Systems Division budget which relates to IT&T activities for 1997-98 is \$5,896,550. This is made up of \$653,550 for QGFMS strategic management, \$3,010,000 for QGFMS operational management, \$2,137,000 for SAP/R3 Human Resource and Payroll support and \$96,000 for information policy support.

The total income (costs recovered from agencies) from these activities for 1997-98 is expected to be \$5,147,000 and the total expenditure for 1997-98 is expected to be \$5,896,550.

The State Library budget relating to Whole-of-Government Information activities is around \$1 Million annually. There is no income relating to these activities.

The Corporate Administration Agency budget for IT&T activity is \$120,000 for 1997-98.

(3) The total number of employees in the Financial and Management Systems Division engaged in IT&T related activities is 37 full-time staff comprising 31 permanent staff and 6 temporary staff. There are nine full-time and one temporary technical staff employed by the State Library in relation to these activities. There are one full-time and one secondment staff

member involved in IT&T related activities in the Corporate Services Agency.

153. State Archives, Income and Expenditure

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the State Archives—

- (1) Will he detail the budget showing total income from all sources and total expenditure?
- (2) What is the total number of employees of all categories, eg. full-time, casual, temporary, part-time or secondment?
- (3) Will he provide a detailed organisational diagram of State Archives?
- (4) What is the total floor area occupied by State Archives?

Dr WATSON (17/4/98):

- (1) Total expenditure as at 10 March 1998 was \$2.97 million; total income as at the same date \$0.165 million.
- (2) The total number of employees for the State Archives as at 25 March 1998 is as follows: Permanent 36.5; temporary 1; agency 0.5; casual 6.
- (3) The organisational diagram for the State Archives is provided as Attachment A.
- (4) The total floor area occupied by the State Archives is 12,800 square metres.

154. Natural Resources Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr SPRINGBORG (9/4/98):

1. Between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998, my Department of Natural Resources spent approximately \$220,585 on campaign advertising.
2. There has been no expenditure by my Department on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department.
3. My Department is running a major and successful promotion involving regional infomercials providing information on departmental services to clients. This

was extended and included a cinema promotion. The total expenditure on this campaign has been \$216,506 up to 1 March 1998.

4. My Department has significant commitments to statutory advertising required under law and provided by my Department as a community service.

Many areas of my Department do not have a separate budget for advertising and an estimate of percentage of year's expenditure is not possible. However, for campaign advertising 90% of the budget was spent as at 1 March 1998.

155. South Brisbane, Police Resources

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Warwick Daily News article of 5 November 1997 in which his spokesman agreed to provide the paper with answers to previous Questions on Notice the Minister originally refused to answer because "it would be totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources" and since this is obviously not the case any more—

- (1) How many police left South Brisbane Police District in 1996-97 and to March 1998 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into this police district in 1996-97 and to March 1998?
- (3) Of those police that moved to this police district during 1996-97 and to March 1998, 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 (16/4/98): My office has at no stage told the Warwick Daily News that the newspaper would be given the details as stated. My Media Adviser told the journalist we had distributed a media release relating to extra staff for the area and offered to again send the information. That information was faxed to the paper as promised.

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.

156. Bundaberg, Police Resources

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Warwick Daily News article of 5 November 1997 in which his spokesman agreed to provide the paper with answers to previous Questions on Notice the Minister originally refused to answer because "it would be totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources" and since this is obviously not the case any more—

- (1) How many police left Bundaberg Police District in 1996-97 and to March 1998 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into this police district in 1996-97 and to March 1998?
- (3) Of those police that moved to this police district during 1996-97 and to March 1998, 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 (16/4/98): My office has at no stage told the Warwick Daily News that the newspaper would be given the details as stated. My Media Adviser told the journalist we had distributed a media release relating to extra staff for the area and offered to again send the information. That information was faxed to the paper as promised.

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.

157. Datafund Pty Ltd

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (18/3/98)—

Will he detail the legal costs to date expended or to be expended by his department in respect of legal advice by Gilshenan and Luton in regard to the Datafund fiasco?

Mr VEIVERS (17/4/98): A total of \$26,197.75 has been expended on legal costs for advice provided by Gilshenan and Luton to the Department in regard to Datafund.

158. Jimboomba, Respite Centre

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (18/3/98)—

With reference to public announcements by the Member for Beaudesert in 1997 that a respite centre would be built in the Jimboomba region—

- (1) What, if any, planning is being undertaken by her department for a Jimboomba respite centre?

- (2) What, if any, funds have been allocated for this project?
- (3) From what program area have any such funds been allocated?
- (4) How many young people in the Beaudesert electorate meet the eligibility criteria for the "Moving Ahead" program?

Mrs WILSON (17/4/98):

(1) Departmental Officers have been meeting with Project Services and Jimboomba Community Care to discuss the requirements of the Jimboomba Day Respite Centre, develop project plans, develop a building layout, and consider budgetary issues for the project.

(2) No funds have been allocated in the 1997-98 appropriation of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. The Department of Public Works and Housing currently holds the funding for this project.

(3) Nil.

(4) There is currently one young person in the Beaudesert Shire whose eligibility is being considered for the Moving Ahead program. There are several other young people who may enter the program at the end of 1998 and their eligibility to access the Moving Ahead program will be determined over the next three months. People who will access the Jimboomba Day Respite Centre will be of all ages, not just people leaving school. The Centre's services will be determined by the needs of local people with disabilities, their families and carers.

159. Jimboomba, Respite Centre

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Health (18/3/98)—

With reference to public announcements by the Member for Beaudesert in 1997 that a respite centre would be built in the Jimboomba region and statements made by the Member for Beaudesert to the Estimates Committee in 1997 that this project would be a HACC project—

- (1) What, if any, planning is being undertaken by his department for a Jimboomba respite centre?
- (2) What, if any, funds have been allocated for this project?
- (3) From what program area have any such funds been allocated?

Mr HORAN (16/4/98):

(1) In the 1995/96 financial year the Jimboomba Home and Community Care submitted an application for \$350,000 in capital funding through the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program to construct a respite centre in the Jimboomba area. Due to other priorities in 1995/96, the application was not approved.

The organisation resubmitted an application for \$350,000 for capital funding through the HACC Program in the 1996/97 financial year. In May 1997, a Working Party was formed including representatives from the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care and the Home and Community Care Program to further investigate the proposal. It was

identified at that time that the proposed respite centre would focus on post school options.

As the focus for the Jimboomba Home and Community Care project is to address the needs of younger people with a disability through a post school options program, a total of \$350,000 was provided by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

(2) \$350,000 has been allocated for the construction of a centre with a focus on the provision of post school options by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care. It is proposed that various other youth programs will also be operating from this centre.

The Jimboomba Home and Community Care project is currently seeking incorporation and proposes to lease part of the premises for the provision of HACC services in the community.

(3) Capital funding has been provided through the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care for construction of the centre. The Jimboomba Home and Community Care project currently receives funding through the HACC Program for coordination, education and training and travelling expenses for the provision of services to HACC eligible clients.

160. Centenary Heights, State School

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education (18/3/98)—

With reference to claims that students who live within 4.8 km of the proposed Centenary Heights State School and do not attend the school will no longer receive school transport subsidies—

- (1) Is he aware that this could result in parents in this zone with say, two children, established in existing schools suffering financial penalties of up to \$1200 per year?
- (2) Does he accept that transferring children from school to school particularly in important secondary grades could be extremely disruptive with negative impacts on academic results?
- (3) Does he support the gradual phasing out of subsidies to enable such students to complete their schooling at the school of their choice?
- (4) What discussions has he had with the Transport Minister and the local member on this matter?

Mr QUINN (15/4/98): (1-4) It is not appropriate for me to answer this question as school transport assistance policy falls within the portfolio responsibilities of my colleague, the Honourable the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

I can inform the Honourable Member, however, that the Member for Mt Ommaney, Bob Harper MLA, has discussed this matter with me and is working hard in pursuing a resolution for constituents within his electorate.

161. Archerfield Electorate, Public Housing

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (18/3/98)—

- (1) How many applicants are listed for public housing in Archerfield Electorate in the suburbs

of Acacia Ridge, Coopers Plains and Sunnybank Hills?

- (2) How many public dwellings and housing units will be constructed or purchased in these suburbs during 1997-98?
- (3) How many additional dwellings and units are proposed to be made available during 1998-99?

Dr WATSON (17/4/98):

- (1) Since 20 October 1997, applications for public rental housing are managed by wait zones rather than by individual suburbs. Acacia Ridge is divided between the wait zones of Stones Corner Zone C and Inala Zone B. The suburbs of Coopers Plains and Sunnybank Hills are included in Stones Corner Zone C.

The full list of suburbs included in each of these zones are as follows:

Stones Corner Zone C: Acacia Ridge, Berrinba, Calamvale, Coopers Plains, Eight Mile Plains, Karawatha, Kuraby, Macgregor, Nathan, Robertson, Rocklea, Runcorn, Salisbury, Stretton, Sunnybank, Sunnybank Hills.

Inala Zone B: Acacia Ridge, Algester, Archerfield, Calamvale, Larapinta, Pallara, Parkinson, Willawong.

As at 28 February 1998, the number of applicants waiting for public rental housing in these two zones is summarised as follows: Stones Corner Zone C: 348; Inala Zone B: 84

- (2) There are no plans for construction or purchases of public housing in the suburbs of Acacia Ridge, Coopers Plains and Sunnybank Hills within the Archerfield electorate during the 1997-98 financial year.
- (3) There are currently no plans for construction or purchases of public housing in the suburbs of Acacia Ridge, Coopers Plains and Sunnybank Hills within the Archerfield electorate during the 1998-99 financial year.

162. Beenleigh Police and Citizens Youth Club

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the advertised use of the Beenleigh Police and Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) at Alamein Street Beenleigh between 6.00 pm and 10.00 pm on Saturday 21 March for a political fund-raising function by Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party—

- (1) What guidelines or rules exist with regard to the use of PCYCs for political purposes?
- (2) Who makes decisions related to the use of PCYC facilities by outside organisations?
- (3) Is this use of PCYC facilities for political fund raising purposes consistent with the purpose of PCYCs which is to provide activities for youth?
- (4) As Pauline Hanson is advertised as attending and as this has sometimes resulted in protest activity, is it appropriate to risk having the good name of PCYCs (and in this case Beenleigh PCYCs) associated with such political conflict?

- (5) Will he take steps to stop this inappropriate use of PCYCs?

Mr COOPER (17/4/98):

(1) Queensland Police Citizens Youth Association is a Public Company, limited by its guarantee, and has its own Memorandum and Articles of Association. There are no specific rules or guidelines regarding the use of PCYC premises for political purposes. The decision to hire out a PCYC premises is a matter for the each Branch Manger, within the Association Rules which are apolitical in their nature.

(2) The Branch Manager is responsible for the day to day operations of a PCYC Branch and determines the optimum use of the PCYC premises, consistent with the Objects of the Association. As the Branch Manager is a serving member of the Queensland Police Service, he must be seen to be fair and just in the application of the Association's Rules.

(3) The modern PCYC Branch provides a service to the wider community as well as to youth. PCYCs need to raise funds to provide these services and it is necessary for PCYC premises to be fully utilised.

Optimum usage may include hiring the PCYC premises to local community and other organisations when they are not being used for its own activities, as long as these uses are not unlawful. PCYCs are strictly apolitical in their hire policy, and hall charge fees are a necessary income to such a community organisation.

(4) Beenleigh PCYC is just such a venue. Any political function has the potential to arouse protest activity. The good name of PCYC would be adversely affected by any prohibition of lawful free speech in its rules or by its conduct.

(5) This type of "Hall Hire" is not seen to be an inappropriate use of PCYCs and is in line with the Objects of that Association. As the PCYC is a Public Company with an elected Board of Directors, no step can be taken to overrule the Board of this Public Company.

163. Laguna Quays-Midge Point, Unsurfaced Road

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/98)—

With reference to the unsurfaced 1.125 km of road between the Laguna Quays resort and Midge Point which was subject to an agreement between the then Pioneer Shire and developer of Laguna Quays, Aqua del Rey and since the property of Laguna Quays financial status is of receivership and the recent Roadshow, the responsibility of this unsurfaced, extremely dangerous section of the road, appears to be in limbo—

Will he advise for the safety of the children who travel to school by bus over this road (a) who is responsible for this strip's surfacing, (b) who holds the insurance for the public travelling on this road, (c) will any State Government moneys be used for this dangerous section of road and (d) will he visit the area soon to inspect this terrible road for himself?

Mr JOHNSON (17/4/98):

(a) The section of road referred to is between the Laguna Quays Resort and Midge Point and is a 1.83

kilometre formed and gravelled section. Both the resort and Midge Point are connected by sealed roads to the Bruce Highway at Kunapipi and Bloomsbury, respectively. All of these roads are the responsibility of Mackay City Council.

(b) The responsibility of insurance for the public travelling this road is that of the individual vehicle owners who are required under law to carry Third Party Personal Insurance.

(c) Mackay City Council must prioritise roadworks in its area and then may choose to apply for State Government funds provided under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) for upgrading work.

(d) I have no plans to inspect the road in the near future; however, Main Roads District Director in Mackay will inspect the road and liaise with Mackay City Council over any essential maintenance works to maintain safe trafficability.

164. Public Art

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (18/3/98)—

With reference to the great importance of public art both as a means of enhancing the amenity of public buildings and their precincts and as a generator of jobs for Queensland art-workers—

(1) When will she develop and announce her Government's policy on public art?

(2) Will the Government match Labor's commitment to a policy of allocating two per cent of the capital works cost of new State Government public buildings to public art; if not, what means of ensuring an adequate source of funding for public art does the Government propose?

(3) What measures will the Government take to ensure that regional art-workers benefit from public art opportunities?

(4) What are the reasons for the delay in the Government's development and announcement of its policy on public art?

Mrs SHELDON (17/4/98):

(1) I want to thank the Member for Yeronga for the opportunity to speak on the issue of public art, or as the Government is preferring to call it, 'integrated art' as part of a much broader and encompassing strategy in the context of our "designing Environments' Policy. We are calling our policy, "Designing Environments' because it proposes to integrate cultural expertise into the planning, design and development of publicly accessible buildings and spaces in towns, communities and shires—the places we live and share in. Our policy will ensure that artists, art and cultural activity is integrated into both the creation and cultural animation of the public realm.

To assist in this policy process, The Arts Office, with my approval, has established a Taskforce of key industry professionals, to develop a Discussion Paper on this matter for circulation in the industry and the community for feedback. This issue is too important not to get right. This Government wants both an innovative and a workable approach to integrated art

and I am confident that the Taskforce, in consultation with Queensland's award winning art and architecture industries, will deliver a multifaceted and 'best practice' approach. The success of programs such as BizArts confirms the kind of directions we need to go in to provide real opportunities for our talented designers and artists—to enable them to be innovative while getting paid employment and providing an aesthetic boost to our public environments as they have been doing in our corporate environments.

The Taskforce is due to report to me next month and I assure the Member for Yeronga that when the Government announces its position on the matter it will be comprehensive, innovative, sustainable and will lead the way in public, or integrated art in this country.

(2) This Government will more than match Labor's proposed commitment through having strategies which actually work, based on the needs of the cultural sector and opportunities within the current Government Capital Works Program and ensure quality as well as quantity through assessing the most appropriate approach for different projects which does not necessarily mean having the same minimum or maximum percentage for all projects. It is not always appropriate for resourcing for initiatives to be coming from % levied on individual buildings.

This policy is being developed within the context of whole of Government strategies and within The Arts Office mission to enhance the economic base of all cultural workers and to create economic development for all cultural workers. Government is also looking at other more appropriate and more targeted ways of investing in this activity. We need flexibility to bring in other funding partners and to create 'value-adding' opportunities for innovation in our public and private sectors.

Our view is that "percent for art" is more of a "trigger", or mechanism rather than a policy in itself. Our policy may utilise "percent for art" but this will only be one approach, among many, needed to respond to the dynamic area of Designing Environments.

(3) Regional Arts Development has always been a priority for this Government and it remains so. The Designing Environments Policy of this Government will certainly ensure that regional artists are catered for in terms of opportunities and employment. Projects such as the Cairns Convention Centre put \$80,000 of the \$125,000 artworks budget (65%) into the pockets of regional artists and this will be considered as a model for regional capital works projects. I'm pleased to note that of the projects managed by the Queensland Artworkers Alliance in the last two years, some \$140,000 has gone to regional artists which has been on average 25% of their budgets managed.

But our policy will go further than this. Our policy will ensure that regional artists are considered for the large capital works projects in Brisbane as well.

In the area of Designing Environments, the Government will continue its commitment to partnerships with Local Governments as in the cases of the RADF Program and Cultural Facilities Program.

(4) There is no delay in the development of the Government's position on public, or integrated art.

Since the appointment of Mr Kevin Radbourne and his Executive Management team this policy development has been accelerated. I have had regular briefings from The Arts Office on both the Taskforce and its work and on current projects such as the integration of \$200,000 worth of artworks into the 75 William Street government offices development. Like other recent major integrated art projects, our state's Indigenous artists are integral to the project.

Mr Radbourne informs me that the Discussion Paper on Designing Environments, which has been developed in consultation with the Taskforce, has been distributed to readers on Friday, 27 March 1998. The Arts Office invited some 140 key industry and community professionals to act as readers of the document (including professionals from Regional Queensland). Of those 140, some 90 of the (65%) have confirmed in writing already, within 1 week, their consent to read the Discussion Paper and to provide feedback to The Arts Office. The interest and enthusiasm for what this Government is doing in this area in the art and architecture communities is comprehensive and extremely enthusiastic.

165. Economic Development and Trade Department, Income and Expenditure

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (18/3/98)—

- (1) What is his department's Whole-of-Government Information Technology and Telecommunications activity?
- (2) Will he detail the budget showing total income from all sources and total expenditure?
- (3) What is the total number of employees of all categories, e.g. full-time, casual, temporary, part-time or secondment?

Mr SLACK (16/4/98):

- (1) The Department is involved in Whole-of-Government Information Technology and Telecommunications activity under the banner of Information Queensland. The Department is involved in various initiatives including:

sole carriage of the "Centre of Excellence for Regional and Rural Services" Information Queensland initiative;

Queensland Business Online (QBOL)—an initiative under Information Queensland for the development of an electronic gateway to electronically access trading opportunities and electronic commerce services;

Queensland IT&T New Initiative Study—an economic and industry development initiative targeted at the information technology and telecommunications sector

representation on several interdepartmental bodies driving the implementation of these initiatives;

The Department has separate Information Technology initiatives which do not fall within the scope of the

Whole-of-Government Information Queensland initiatives.

(2) The Department is involved in three Information Queensland initiatives. However, special funding has only been allocated to conduct two of these initiatives. The remaining initiative is being undertaken by Departmental staff as part of their normal activities. Specific funding for Information Queensland initiatives will total approximately \$1.136M over two years.

(3) Five Departmental officers are involved in varying degrees in Information Queensland initiatives.

166. Cairns, Police Resources

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Warwick Daily News article of 5 November 1997 in which his spokesman agreed to provide the paper with answers to previous Questions on Notice the Minister originally refused to answer because "it would be totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources" and since this is obviously not the case any more—

- (1) How many police left Cairns Police District in 1996-97 and to March 1998 (ie resigned, transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?
- (2) How many police moved into Cairns Police District in 1996-97 and to March 1998?
- (3) Of those police that moved to Cairns Police District during 1996-97 and to March 1998, 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 (16/4/98): My office has at no stage told the Warwick Daily News that the newspaper would be given the details as stated. My Media Adviser told the journalist we had distributed a media release relating to extra staff for the area and offered to again send the information. That information was faxed to the paper as promised.

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.

167. Townsville Correctional Centre

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the riot that occurred at the Stuart Jail in Townsville where in excess of \$100,000 worth of damage was done to the facility after inmates smashed through glass windows and set fire to the officers station and his press statement of 2 January in which he states that he will have a full copy of the report within two weeks—

- (1) Has that investigation now been completed?
- (2) As that time has elapsed will he now table the report into the riot in the Parliament?
- (3) What steps has he taken to prevent a similar event occurring again?

Mr COOPER (17/4/98):

(1) Yes. The investigation into the riot at Townsville Correctional Centre on 2 January 1998 has been completed.

(2) No. It has never been the practice of this Government to table reports of correctional investigations. Such action could allow public access to security related matters, information relating to potential charges against the prisoners involved and material provided in confidence which could put people (informants) at risk.

(3) Additional security measures have been put in place in the Unit in which the riot occurred and in units of similar design. Action has been taken in relation to some staffing issues. The secure perimeter of Townsville Correctional Centre is being upgraded.

168. Aborigines Welfare Fund Branch

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (18/3/98)—

With reference to claims that an officer in the Aboriginal Welfare Unit in her department is under investigation for financial misappropriation—

- (1) Is this true; if so, what is the nature of the misappropriation, has the fund itself been affected and what amounts of money are involved?
- (2) If an investigation is under way, who is conducting it, how did her department become aware of the misappropriation and has the officer been stood aside until its completion; if not, why not?
- (3) Is she aware that this matter is causing considerable tension within the unit, therefore reducing its effectiveness and what does she intend to do to address the problem?
- (4) What amount is presently in the welfare fund?
- (5) Has she yet had the chance to meet with Lesley Williams, the Aboriginal lady presently taking legal action to recover from the fund monies she believes are legally hers; if not, does she intend to and when?

Mrs WILSON (17/4/98):

(1) No one in the Aborigines Welfare Fund Branch is under investigation for financial misappropriation.

However, it has been alleged that an Aboriginal elder researching a native title claim and land acquisitions, was inappropriately assisted with taxi vouchers which

the officer in charge of the Welfare Fund Branch advises related to him travelling to and from the Branch for research purposes. Taxi vouchers are costs that are met from Departmental funds.

(2) The matter in question is under investigation by the CJC.

(3) No.

(4) \$6.9 million.

(5) The Crown's legal advisers have informed the Department that it would not be appropriate for me to discuss Mrs William's legal action with her.

169. Brisbane River, Toxic Spill

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (18/3/98)—

With reference to recent toxic spills in the Brisbane River and/or associated creeks—

- (1) What toxic chemicals were involved and in what volumes?
- (2) When and where was the chemical dumped and how much escaped?
- (3) Was any of the chemical of a kind used for paint production and who is the manufacturer of the chemicals?
- (4) Who was responsible for this illegal dumping and when will they be charged?
- (5) What waterways were affected and how much of them was contaminated?
- (6) What clean-up action has been taken?
- (7) What health risks were created by this dumping?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (1/4/98):

(1) The material was consistent with being phthalate ester resins used in "oil" based paint. There were no pigments or organochlorine compounds present. Nine 200 litre drums had been deliberately dumped down an embankment onto the river bank and some entered into a shallow eddy pool off the main stream of the Brisbane River.

(2) The dumped drums were reported to Department of Environment on Saturday 14 March 1998. The precise date of the dumping is not known.

The material was dumped on the banks of a shallow pool off the main stream of the Brisbane River at Lowood. A small quantity escaped and this was cleaned up.

(3) Phthalates ester resins are used in "oil" based paint manufacture. The manufacturer of the materials has not been identified.

(4) Police are undertaking inquiries about vehicle movement in the area to identify the person or persons involved in the dumping, but to date this has not been successful. Separate inquiries by Department of Environment officers have not identified the offender.

Subject to gaining sufficient evidence and identification of person(s) responsible, the Department will enforce the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 with prosecution being an option.

(5) Some of the drums were partly submerged in the water and the contents were leaking from rust holes in some of them. The drums were in a part of the pool where there was a thick growth of grass (roots in mud below the water surface, stalks and leaves above the water surface). There was no current flowing through this section of the pool. The leaked material floated on the surface of the water and was prevented from spreading by the grass. None of the leaked material entered the main stream of the Brisbane River at any time. There was no need to employ a boom which had been urgently taken to the site.

(6) Police declared a state of emergency and closed the area to the public. The state of emergency was withdrawn at 6.30 pm.

Fire crew wearing full protective suits attached clamps to each drum in turn and the drums were lifted using a crane. The drums were placed in special over-containers which were then sealed and transported off the site on the night of 14 March 1998. Small amounts of waste that were spilt on the road during removal of the drums were temporarily covered with sand.

A slick of waste material remained on the surface of the water and on the grass in the eddy pool. The spill was viscous and sticky and did not spread. There was no current flowing through the pool and fish (mullet) feeding around the pond on Saturday at dusk appeared to be unaffected.

On 15 March 1998 a contractor removed contaminated soil, water and grass using a back hoe and skimmed as much as possible of the remaining waste from the surface of the water. The outer ring of the grass which prevented mixing with the mainstream was left intact. Contaminated dirt, grass and water were removed by truck and taken to the local landfill. The tray of the truck was lined with synthetic filter cloth and a layer of sand to prevent any of the waste material draining out of the tray along with waste water. Dirt roads were restored and smoothed.

Esk Shire Council intends to plant grass seed and water the disturbed areas.

(7) Police declared a state of emergency and as a precaution, canoeists were stopped from using the river in the locality. Swimmers were asked to leave the water, the pumps supplying Fernvale were stopped and BCC Water at Mt Crosby was alerted.

Restrictions on the use of the river and water were lifted at approximately 6.00 pm.

The prompt and appropriate action described above minimised risks to human health from the incident which cannot be condoned by any responsible industry.

170. Young Australians Party; Mr B. Farmer

Mrs ROSE asked the Premier (18/3/98)—

With reference to the proposed formation of a new political party on the Gold Coast called the "Young Australians Party"—

- (1) Is the former head of the Surfrider Foundation (Brad Farmer) the driving force behind this new party?

- (2) Was Mr Farmer a strong supporter of both himself and the Coalition at the last State election and in the run down to the Mundingburra by-election?
- (3) Has he, or a member of his staff, had discussions with Mr Farmer regarding the formation of this new political party; if so, what was the nature of these discussions?
- (4) Will he rule out the possibility of this new party being nothing more than a bogus conservative party directing preferences to the Coalition at the next State election?
- (5) Has he learned nothing from Mundingburra, the Police Union MOU, the Concerned Citizens, the Tri-Partite Health Forum, Sandy Warren and Antony Bradshaw?

Mr BORBIDGE (17/4/98): (1) to (5) I have no knowledge of the formation of this political organisation.

171. Scurr Inquiry

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (18/3/98)—

With reference to the full recommendations of the Scurr Inquiry and continued high levels of concern within the building industry of the diluted provisions adopted by him and to sub-contractors continued difficulties—

Why can't the full Scurr recommendations now be adopted?

Dr WATSON (17/4/98): To urgently deliver the industry reforms which will enhance security of payment for subcontractors, the Bill to amend the Subcontractors Charges Act 1974 was presented to Parliament on 17 March 1998. The Bill is an important first stage in the implementation process of the wider reforms proposed for industry by the Implementation Steering Committee.

The amendments to the Subcontractors Charges Act 1974 expand the application of the Act to enable subcontractors to claim a charge on security held for the performance of a contractor's obligation to the employer. The amendments also expand the categories of persons entitled to a charge. The Bill also provides for further amendments to the legislation which will enhance its effectiveness.

The wider reforms proposed by the committee require legislative enactment, and my department, in association with the committee is, as a matter of priority, developing the detail of the reforms for translation into legislation. The reforms will be sent to Parliament as soon as practicable.

172. Pritchard and Sandgate Roads, Virginia

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/98)—

With reference to Sandgate Road and its intersection with Pritchard Road, Virginia and given (a) the dangerous nature of the intersection, (b) the increasing development of the commercial/industrial

area to the west of the intersection and (c) the proposed upgrade of Sandgate Road—

Will he ensure that traffic signals are installed at this intersection as a matter of urgency and at the very latest as part of the Sandgate Road upgrade?

Mr JOHNSON (17/4/98): Provision of traffic signals at the intersection of Pritchard and Sandgate Roads at Virginia are included in the project to realign and upgrade Sandgate Road at the approaches to Zillman Waterholes.

Construction of that scheme will commence in late April/early May and is due for completion by Christmas 1998.

173. Education Department, Advertising and Promotional Budget

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Government's advertising and promotion budget—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns between 1 July 1997 and 1 March 1998?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on whole of Government campaigns coordinated by his department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotion activities by his department in 1997-98?

Mr QUINN (22/4/98):

(1) The amount spent directly on advertising and promotion campaigns for the 1997/98 financial year to end March totals approximately \$275,060. This comprises funds spent on activities such as the Education Queensland display at the RNA show in 1997; the "Back-to-School" information package; International Teachers' Day; and direct advertising campaigns. It excludes funds allocated to vacancy advertisements as well as tenders for goods/services.

(2) All funds expended to date have been allocated to departmental initiatives.

(3) Approximate funds expended on individual projects include the following:

RNA Show 1997—\$35,000

Back-to-School—\$1,000

International Teachers Day—\$1,000

"Class of '97" advertisement—\$1,200

Courier-Mail "Headstart" promotion—\$10,000

Direct advertising campaigns

(a) Literacy and Numeracy—\$50,860

(b) Connect Ed—\$50,000

Enterprise Bargaining advertising—\$36,000

Promoting the teaching workforce—\$90,000

(4) Some \$140,140 remains available for departmental promotion and advertising activities, in the 1997/98 financial year.

174. Assaults on Police

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (18/3/98)—

- (1) What is the percentage of assaults on police that were inflicted with a weapon or gun in (a) Queensland and (b) whole of Australia?
- (2) What is the Queensland Police Service's policy with respect to (a) issuing and (b) wearing by police officers of body armour?
- (3) Is it true that a police officer wishing to purchase his/her own soft body armour requires the approval of the Commissioner of Police; if so, what factors are taken into account by the Commissioner in deciding such approval?
- (4) Do all police vehicles have body armour available for immediate use by police officers if required by them in an emergency situation?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98):

(1) During 1996/97 the number of assaults on police in Queensland that were inflicted with a gun was 1, and the number of assaults on police in Queensland that were inflicted with other weapons was 49. This data includes only those offences where action was taken under the Police Service Administration Act. There appears to be no data collected and compiled on Australia-wide statistics.

(2) (a) Protective body armour is purchased on a regional basis as and when required against a centralised purchasing standing officer arrangement. (b) Police officers are required to wear protective body armour when responding to incidents which may involve the use of firearms and/or dangerous weapons, and on other occasions at their discretion.

(3) It is true that officers wishing to purchase soft body armour require authorisation from the Commissioner of Police for the acquisition and possession of soft body armour. There are a number of reasons for this, including Workplace Health and Safety issues and the fact that body armour is a category E weapon making it a restricted item under the Weapons Act 1990. To lawfully possess these articles, the officer must make application for and obtain an exemption from the provisions of the Weapons Act 1990 from the Commissioner of Police. The exemption allows the officer to acquire the item and possess it outside their hours of duty.

Departmental policy requires that officers who wish to acquire privately owned protective body armour for use as part of the performance of their duties should:

- (i) contact the Inspector, Weapons Licensing Branch, and obtain advice as to the suitability of particular protective body armour; and
- (ii) apply, in writing, to their Assistant Commissioner or, for officers attached to units not under the control of an Assistant Commissioner, to the Deputy Commissioner, Executive Director, Operations, for approval to possess and wear privately owned protective body armour as part of the performance of their duty.

Where authorisation is to be granted for an officer to possess and use privately owned protective body armour, prior to granting an exemption the Assistant

Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner, Executive Director, Operations, as the case may be, is to ensure that a form of indemnification is obtained from the officer seeking authorisation.

For record keeping purposes when an application is received for authorisation to purchase, possess and use privately owned protective body armour by officers as part of the performance of their duties, the Inspector, Weapons Licensing Branch should be advised, so that computer records at that Branch are maintained.

(4) The deployment of protective body armour within regions is at the discretion of Assistant Commissioners. Generally, operational vehicles provided for general policing duties carry two sets of protective body armour.

175. Cleveland Rail Line

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (18/3/98)—

With reference to the reported sexual assault of a woman at Vulture Street Railway Station on 14 March and further that police are wanting to question a man who was travelling on the 6.52 am Cleveland-bound train—

When will he take the appropriate action that I have been asking for to ensure the safety of all commuters on the Cleveland line, in particular (a) introduce safety zone technology at all stations on the line where passengers carry personal alarm devices, (b) introduce closed-circuit video cameras in train carriages so that the train guard can monitor situations to prevent assaults, (c) double the number of security guards on trains so that their numbers resemble the security guard to station ratio of other States and (d) increase the Queensland Police Rail Squad to at least the level of that of New South Wales and Victoria (it is presently at only 10 per cent of these States levels)?

Mr JOHNSON (17/4/98): Preliminary advice is that this alleged assault did not occur on railway property and all relevant information has been forwarded to Queensland Police.

The safety and security of passengers are of the utmost concern to Queensland Rail. Queensland Rail will strive to ensure that the staff and technology are in place to deter an incident or enable offenders to be identified and arrested.

Action has been taken to introduce safety zones at certain stations and tender documentation is currently being prepared for introduction of a duress alarm system.

A dedicated Protective Services Unit of 16 experienced security staff and a mobile staff of 34 highly trained Ticket Inspectors are employed. In addition there are another 15 Ticket Inspectors who are currently being recruited and trained by Queensland Rail. There is also a group of 23 Queensland Police members plus a full time Inspector, known as the Railway Squad, with an additional six Police to join the unit which will increase its operating effectiveness. Chubb Security Officers are currently employed by Citytrain to provide a security presence

on trains, though they do not have specific powers in relation to railway legislation.

Close cooperation exists between Queensland Police and Queensland Rail. There are weekly and sometimes bi-weekly joint operations are conducted involving Rail Squad Police, Regional Police, QR Protective Services Officers and Ticket Inspectors targeting a whole range of criminal and antisocial issues around the Citytrain network. QR has requested the Government to double the number of the Rail Police Squad.

Other initiatives introduced by Citytrain include a special 'Police Train' running on a section of the Citytrain network with a complement of police and Protective Services officers. This train is not subject to on-time running or to timetable services and it may respond to any situations that arise. Instances include stopping at stations to address large groups of youths or stopping along any section of the rail corridor to confront trespassers or vandals. I am pleased to advise that since inception, the 'Police Train' has been highly successful.

Additional support from the Queensland Police Services' Operations Support Command has seen the introduction of patrols by the Dog Squad and Mounted Units at railway stations and car parks throughout the Citytrain network. The group also provides additional patrol support both on train and at stations and car parks utilising officers based in the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) and Public Safety Response Team (PSRT) when not required for other special policing tasks.

Citytrain allocates the available security resources in accordance with statistics drawn from both Police and Queensland Rail Protective Services databases.

The QR Protective Services Division concentrate patrol activities in areas with the highest incidence of crime and antisocial behaviour as recorded on the above databases. The Queensland Police Service also subscribe to 'intelligence driven' patrols based on actual reported crime. It would not be an acceptable use of resources to work on any other system.

Recently Queensland Rail introduced special Guardian trains with additional security officers for passengers' peace of mind. These trains will provide passengers travelling at night a greater safety presence. Passengers are encouraged to travel in the vicinity of the guard who is in radio contact with the control centre if they are apprehensive.

Installation of closed-circuit video cameras on board Citytrain services is progressing with a large number already installed.

With the introduction of the Coalition Government's TrainSafe Program, I am confident that safe and secure rail travel will be enhanced.

176. Nelly Bay Development, Magnetic Island

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (18/3/98)—

With reference to the Nelly Bay development project at Magnetic Island—

- (1) How much has the Government committed to subsidising this development?
- (2) How was the amount of the subsidy calculated?
- (3) What will the subsidy pay for?
- (4) How does this compare with the cost of rehabilitating the site?
- (5) What options for a safe harbour at other Magnetic Island locations have been analysed and compared to the costs of proceeding at Nelly Bay?
- (6) Has a revised development plan been submitted to the Government?
- (7) What is proposed to happen to the revetment wall currently decaying at the site?
- (8) Will Gustav Creek still spill sewage into the harbour area inside the wall?
- (9) Who are the consultant engineers currently advising on the development?
- (10) Has his department received all information requested of the developers and engineers?
- (11) Has his failure to obtain the required information resulted in the Premier stripping him of responsibility for the development and handling it from the Premier's Department?
- (12) What is the state of the development approvals and what further processes and approvals will the Government require before the development can proceed?

Mr SLACK (16/4/98):

- (1) There is no subsidy being provided toward the development. In November/December 1997, approval in principle was given for the provision of public infrastructure on the Nelly Bay site to a maximum of \$6m as part of a revised development concept which will see the completion of development on the site and the provision of a safe harbour for Magnetic Island. The previous Government committed to paying up front the cost of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), \$200,000 of which was to be recouped from the developer at the time of freeholding. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet is facilitating this project and has advised that is now negotiating with the developer for the total cost of the EIS commissioned by the Government to be recovered from the developer at the time of freeholding.
- (2) There has been no subsidy provided. The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has advised that a conservative estimate was made on the cost of providing the public infrastructure and an independent cost audit of the proposed work was completed on 18 March 1998 by consulting firm Cardno & Davies Queensland Pty Ltd. This report confirmed that the Government will receive outstanding value for money in this contract.
- (3) Again, there has been no subsidy provided. I understand that the developer has offered to complete the list of items in Attachment 1 for \$6m. The detail of the current negotiations on this list will be confirmed in the commercial agreement between the State of Queensland and Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd. I am advised that by the developer's own calculations, work valued at approximately \$8.7m is being offered

for \$6m. The accuracy of this offer has been substantially confirmed by the independent cost audit carried out by Cardno & Davies Queensland Pty Ltd on behalf of the Queensland Government.

(4) This Government's primary consideration in relation to Nelly Bay site has been to clean up the eyesore left by the failed Magnetic Quay project by the completion of a new development incorporating a safe harbour facility for Magnetic Island. Rehabilitation of the site involving the removal of the existing breakwater is not a logical option and is discussed at some length in the draft EIS prepared by Sinclair Knight Merz in September 1995. The environmental costs of rehabilitation of the site are listed on page 13 of the EIS document and are attached for reference (Attachment 2). The discussion concludes, "The only positive benefit of this alternative (rehabilitation of site) is the cleaning up of the site. This benefit is shared by other alternatives. Enacting site reinstatement does not solve the problem of providing a safe harbour on the island. The option to reinstate the site was also considered by a Federal inquiry into the Magnetic Quay development (Whitehouse Report 1992) and it concluded that it was impractical and not justifiable."

(5) A full discussion of alternatives was included in the 1995 EIS document prepared by Sinclair Knight Merz. Recent indicative estimates prepared by the Department of Transport (DOT) indicate that the provision of comparable facilities at Picnic Bay, based on the upgrading of the existing jetty, is estimated at between \$4.9m and \$6.7m. While DOT has estimated that the existing Picnic Bay jetty has another 20 years of serviceable life, continued maintenance of the facility at a minimum cost of approximately \$60,000 per annum (based on current expenditure), is required. The provision of a new jetty (in the next 20 years) would add a further \$3.4m to the cost of providing safe harbour facilities at Picnic Bay.

The main factors contributing to the higher cost of provision of safe harbour facilities at Picnic Bay are the lack of deep water access to the site necessitating a substantially longer jetty structure and the need to construct rock breakwaters which are estimated to cost around \$3.9m or \$5.5m depending on the source of the rock.

(6) The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has advised that it has received a revised development plan.

(7) The "revetment wall" referred to in the Honourable Member's question is actually a "breakwater". The breakwater's decaying sheet piling will be removed and after some remediation of the rock works, I understand that a public beach will be constructed inside the wall.

The water quality studies carried out as part of the draft EIS indicated that old septic systems upstream of Nelly Bay may be leaking into Gustav Creek. The management of sewage is a matter for the Townsville City Council to address as part of an overall strategy for the island.

Cardno & Davies Queensland Pty Ltd.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has advised that it has received all information requested of the developers.

Due to the increased involvement of representatives of the local North Queensland Office of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet in the Nelly Bay project last year, my Department suggested that, as the project was not a designated "Major Project" for which it had responsibility under the Major Project Facilitation Program, the project would be more appropriately facilitated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

(12) The Department of the Premier and Cabinet has advised that the supplementary EIS process has commenced and should take around 12-14 weeks with a four week public display period. The supplementary EIS will address those parts of the redesign of the project, which were not addressed in the previous September 1995 EIS and is the first step in setting all approvals in place.

177. TAFE System

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (18/3/98)—

- (1) Why has he allowed the TAFE system in Queensland to run down to such a degree that morale among TAFE teachers is at an all-time low?
- (2) Why won't he give his full support to the State-run TAFE system, rather than slicing off essential training elements to his mates in the private sector where the priority is profit, rather than professional instruction?

Mr SANTORO (16/4/98):

(1) Objective evidence is readily available to show that this question has no factual basis.

In the last year TAFE Queensland has benefited from a large number of Departmental initiatives. All of these initiatives are aimed at reinvigorating the TAFE system.

The highly successful Year of Training in 1997 focused the public's interest on vocational education and training. As the largest single training provider in the State, TAFE Queensland will benefit enormously from this increased profile.

My initiative, Working Better Together, brought together a vertical slice of staff from throughout the State to address many of the issues of most concern to TAFE staff. The implementation of the recommendations is an ongoing priority for TAFE managers.

The TAFE Queensland's strategic plan, Strategy 21, established frameworks for a strong and viable future for the organisation through its emphasis on collaboration across the system; building key alliances with business and industry; the development of its workforce; and the application of responsive technologies. Planning for the implementation of Strategy 21 is currently being enthusiastically workshopped at every TAFE Institute.

In relation to staff morale, the Employee Opinion Survey, conducted independently each year, seeks to quantify the opinions of all TAFE Queensland employees in regard to a range of aspects of their work. Over the last two years, the survey results have shown improvement as the benefits of the

organisational development initiatives outlined above take effect.

According to the latest Employee Opinion Survey, the ten aspects of their work that staff are most satisfied with are, (in order): Teamwork in my area; Safety in the workplace; Productivity; External client satisfaction; My pride in my Institute; Having immediate supervisors who listen; Responding to client needs; Quality of my Institute's products and services; Employee commitment to my Institute's values; and My job satisfaction.

Such findings do not suggest either that the organisation is being run down or that staff morale is low.

The innovations I have outlined are necessary in order to ensure TAFE Queensland retains its leadership role in the vocational education and training market in this State and to ensure that Queensland's industry, and all Queenslanders, receive the quality, cost effective training they deserve.

(2) The Competitive Funding Program was established by the former Labor Government in 1993 to more effectively respond to the training needs of Queensland's industry. This Program is part of the National Competition Policy which was introduced, implemented and vigorously promoted by Federal and State Labor Governments, with the support of all other major political parties. The budget for the Competitive Funding Program in Queensland has increased from \$2M in 1993/94 to approximately \$54.1M in the 1997/98. During Labor's term the amount of funding put out to tender increased eleven-fold. The Coalition has significantly reduced the rate or increase to allow TAFE to adjust more effectively to the competitive market.

The Competitive Funding Program has encouraged both public and private providers to compete for available taxpayer's funds based on the training needs of Queensland's business and industry. A significant benefit of a competitively funded training system is that greater cost efficiencies are achieved in both public and private provision of training services. The Competitive Funding Program has produced quality outcomes and substantial savings for Queensland taxpayers. As a result, more training has been available for Queensland industry than ever before.

The TAFE network is an important and valued player in the competitive training market with TAFE Institutes being awarded approximately 65% of the Competitive Funding budget in the 1997-98 financial year.

The User Choice initiative in New Apprenticeships allows employers and apprentices to choose a registered training organisation to deliver vocational training. Prices for training delivery are set by the Department. To date, TAFE Institutes have been successful in gaining User Choice contracts to the notional value of \$39.5M, or 69% of the total committed value of User Choice contracts.

The Government is committed to ensuring that TAFE Queensland remains an innovative, leading edge public provider of vocational education and training. It is well positioned to expand its share of the competitive training market.

178. Daintree Region, RAP Scheme

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/3/98)—

With reference to the RAP Scheme in place north of the Daintree—

- (1) Is it a requirement to have a certified inspector carry out an inspection and issue an approval prior to the Department of Mines and Energy paying any funds from the scheme?
- (2) Is Peter Chard of his department a certified inspector who is able to carry out such inspections; if not, is he aware if Mr Chard has conducted any inspections of RAP schemes and issued any approval of payments for properties north of the Daintree and, in particular, on Bailey Creed Road in Cape Kimberley?
- (3) Is he aware of any property north of the Daintree granted approval of payment from RAP scheme funds that, due to poor quality installation work, should not have received approval of funding through the RAP scheme?
- (4) Why did he send one of his officers from Brisbane who was not qualified when there was an officer in his Townsville office who had the necessary qualifications?

Mr GILMORE (20/4/98):

- (1) No—Each installation requires the applicant to provide a certification to the wiring from a registered electrician prior to payment of a subsidy.
- (2) There is no requirement that Departmental officers be a certified inspector to conduct site inspections. The primary purpose of site inspections conducted by Departmental officers was to confirm applicants had received the equipment for which a rebate was provided. With respect to the technical aspects of the installation, reliance is placed upon the certification provided by the registered electrician. Mr Chard has conducted inspections of equipment in Bailey Creek Road, Cape Kimberley in the terms outlined above.
- (3) No
- (4) Specific qualifications were not necessary to conduct site inspections.

179. Bundaberg Abattoir

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/3/98)—

With reference to the State Government's decision to close the Bundaberg Abattoir and failure to reach a satisfactory outcome with groups who had submitted an 'expression of interest'—

- (1) Is the State Government engaged in secret negotiations to sell the abattoir plant and equipment; if so, with whom?
- (2) Do these secret negotiations include the sale of the abattoir to reopen at its present site?
- (3) Do these secret negotiations include leasing an area of land with the abattoir and have the negotiations also included land to be provided on a freehold basis?

- (4) How is the value of these Government assets being reached in these secret negotiations?
- (5) Has the Minister for Trade and Economic Development and member for Burnett been involved in these negotiations?
- (6) Why has the local Bundaberg Abattoir Support Committee not been included in negotiations to reopen the abattoir as a local service abattoir?
- (7) Why hasn't the State Government included the re-establishment of a local board to operate a local service abattoir?
- (8) Has the taskforce to investigate the establishment of a 'food park' or other uses for the excess abattoir land been established?
- (9) Who is on the taskforce committee and has it ever met; if not, why not?
- (10) Why hasn't the Government followed an open tender system in the disposal of the abattoir and lease of surrounding land to ensure the best return for the Queensland public and, in particular, the Bundaberg community?

Mr ROWELL (16/4/98):

1. No. When all avenues to negotiate a successful outcome through the Government's 'expressions of interest' process for the future of the Bundaberg abattoir had been exhausted, the former Minister for Primary Industries, Mr Perrett agreed that a further public tender process would proceed through the Queensland Abattoir Corporation (QAC). This further public tender process was to allow any interested parties, including those who had not participated in the 'expressions of interest' process, a final opportunity to purchase and operate the abattoir while leasing an appropriate area of the Bundaberg land for abattoir purposes.

An open public tender was advertised in the Bundaberg News-Mail and the Courier Mail on Saturday 29 November 1997. The same tender was advertised in the Queensland Country Life on Thursday 4 December 1997. Tenders closed on 18 December 1997.

The tender process has been conducted by QAC on a commercial-in-confidence basis as they are required to do under the Meat Industry Act 1993. I am not aware that any Government member has been involved in the negotiating process with any tenderer.

The negotiations are not secret as the Member for Bundaberg suggests, but as they are being done on a commercial-in-confidence basis, I do not believe that it is proper to divulge the name of those involved at this time.

2. These commercial-in-confidence negotiations include the sale of the abattoir to re-open at its present site.

3. These commercial-in-confidence negotiations include leasing a suitable area of the land for abattoir purposes but exclude the land being provided on a freehold basis.

4. The Steering Committee on the future of Government Involvement in Meat Processing commissioned a full independent commercial valuation of all QAC assets as part of the 'expression of

interest' process. These current and detailed independent commercial valuations were undertaken by a team of valuers with experience in the meat processing sector. These valuations are the basis for the divestment of all QAC assets including the Bundaberg abattoir.

5. No. I am not aware of any involvement by any Member of the Government in the negotiations.

6. The local Bundaberg Abattoir Support Committee was given every opportunity to purchase the Bundaberg abattoir through the 'expressions of interest' process. As late as September 1997, my colleague and former Minister for Primary Industries specifically requested that the Steering Committee give additional time to the Bundaberg Abattoir Support Committee to have a second go in providing a commercial business plan for the abattoir. The Bundaberg Abattoir Support Committee had asked the Minister specifically for this extra consideration when a deputation led by the Bundaberg Mayor, Nita Cunningham, met with him prior to a Cabinet meeting at Hervey Bay on 22 September 1997.

Although Mr Perrett acceded to their wishes and gave them until 22 October 1997 to provide him with a commercial business plan, no plan was forthcoming.

I am further advised by QAC that the Bundaberg Abattoir Support Committee had not shown any interest whatsoever in the further public tender process advertised in the Bundaberg News-Mail on 29 November 1997 and elsewhere.

On the basis of all of the above, I would answer the question by saying that the Bundaberg Abattoir Support Committee has itself chosen not to be involved in any negotiations to re-open the abattoir as a local service abattoir.

7. The Meat Industry Act 1993, which the Honourable Member for Bundaberg's own Labor Government introduced and implemented, specifically removed reference to local boards and local service abattoirs from legislation in line with the recommendations of the report of the Queensland Livestock and Meat Industry Advisory Group which was established in 1990 by the then Minister for Primary Industries, Mr Ed Casey.

8. Yes. The establishment of the Bundaberg Abattoir Land Redevelopment Committee was announced by my colleague, the Minister for Economic Development and Trade, the Honourable Doug Slack, MLA, on 20 March 1998 and the Honourable Member for Bundaberg is quoted by the Bundaberg News-Mail of 21 March 1998 as having supported the proposal.

9. As announced by Minister Slack in Bundaberg on 20 March 1998, the Committee will include his representative, Mr Nigel Brown from the Department of Economic Development and Trade as Chairman, a representative of the Bundaberg City Council, the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry, and two business persons from both Bundaberg and its surrounding districts.

The Committee will meet regularly in Bundaberg and there will be opportunities for consultation with the local community.

It is expected that the first meeting of the Committee will be held in Bundaberg in April.

10. Government has followed an open tender process and I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his first question.

180. Maryborough TAFE Institute

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (19/3/98)—

With reference to his comment in his letter to the editor, Fraser Coast Chronicle on 18 March where he stated that currently 52 students are enrolled in 4 pre-vocational courses at Maryborough TAFE College—

Is this statement factual?

Mr SANTORO (16/4/98): The 52 students referred to in the media release are undertaking trade training in the areas of automotive, electrical, fitting, and fabrication to prepare them for entry into those vocations. The training they are undertaking is of a general prevocational nature.

All 52 students are undertaking modules from CNL03—Certificate in Vocational Access, and all but eight of them are also undertaking modules from CN0088—Certificate I in Engineering (Prevocational).

Any fairminded person who obtains the TAFE Handbook and reads the descriptions given for the above courses will agree that the students are receiving training that is predominantly prevocational in emphasis.

181. Gracemere, Police Beat Shopfront Program

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to calls for a Police Beat Program to be established in Gracemere and to the following advice provided in answer to Question on Notice No. 515 of 1997 "Following a submission from the Assistant Commissioner, three Senior Constable positions were approved on 19 January 1996 to create three Police Beat Area Offices at North Rockhampton, Rockhampton and Gracemere" and "the report includes advice as to the effect that, until such time as priorities are established and funding is clarified, the selection process in respect to the advertised vacancies should be postponed and applicants advised accordingly"—

- (1) Has he now been successful in obtaining funds for the establishment of a Police Beat Program for the town of Gracemere?
- (2) Will he complete the process initiated by the former Labor Government and establish a Police Beat Program in the town?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98):

(1) The Queensland Police Service is committed to providing a permanent police presence at Gracemere. The 1996 proposal to place a police beat area office at Gracemere was approved, subject to finance being made available to proceed with the project.

Police Beat Area Offices were to be centrally funded on a State-wide prioritised needs basis. Funding was

not available to proceed with the Rockhampton—Gracemere projects.

Funding for beat area offices is now a Regional responsibility and funds are not available in the current budget.

(2) Recent demographic surveys of Gracemere suggest the town has outgrown the facilities and service a beat area office can provide to the community. This has changed the Service's focus from providing a beat area office to a fully equipped police station. This proposal is currently being investigated.

182. Power Stations

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/3/98)—

With reference to the recent power crisis—

- (1) Is it true that, around the time he decided to abandon Eastlink in 1996, he received formal advice from Austa Electric to urge the construction of a 600 megawatt gas-fired base load power station which could be completed in two years to compensate for the loss of capacity that would have been provided by Eastlink?
- (2) Did he reject that advice in favour of the advice of Professor Don Anderson, who advocated bringing forward from 2002 plans for a series of small gas-fired peak load stations; if so, why did he prefer the advice of an outside consultant to that of his generation corporation?
- (3) Will none of those peak load stations be able to provide additional generating capacity into the grid until March 2000 at the earliest?
- (4) Once those peak load stations do finally come on stream, what will the proportional difference be in the average price for a unit of power from the peak load stations compared to the average price for a unit of power from base load stations in Queensland?

Mr GILMORE (20/4/98):

(1) Austa Electric did provide a proposal involving the expansion of existing base load power stations and/or the construction of a new base load power station. However, there was no indication that these projects could be completed in two years, the proposals indicated that they would satisfy system requirements in 1999 and 2000/01.

Following the advice from AUSTA and further advice from the QTSC in 1996 on how to replace the capacity that Eastlink would have provided, the Government decided on a modified QTSC option of calling for competitive bids for power stations to meet system requirements in the period 1999/2000. The key objective of this competitive bidding process was to allow private and public sector organisations to compete freely and to ensure that competitive pressures would result in a least cost supply outcome for Queensland.

The competitive bidding process sought bids for new capacity, and was not limited to peaking or intermediate load projects. AUSTA fully participated in this bidding process and submitted its base load

proposals for evaluation. Ultimately however, the independent tender assessment process selected three peaking stations to provide a total of 740 MW based on their ability to provide the best solution to Queensland's electricity needs. This choice reflected the favourable economics of selecting peaking load plant and confirmed the outcomes of earlier QTSC studies (ie. the 1995 Power Purchase Plan indicated that intermediate/peaking plant would provide the most economical additions to the Queensland system for the period 1999-2002).

With the Government's commitment to recommission Collinsville and Callide A in 1998 and to interconnect with New South Wales via the more appropriate Interconnector route in 2001, the additional capacity signed up to by the Government for the period up to 2001/02 is 300 MW greater than that which was planned by the previous government.

(2) Professor Anderson was commissioned to Chair the Queensland Electricity Industry Structure Task Force to specifically provide advice to the Government on the appropriateness of the then, existing industry structure in the context of Queensland's proposed entry into the National Electricity Market. Professor Anderson was not requested to advise (nor did he provide advice) on the commissioning of new generation capacity in Queensland. In fact, the competitive tender process resulting in the three peaking plants was well under way prior to Professor Anderson's engagement and the establishment of the Task Force in June 1996. Specifically, this matter was not on the Terms of Reference for the Task Force.

(3) The AES Transpower 283 MW power station located at Mount Stuart and the Transfield 158 MW power station at Yabula, both near Townsville, are continuing on schedule and will be commissioned in January 1999. The Oakey Power Venturers' 303 MW power station 4 km west of Oakey is also progressing according to schedule and is due for commissioning in January 2000.

(4) Pricing information from the generation industry is confidential and cannot be disclosed. In general terms, peaking load is more expensive per kW than base load, however, taking into account the lower capital costs and limited periods of operation, the overall effect is that in Queensland's current electricity system, peaking load provides a cheaper way of fulfilling the State's power needs compared to base load.

183. Ergon and Omega Electricity Corporations Merger

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/3/98)—

With reference to the recently announced merger of the Ergon and Omega retail electricity corporations—

- (1) As the model of three retail corporations and seven distribution boards was his own hybrid design, does the merger signify that his model as a whole is unworkable?
- (2) Although the Chairman of Ergon has claimed that none of the 40-odd Ergon and Omega employees will lose their jobs, isn't it true that over 200

people were performing functions for the two organisations immediately prior to the merger including at least 50 retail staff seconded from regional distribution boards and over 100 staff on contract?

- (3) How many of these positions will be removed from the merged Ergon corporation and what will happen to the people currently performing those functions?
- (4) Isn't it true that those seconded employees not required by Ergon will not have jobs to return to as the regional distribution boards are also cutting staff numbers?
- (5) In which city will Ergon locate its central call centre to field customer phone inquiries?

Mr GILMORE (20/4/98):

(1) As the Honourable Leader of the Opposition knows, the recommendation for the establishment of three regionally based electricity retail corporations emanated from the independent report of the Queensland Electricity Industry Structure Task Force. The Government (through the QERU) made it clear that this model was not immutable but that any change would need to be driven by the corporations themselves in response to the market.

The distribution corporation shareholders of Ergon and Omega have responded to the rigours of a very competitive retail market by making the commercial decision to merge the two businesses.

(2) Ergon and Omega are intended to be relatively small organisations and this will continue and is not affected by the merger.

Staff were seconded from the distribution corporations to assist in the start-up of the two retailers, commencing well before the actual industry restructuring on 1 July 1997. As at 23 March 1998, there were only 7 secondees in total in Ergon Energy and Omega Energy.

(3) As stated in answer to the previous question, both retailers at the time of the merger have a small number of employees. As such, there will be no significant reduction in the total number of positions in Ergon Energy and Omega Energy.

(4) As stated already, there are only a small number of secondees returning to the distribution corporations on account of the merger. It is proposed that they will return to their substantive positions with the distributors unless full time positions become available in Ergon.

The actions which may or may not be taken by the distribution corporations as they prepare to enter the new regulatory and pricing regime associated with the national market is a completely separate and unrelated issue to the merger of the two retailers.

(5) Following the merger, Ergon Energy will continue to be served by four call centres and two distributed telephone answering services, operated by its six owners as part of their service level agreements with Ergon Energy. There are no plans in train for the development of a single call centre, although Ergon Energy will, along with all other retailers in the competitive market, seek to ensure that it has access to the best practice in this and all other customer services.

184. Sandgate Police Station, Incident Involving Rape Suspect

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to the recent incident in which a rape suspect was captured, assaulted and delivered to the Sandgate Police Station and further media reports of similar actions being planned by victims of crime—

- (1) Doesn't this show that the public of Queensland have lost faith in his Government's law and order agenda and are taking justice into their own hands?
- (2) What is he doing to ensure this practice doesn't take hold generally in society with all the obvious social dislocation that would ensue?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98):

(1) On 2 March 1998 police at Sandgate Division received a telephone call stating that a package would be delivered to them in the public toilet across the road.

Uniform police officers attended at the toilets and upon returning to their station located Gregory John Doble walking in front of the police station. Doble had been handcuffed and had visible injuries.

Doble was conveyed to the Redcliffe Hospital and received treatment prior to being interviewed by Detectives attached to the Sandgate Criminal Investigation Branch. Doble was the suspect for the rape of a female in her home at Bald Hills on 27 February 1998. The suspect readily admitted to other offences.

On 4 March 1998 he appeared in the Sandgate Magistrates Court charged with: 2 counts of rape, being in a dwelling with intent, assault with intent to commit rape, deprivation of liberty, indecent assault, 2 counts of procure indecent act, bodily harm, 2 counts of unlawful use of a motor vehicle, stealing, three counts of attempting stealing.

Police investigations have been conducted into the circumstances surrounding the incident and the persons allegedly responsible for delivering Gregory John Doble to the Sandgate Police Station have been interviewed. At this stage police have not identified the person or persons responsible for handcuffing or assaulting Mr Doble.

The complaint of assault was withdrawn by Mr Doble on 18 March 1998.

For Mr Nuttall to suggest that from one regrettable isolated and unprecedented incident, that the people of Queensland have lost faith in this Government's law and order agenda indicates a note of desperation from the opposition, who after spending \$1.5 billion in its last 3 years of Government only managed to provide an extra 29 police to the people of Queensland.

The people of Queensland can actually have great confidence in this government's performance regarding law and order when compared with the abysmal performance of Labor in its last 3 years of Government. Under this government, police now have the tools required to fight crime in the community through the introduction of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, through unprecedented

increases in police numbers and resources and through the Coalition's commitment to local crime prevention partnerships, involving the substantial knowledge and skill of local communities in identifying real strategies to deal with the real issues.

In fact contrary to Mr Nuttall's suggestion, recent survey's indicate that people are feeling safer and more secure. This is because this Government is in the business of getting on with the job rather than focusing on isolated incidents that are not reflective of the very good work that police are doing out there in the community.

With respect to the particular incident in question, I might draw the Member's attention to the fact that contrary to his attempts to beat up a crime fear frenzy in the community statistics released from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate the sort of inroads that this Government's positive policing initiatives have had on the level of reported crime since this Government took over.

The trend of 6% hikes in crimes against the person each and every year for the past ten years has slowed to just 3% per capita, assault fell 5% per capita—the first drop in a decade that saw an average annual increase of 12% in real terms, Homicide is down by 7%, Rape and attempted Rape are down 11% and Queensland is significantly below the national average in 8 out of the 14 offence categories, including assault.

(2) On 2 March 1998 a media conference was conducted by Chief Superintendent C. J. Crawford, Operations Co-ordinator for Metropolitan North Police Region to discourage members of the public from considering such actions as they could prove detrimental to police investigations and place themselves unnecessarily at risk of being charged or injured.

I am informed by the Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan North Region that this was an isolated incident and to his knowledge unprecedented.

185. Emergency Services Department Helicopters, Use by Ministers

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (19/3/98)—

With reference to Ministerial use of Government Aviation Services—

- (1) For the period 1 July 1997 to 19 March 1998, what are the details of each flight of the Government's helicopters requested by a Minister?
- (2) What was the time and point of departure and destination of each of these flights?
- (3) What was the distance travelled by each Minister for each flight during this period?
- (4) What was the purpose of each of these flights?
- (5) What was the cost of each of these flights and how were each of these flights paid for?

Mr VEIVERS (20/4/98):

(1) In response to the first part of the question, I advise that the Premier and State Government

Ministers were transported by the Department of Emergency Services helicopter on 13 occasions during the period 1 July 1997 to 19 March 1998.

(2) The time, point of departure and the destination for each of the flights is included in the schedule which I now table.

(3) These flights totalled 1534 nautical miles. Details of distances involved in each flight are also included in the schedule.

(4) The purpose of the flights varied and the individual purposes are indicated in the schedule. The Squirrel helicopter was used for Ministerial transport.

(5) The charge out costs for these flights totalled \$13195. Responsibility for payment of flights rests with the Minister concerned.

186. Home Invasions

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to the dramatic increase in violent home invasions which have now become virtually a nightly event in Queensland and to his claims in Opposition to have the solution and guaranteed that they would cease should he become the Minister for Police—

- (1) Why is this problem increasing at a rapid rate under his stewardship of the Police portfolio?
- (2) What specific steps has he taken to address this problem which is seeing an ever increasing number of Queenslanders being robbed, bashed and raped in their own homes?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98):

(1) Home invasions are not a nightly event in Queensland nor a problem that is increasing rapidly. However, when a home invasion does occur it is the subject of much media attention. Without underestimating the seriousness of this offence, it must be remembered that home invasion is a new name for an old offence called burglary. It is not a new problem.

(2) Following extensive consultation, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 1997 was passed by the Parliament in November last year to provide police officers with greater powers to help prevent offences and to apprehend offenders. This Act represents the most significant event in policing history for many years.

For offences involving home invasion the Act enables a police officer to—

establish a crime scene, so that a thorough examination of the place can be conducted to obtain evidence of the offenders identity (ss 16-22);

establish a roadblock to apprehend the offender leaving the scene or to locate someone who has been abducted;

stop, detain and search a suspected offender or their vehicle to locate something the person intends to cause harm to someone else or to

locate instruments of house breaking (ss 26 & 27);

arrest the offender for the purpose of questioning the person or conducting investigations about the offence (ss. 35 & 50);

enter a place and detain the offender to prevent acts of violence against a person or their property (s 122);

take steps reasonably necessary to prevent the offence from happening.

In 1997, the Attorney General and Minister for Justice also introduced legislation that amended the Criminal Code so that offenders who use or threaten violence during a burglary may be sentenced for up to life imprisonment.

187. Police Vehicles Damaged in High-Speed Pursuits

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to the involvement of police in high speed pursuits with offenders—

- (1) How many police vehicles have been damaged in this practice since 1 January 1997?
- (2) What is the total cost to the taxpayer to repair these damaged vehicles?
- (3) When a vehicle is not useable due to such damage and the subsequent repair, is that vehicle replaced at the police station at which it is stationed?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98):

(1) Between 1 January 1997 and 28 February 1998, eighty-eight (88) Queensland Police Service vehicles were damaged in pursuit related incidents.

(2) The total funds expended to repair or replace the vehicles was \$250,238.09.

(3) When a vehicle is not useable for any reason, a replacement vehicle is provided, if necessary, either from regional resources or from Transport Section in Brisbane.

188. Urandangi, Link to Power Grid

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/3/98)—

With reference to the gas pipeline under construction from south east Queensland to Mount Isa—

Are there any plans to link the township of Urandangi to a power grid as a result of this construction; if not, what would be required to link the township to Urandangi to a power grid?

Mr GILMORE (20/4/98): There are no plans to link the township of Urandangi to a power grid as a result of the construction of a gas pipeline from south east Queensland to Mount Isa.

However, there is provision in the Mount Isa pipeline for a connection to be made to outlying areas if commercially viable.

189. Light Rail Network

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/3/98)—

With reference to the current study process and timetable for Briztram—

- (1) What evaluations were done prior to the commencement of the current process, which concludes in June, to ensure that light rail was the right mode for the task he was seeking to fulfil?
- (2) How was the task he was seeking to complete defined and what investigations supported this and who did this work?

Mr JOHNSON (17/4/98):

(1) Several evaluations and planning studies have previously been done into the need for a light rail network for Brisbane.

A study conducted by Maunsells for Brisbane City Council in 1993 analysed in detail whether bus or light rail was the best mode for the task in the inner city and concluded that light rail was the preferred mode.

The Integrated Regional Transport Plan involved extensive consultation and transport planning in devising the best integrated transport plan for the region.

During the development of the IRTP, light rail was regularly proposed as the right solution to the inner city's transport demands.

The conclusion of all these studies was the same, namely that light rail was the most appropriate mode for the task which is to move people around the dense activity areas of the inner city in an efficient and environmentally responsible way.

The task is not just a transport one, as one of the key objectives of Briztram is to support urban renewal and regenerate the City. The whole aim is to concentrate activity at key points and move large numbers of people with a high capacity, environmentally friendly people mover.

The visibility and permanence of light rail is the mark of any progressive city that demonstrates that it is serious about addressing its transport and environmental problems.

(2) The defined task was to:

- maximise public transport attractiveness in the CBD;
- support inner city living and urban renewal;
- provide an efficient and accessible inner city distributor which links to all the major attractions;
- provide an easy to use seamless system for tourists, residents, workers and shoppers; and
- enhance commercial and retail activity in the City.

To meet this task, a pre-feasibility study was conducted by a State Government Light Rail Taskforce prior to the Premier's initial announcement of the project in November 1997. This study built on the work done by Maunsells in 1993.

The study was managed by Queensland Transport and involved benefit-cost analysis, demand forecasting,

financial analysis and transport planning. Some consultancy advice was received from Maunsells and Sinclair Knight Merz. The study work was reviewed by Price Waterhouse.

These investigations showed that light rail has distinct advantages suited to meeting the task. These include:

- its higher capacity than buses to move people around the city;
- its environmental benefits over other modes, for example no emissions;
- its fixed nature, permanence and visibility which generates transit-supportive developments;
- its inherent attractiveness to people compared to other modes;
- its potential to integrate with other modes and form a seamless system; and
- its ability and flexibility to blend into the urban streetscape.

Light rail was shown to be more appropriate than buses as an inner city distributor. The bus network tends to be more a line haul system into the City than an integrated system to move people within the CBD. However, light rail and buses will complement each other and form a seamless transport system with key intermodal interchanges and effective service coordination.

Briztram is clearly a visionary project which will provide Brisbane with a world class transport system. Supported by the Commonwealth Government's funding contribution of \$65m, this government is getting on with the job of delivering Briztram so Brisbane remains a world class City.

190. TABQ, Casual Staff

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to an undertaking given by him in November 1997 to TABQ staff to "examine what options are available to provide a 'safety net' for casual staff at the TAB" who could lose their jobs through no fault of their own—

- (1) What options are available for casual staff who are redundant?
- (2) Does he intend to provide a redundancy package for TABQ casual staff, many of whom have given over 20 years of service; if so, when will an appropriate agreement be finalised?
- (3) What will happen to staff who lose their jobs due to current changes of the TABQ occurring prior to the finalisation of such an agreement?

Mr COOPER (17/4/98): The issue of a redundancy package for TABQ casual employees has been addressed by me in the past. As you have acknowledged, I forwarded a letter to the Australian Services Union (ASU) dated 21 November 1997 in which I stated that I was willing to examine what options are available to provide an appropriate "safety net" for identified casual employees of the TAB. This letter confirmed discussions which I had with ASU representatives on 13 November 1997.

A redundancy agreement is in place for permanent staff. Any casual staff redundancy package which is to be developed in conjunction with the ASU will only relate to the privatisation of the TAB. Appropriate legislation to facilitate any privatisation is yet to be prepared and tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. It is within this framework that I will respond to the points raised in the question as follows:

(1) The options available to casual staff are currently being examined by Government representatives and the ASU. The Government representatives and ASU have been in regular contact over this issue. Most recently the Government representatives met with the ASU on 5 March 1998 and discussed some options available to casual staff. The Government representatives on Saturday 28 March 1998 also briefed the ASU casual staff in relation to the recent passage of wagering and racing legislation and progress with the restructure of the relationship between TAB and the racing industry. The negotiations between the ASU and Government representatives are still under way and it would be premature to provide details as to what options are being considered by both parties.

(2) It is intended to provide a "safety net" for identified casual employees of the TAB who are made redundant as a direct consequence of privatisation. It is also intended to acknowledge the long and faithful service provided by a number of casual employees of the TAB. As I have previously indicated it is premature with negotiations currently under way to discuss details at this time. However, suitable arrangements will be in place prior to any TAB privatisation.

(3) I have previously indicated that the "safety net" being negotiated for casual employees of the TAB relates to privatisation only. Employment changes which do not relate to privatisation are to be in accord with current industrial relations legislation and industrial agreements currently in place between the TAB and its staff.

**191. Queensland Corrections Board;
Mr S. Macionis**

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to the sacking of Queensland Corrections Chief Executive Officer Stan Macionis, which followed the dismissal of his previous boss at the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, Keith Hamburger in 1997—

- (1) What role did he play in this dismissal?
- (2) Did he discuss his attitude on Stan Macionis with the Board of Queensland Corrections or the Chairman of the Queensland Corrections Board prior to Mr Macionis' forced resignation?
- (3) At what point in this whole sorry affair were the Board of Queensland Corrections advised of Mr Macionis' removal?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98):

- (1) None.
- (2) The Chairman of the Board of Queensland Corrections attended regular meetings with the

Minister to brief him on operational issues relevant to Queensland Corrections.

(3) The Chairman of the Board had a series of discussions with Mr Macionis which resulted in Mr Macionis tendering his resignation.

Over the following few days the Chairman spoke to several members of the Board by telephone to advise them of the discussions and Mr Macionis' resignation.

On Friday 13 February 1998 a Board Meeting was held and the Chairman gave a full report to the Board. The decision of the Chairman was unanimously endorsed.

192. Energex, Loan to State Government

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/3/98)—

With reference to the Board Memorandum of Energex, dated 29 January, which expressed concern about a direction received from her and Minister Gilmore for Energex to make an interest free, non-repayable loan of \$100m to the Government and the subsequent advice distributed by her Ministerial office claiming it was part of the \$850m she took from the electricity corporations in the last Budget by forcing them to increase their borrowings—

- (1) If this \$100m transfer is really a part of the \$850m increased debt she imposed on the electricity corporations, why did her direction to Energex contain no requirement for the money to be borrowed?
- (2) What will be the debt/assets ratio of Energex after this transaction and how does that compare to the commercial benchmarks of 30 per cent to 40 per cent which she claims to be pursuing?
- (3) Why hasn't she Gazetted her direction within the required 21 days from the date of issue, as stipulated under Section 124(4) of the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993?
- (4) Does she agree with the statement issued through her office that the direction issued by shareholding Ministers included a direction to borrow the \$100m from the Queensland Treasury Corporation; if so, how does she explain the fact that the Board Memorandum expressed concern about the absence of any such direction to borrow from the QTC?
- (5) Does she agree with the statement issued through her office that the final outcome of this exchange with Energex will be "the elimination of all outstanding debts"; if so, doesn't this contradict the supposed purpose of this transaction which is to raise the level of debt held by electricity corporations?

Mrs SHELDON (20/4/98):

(1) It was not necessary to give a direction to borrow. The \$100 million capital repayment from Energex has been allowed for in the debt levels and future repayment requirements, and whether the Corporation meets this fully from borrowings or otherwise is a commercial decision for the Board of Energex to make.

(2) Energex, along with the other electricity corporations, will have a debt to total assets ratio after the capital repayment, consistent with commercial practice. More importantly the debt to total assets ratio should not hinder it from qualifying for an A grade credit rating.

(3) The direction was given under Section 299 of the Electricity Act 1994 and a Gazettal was not required.

(4) The question has taken out of context a statement from a Briefing Note prepared by the Queensland Electricity Reform Unit setting out the general process for the transfer of the \$100 million. There had been extensive officer level discussions between QERU and Energex, and at the end of the day the direction to Energex was not, and indeed did not have to be, explicit about having to borrow the money. In fact, the memorandum itself recommends to the board that it borrow the \$100 million from the QTC and make the payment to the State as directed.

(5) The statement "the elimination of all outstanding debt" obviously refers to a Briefing Note prepared by QERU in which the term was used. There it related to the process whereby the initial \$100 million interest free loan

would be extinguished at the time of the capital restructuring thereby eliminating the debt. In other words this loan would be replaced by a reduction in the capital base of Energex once the process (under the Corporations Law) of obtaining Court approval of a capital reduction had been completed. The debt to the QTC, would remain.

193. Construction of Prisons

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to proposals to build more prisons and his recent announcement that 21 local authorities in south east Queensland have expressed a formal interest in having a prison located in their area and, further, to the Premier's statement on ABC Radio on 16 February ruling out any new prison being built in Warwick after the community spoke out against such a proposal—

As residents in a large number of shires which have expressed a formal interest also have protested against having a prison and community division is occurring, will he apply the same criteria as used in Warwick and rule out these shires; if so, how many shires will this leave to be considered for the new prison or prisons?

Mr COOPER (17/4/98): Following invitations to South Qld Shires to express an interest in having a correctional centre located in their Shire the QCSC has received expressions of interest from 21 Shires.

The QCSC is aware that not all residents in the 21 Shires fully agree with the location of a correctional centre in their Shire.

Notwithstanding this the QCSC committed itself to evaluating the expressions of interest from Shires against a predetermined set of suitability criteria. The QCSC is individually evaluating each expression of

interest against these criteria to determine a short list of Shires for future discussions and negotiations.

One key criterion is that Shires are required to demonstrate a high level of community acceptance for the location of a correctional centre in the Shire.

Public acceptance will be difficult to demonstrate until the actual site has been selected. Hence, there will be further negotiation with a short list of Shires, one feature of which will be a request for a clear demonstration of public support for the proposal.

I have publicly stated that a correctional centre will not be placed in a location where it does not have community support. I hold by that statement.

There are a diverse range of issues that require consideration in the initial stages of the process and neither the Premier nor myself are in a position to categorically rule out any of the other Shires interested in lodging expressions of interest.

This is also the case in relation to the expression of interest lodged by the Warwick City Council whose expression of interest will be assessed by the QCSC on its merits.

The Queensland Corrective Services Commission will recommend options to me as Minister and then the Government will make its decision, taking into consideration all relevant information, including the level of public support.

194. Surat Basin; Infrastructure Property Group

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (19/3/98)—

With reference to his answers to earlier questions in Parliament regarding his department's contract with the Infrastructure Property Group with respect to the development of the Surat Basin—

- (1) What services has the Infrastructure Property Group provided to his department to justify a success fee of over \$2m?
- (2) How many prospective investors did IPG deal with and how many were from overseas (no names, just numbers)?
- (3) Does the fact that he sought outside advice on the level of fees payable mean that he was unaware of the potential for this enormous slug on Queensland taxpayers when he first entered the contract?

Mr SLACK (14/4/98):

- (1) The Infrastructure Project Group (IPG) has provided a range of services vital to the successful conduct of the Surat/Dawson Project. They include:

Legal, financial and technical services to assist Government understanding of the proposals, to verify claims made in them and to assist in the evaluation of proposals;

Facilitation and negotiation services to support the further development of proposals by the private sector and to assist the Government in respect of policy and other matters raised by proponents.

These services are similar to those used by the corporate sector in preparing and negotiating major infrastructure proposals. They have been invaluable in assisting the Government to deal with and successfully progress the array of innovative infrastructure proposals resulting from the Surat/Dawson process.

(2) The Infrastructure Project Group dealt directly with all of the original Expressions of Interest proponents and subsequently, with the shortlisted proponents. More than 45 companies were involved of which more than a third were international. The Group also dealt extensively with a range of Government-Owned Corporations and Government departments throughout the process.

(3) Infrastructure Project Group provided services on the basis that their quantum and scope could be determined progressively by the Government in response to the number and quality of the responses to the Expressions of Interest process. This was a very innovative process. Because the private sector was given wide latitude in the nature of the solutions which it could bring forward, this has resulted in the Government having to determine the most appropriate means to facilitate the private sector's interest as the process evolved. This flexibility has been necessary so that the Government could seek to obtain maximum return for the State and not have undue constraints on the private sector's creativity.

The level and scope of IPG's services were therefore progressively determined to assist the Government to provide the most effective response and process to the proponents. Services of the kind provided by IPG command significant fees in the marketplace and so the independent check was undertaken to ensure that the Queensland Government obtained value for money. The independent review confirmed that the proposed fee level was at the bottom end of the range. Queensland has therefore obtained a very good service at a very reasonable price.

195. Townsville Correctional Centre

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to staffing levels at Stuart Prison in Townsville and, in particular, comments made by the general manager of that centre, Mr Bob Bradbury, on television on 4 December 1997, where Mr Bradbury stated that Townsville Prison is understaffed and over-crowded by at least more than one hundred prisoners—

- (1) Given that these comments were made by the centre's general manager just three weeks before the riot at that facility on New Year's eve, what action did he take on these issues prior to the riot on 31 December?
- (2) Does he agree with Mr Bradbury's assessment of staffing levels at Townsville Prison?
- (3) What action has been taken since the riot to address these underlying problems?
- (4) Will he confirm that understaffing and over-crowding were factors in the riot on New Year's eve?

- (5) Will he continue to cover up his appalling management of the State prisons system and keep the report into the riot a secret as he has done with other reports on the security of prisons in this State?

Mr COOPER (17/4/98):

(1) The riot on New Year's Eve 1997 at Townsville Correctional Centre was a spontaneous event which had no bearing on staffing issues or the number of staff rostered on shift. The riot was a result of a change in dynamics in the particular accommodation unit. No other area of the Centre was involved in the incident. Normally a major disturbance is the result of protracted, unaddressed prisoner real or perceived grievances. There is no evidence or intelligence that this was the case in this incident.

(2) The comments made by the General Manager, Townsville Correctional Centre related to the difficulties experienced in recruiting and training sufficient numbers of new staff to deal with the rapidly increasing numbers of prisoners. The Centre has at all times, maintained adequate staff coverage on the roster to safely and to securely manage the operations.

As all new officers undergo a nine week pre-service training program to be competent in the performance of their duties, it is difficult in periods of high prisoner growth to have a sufficient number of permanent staff available. Hence overtime shifts have been required.

(3) In March 1998 an additional training course for new officers was completed and these staff are now deployed to the Centre. These staff complimented the existing staff at Townsville Correctional Centre and cater for the increase in prisoner numbers.

A second training school of new officers is due to commence on 20 April 1998. The 30 officers on this course will be shared between Townsville Correctional Centre and Lotus Glen Correctional Centre.

Adjustments to prisoner placement for difficult to manage prisoners have been made to reduce the threat they may pose to Centre safety and security.

(4) Under staffing or overcrowding were not factors in the New Year's Eve riot. The riot was a spontaneous event. Day time staffing of two officers for this unit has been constantly maintained.

(5) Reports on incidents such as riots are not released publicly to ensure the maintenance of security and good order of the institution to which they relate.

196. Mackay, Police Resources

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to the Warwick Daily News article of 5 November 1997 in which his spokesman agreed to provide the paper with answers to previous Questions on Notice the Minister originally refused to answer because "it would be totally inappropriate misuse of Police Service resources" and since this is obviously not the case any more—

- (1) How many police left Mackay Police District in 1996-97 and to March 1998 (ie resigned,

transferred, promoted, medically retired, retired, etc)?

- (2) How many police moved into Mackay Police District in 1996-97 and to March 1998?
- (3) Of those police that moved to Mackay Police District during 1996-97 and to March 1998, 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 (16/4/98): My office has at no stage told the Warwick Daily News that the newspaper would be given the details as stated. My Media Adviser told the journalist we had distributed a media release relating to extra staff for the area and offered to again send the information. That information was faxed to the paper as promised.

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.

197. Collinsville Power Station

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/3/98)—

With reference to the recent blackouts and the Government's failure to allow sufficient financial support for upgrading of electricity services and his original vehement opposition to the refurbishment of Collinsville (Mackay Daily Mercury) (19/3/98)—

- (1) Does he still stand by those comments that Collinsville would not be feasible?
- (2) Will he work towards doubling the output for Collinsville?
- (3) Will he also concede that he was wrong and the Labor Government was right?

Mr GILMORE (20/4/98):

1. In March 1995, this Government (then in opposition) explicitly incorporated the recommissioning of the Collinsville power station as a part of its energy policy to ensure sufficient future electricity supply. The project has since progressed with the support of the Government and will be soon commissioned, providing the State with a further 180 MW of new capacity.

2. In March 1995, the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation entered into an interim contract with Transfield/NRG Joint Venture for the refurbishment and subsequent operation of the Collinsville Power Station. The Joint Venture has since increased the availability of the station by about 5% over and above these initial contract requirements. However, water resources could limit any further

expansion of the station's availability given the current plant configuration.

With a totally new generation configuration (new technology and plant equipment), which would allow for more efficient water usage, the capacity and availability of the power station could be substantially increased. Under the National Electricity Market soon to commence in Queensland, generators are 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 the owners of Collinsville Power Station choosing to extend their facilities. However, this commercial decision is for the owners to take and not something that should have Government involvement.

3. It was the policy of this Government, as well as the previous Labor Government, to recommission the Collinsville Power Station. I therefore do not think it is appropriate to concede anything.

198. Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

Mr LUCAS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/3/98)—

With reference to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund introduced by the Goss Labor Government—

- (1) How much money has been allocated for the whole of Queensland in each year since the fund was established?
- (2) What funds have been allocated to organisations within the electorate of Lytton for each quarterly funding round since the establishment of the fund, how many, in number, organisations throughout Queensland have been assisted in each year since the commencement of the fund?
- (3) How many organisations within the electorate of Lytton have been assisted for each quarterly funding round since the commencement of the fund?

Mrs SHELDON (20/4/98):

(1)	1993-1994	\$3,141,712
	1994-1995	\$9,893,009
	1995-1996	\$13,728,632
	1996-1997	\$16,671,897
	1997-March, 1998	\$13,334,926
(2)	Lytton allocations:	
	June, 1994	\$19,965
	September, 1994	\$32,790
	December, 1994	\$31,893
	March, 1995	\$25,000
	June, 1995	\$13,466
	September, 1995	\$59,500
	December, 1995	\$54,220
	March, 1996	\$16,379
	June, 1996	\$44,732
	September, 1996	\$48,350
	December, 1996	\$51,420
	March, 1997	\$81,973
	June, 1997	\$18,161
	September, 1997	\$31,038
	December, 1997	\$50,393
	March, 1998	\$40,676

Projects funded throughout Queensland:

1993-1994	403
1994-1995	1387
1995-1996	1964
1996-1997	2270
1997-March, 1998	1775

(3) Lytton projects:

June, 1994	3 projects
September, 1994	3 projects
December, 1994	4 projects
March, 1995	3 projects
June, 1995	2 projects
September, 1995	7 projects
December, 1995	8 projects
March, 1996	3 projects
June, 1996	6 projects
September, 1996	5 projects
December, 1996	7 projects
March, 1997	7 projects
June, 1997	4 projects
September, 1997	4 projects
December, 1997	6 projects
March, 1998	6 projects

199. Cleveland and Capalaba Electorates, Police Resources

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to the scandalous and outrageous police to population ratio of one officer to 1640 people in the Cleveland electorate and one officer to 1549 people in the Capalaba electorate—

When will he increase the number of officers at these two police stations which serve the people of my electorate so that (a) the police to population ratio at least matches that of the State average of 1:525, (b) the overworked police officers at these stations can receive the urgent assistance that appropriate levels of staffing would bring and most importantly that (c) all residents in the Redland Shire who are served by officers from these stations are able to receive the protection and assistance due to them?

Mr COOPER (16/4/98): As at 31 March 1998, the staffing levels for both Capalaba and Cleveland Police Stations were:

The Queensland Police Service recently increased the District's authorised strength from 154 officers to a target of 160 at 30 June 1998. Five first year Constables are due to be posted to the District on 24 April 1998.

The authorised strength of the Capalaba station when the Coalition came to government in February 1996 was 29. There was an actual strength of 22—three fewer than at 31 March this year. The authorised strength at Cleveland station at February 1996 was 24, with an actual strength of 20. There were 23 officers at the station at 31 March 1998, and a target strength of 30.

Police numbers in the Wynnum District were slashed by labour from 153 in 1993 to 138 in 1995. There were 145 police in the district in February 1996. There were

151 police in the District in February this year, with more to come under the Coalition staffing plan.

Capalaba Station

Current allocated strength—30
Actual strength 31/3/98—25
Approved Target Strength for 30/6/98—30

Cleveland Station

Current allocated strength—24
Actual strength 31/3/98—23
Approved Target Strength for 30/6/98—27

When considering the level of policing services to be provided to the Capalaba and Cleveland Police Divisions, the duties performed by officers attached to district functions listed below should be taken into account.

Wynnum District CIB; Wynnum District JAB; Wynnum District Traffic Branch; Redland Bay Water Police; Wynnum District Brief Manager; Wynnum District Education & Training Office; Wynnum District Intelligence Office; Wynnum District Office; Wynnum District Community Liaison Officer; Wynnum District Scenes of Crime

Officers attached to all district functions perform operational duties throughout the Wynnum Police District which includes Capalaba and Cleveland Police Divisions.

The allocation of police officers to police stations is not solely determined on the population of an area. Other issues, particularly both crime and clear up rates, effect the number of police officers allocated to an area.

Statistics in relation to all reported crime for the year 1997, obtained from the Queensland Police Service Query Statistics program, indicate the following:

Location

Wynnum District

Reported Crime—11165
Cleared Crime(%)—4806 (43%)

South Brisbane District

Reported Crime—27858
Cleared Crime(%)—10830 (39%)

Oxley District

Reported Crime—16801
Cleared Crime(%)—5626 (33%)

Queensland

Reported Crime—384312
Cleared Crime(%)—170799 (44%)

These statistics clearly indicate that the staffing levels within the Wynnum Police District are adequate. Both the reported crime and clear up rates within the Wynnum Police District are comparable with the State figures, indicating that adequate staffing levels for police officers exist in that District.

200. Workplace Relations Act; "Unclaimed Moneys Fund"

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (19/3/98)—

With reference to the Workplace Relations Act administered by him and to Section 480 of that Act which enables the Government to pay moneys to workers from the "unclaimed moneys fund" when employers have defaulted on payment of the workers wages—

What was the amount of the funds available in that fund at (a) 30 June 1995, (b) 30 June 1996, (c) 30 June 1997 and (d) 28 February 1998?

Mr SANTORO (16/4/98): The honourable member appears not to have bothered to take the time to comprehend section 480 of the Workplace Relations Act 1997. Subsection 6 of that section states—

"unclaimed moneys fund" means the unclaimed moneys fund kept in the Treasury.

The question clearly is one for the honourable the Treasurer.

201. Weyba Creek Corridor Development; Citie Centre

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (19/3/98)—

- (1) What development is being undertaken in the Weyba Creek corridor and is the developer Citie Centre involved in this development?
- (2) Why has the developer been allowed to clear fell most of the area, remove the topsoil then drain and fill it?
- (3) Is this corridor not a key corridor for koalas and how many koalas have been killed or displaced in the course of this development?
- (4) Is the species called the Delicate Mouse rare or endangered and has it been recently rediscovered in the vicinity of this of this development?
- (5) Does he acknowledge that the potential risk of further development in the Sunrise area, to both koalas and the Delicate Mouse, threatens the sustainability of biological diversity in the region?
- (6) Should developers bear the cost of veterinary expenses incurred in caring for or humanely terminating the lives of creatures injured by development which destroyed rich habitat?
- (7) Why has he continually failed to exert influence under the Nature Conservation Act to protect the conservation value of the Sunrise area and Weyba Creek corridor?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/4/98):

- (1) Two developments are under way in the area, one of which involves Citie Centre.
- (2) Under the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act introduced by Labor in 1990, the Department of Environment has not been involved, so I am unable to comment.
- (3) I am advised that since there is considerable existing development and infrastructure in the Weyba area, such an issue cannot be addressed specifically.

(4) The delicate mouse (*Pseudomys delicatulus*) is not listed as rare or endangered. It has not been confirmed whether a specimen found recently in the area is *P. delicatulus* or the morphologically similar *P. Novaehollandiae*.

(5) Any further development in the area needs to be properly managed.

(6) The Department of Environment recommends that developers detail a course of action and take responsibility for management of koalas present in vegetation during construction and clearing operations.

(7) Refer (2).

202. Fishers Creek, Ingham

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (19/3/98)—

With reference to the Fisher's Creek Landing issue near Ingham—

- (1) Does the Department of Environment now intend to construct a new caretaker's cottage at this site and to appoint a new caretaker after having bulldozed the original cottage following the death of its previous occupant?
- (2) At what cost will this new work be undertaken and the caretaker appointed and who will be paying?
- (3) What improvement and maintenance of the existing boat ramp and access road are planned, at what cost and who is paying?
- (4) What is to be done about the rubbish still remaining at this site following the earlier demolition and when will this be done and at what and whose cost?
- (5) What is to happen to the remaining introduced and exotic plants growing at this site?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/4/98): I am curious as to why the Member for Ferny Grove should have an interest in this area. However:

- (1) No. The Cardwell Shire Council is investigating placing a transportable "mobile home" at Fishers Landing and engaging a Caretaker for the facility.
- (2) See (1)
- (3) The Department of Environment (DoE) has spent over \$12,000 on improvements to the Fishers Creek day use area over the past 2 years. DoE, Department of Transport (DoT) and Cardwell Shire Council (CSC) are currently negotiating a Deed of Agreement which will enable the boat ramp to be upgraded by DoT and maintained by CSC.
- (4) All rubbish and debris from the previous caretaker's residence was removed in 1996. Two piles of timber (pine trees etc) are still located adjacent to the area. These will be burnt when conditions are appropriate.
- (5) Over 50 native shade trees have been planted in the day use area over the past 2 years. The remaining exotic plants, except for palm trees, will be removed as these new trees mature.

203. Mineral Exploration Permits and Mineral Development Licences

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/3/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Government imposed freeze on granting mineral exploration permits and mineral development licences—

- (1) How many EPMs and MDLs have been held up since the freeze was imposed?
- (2) Have any EPMs or MDLs been granted to applicants?
- (3) What is the rationale by his department in freezing applications for EPMs and MDLs?
- (4) Has each applicant been fully informed of the reasons for the delay, in light of the substantial cash deposits which are lodged with all applications?

Mr GILMORE (20/4/98):

(1) As at 20 March 1998 the total number of EPM and MDL applications pending because of native title implications and assessment under the Department's Native Title Work procedures are 706 and 61 respectively.

(2) The number of EPMs and MDLs granted since the date of the Wik decision up to 20 March 1998 are 29 and 11 respectively.

(3) The State Government took a cautious approach after the Wik decision in order to ensure the grant of valid mining titles. The temporary "freeze" was lifted by Cabinet on 11 March 1997 allowing grants of mining titles on land where there is no native title claim, after a process of categorising the land tenure and investigating the land use history. This has enabled a number of grants to proceed.

(4) On the introduction of Native Title Work Procedures following the Wik decision all applicants for EPMs and MDLs were informed of these procedures and the types of supporting documentation necessary for progressing the application. As part of the interactive administrative process of progressing the applications all applicants for MDLs, and EPM applicants expressing their desire for urgent processing of their application, are requested to supply information on the background land tenure and land use of each parcel of land within the EPM or MDL. As EPMs and MDLs are often extensive in area there may be dozens of land parcels in each application. The land is assessed as to the native title implications which impact on the assessment of the application. The timeliness of the submission of the supporting documentation along with the Departmental workload in assessing applications determines the timeframes for progressing applications.

204. Swimming Pools, Cryptosporidium Parasite

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (19/3/98)—

With reference to the recent outbreak of the Cryptosporidium parasite in a number of public

swimming pools in Brisbane (including one state school pool)—

- (1) What steps are being taken by Education Queensland to detect this parasite in school pools?
- (2) What procedures have been implemented to protect the health of children using school pools?
- (3) What assistance is being provided to school janitors and/or other personnel to monitor this health risk?
- (4) Will assistance being provided to state schools also be provided to non-Government schools?

Mr QUINN (15/4/98):

(1) Education Queensland senior officers sought advice from Queensland Health on the most appropriate measures to take to ensure that school pools were safe to use.

As a result, District Directors, District Managers (Education Services) and Principals of schools with pools were sent a memo by the Acting Deputy Director-General of Education notifying them of the reasons for the closing of the Chandler Pool and outlining steps that school communities could take if they were concerned about the safety of their pool. Three attachments prepared by Queensland Health were also sent with the memo for information about the Cryptosporidium parasite.

Any school community that had confirmed cases of Cryptosporidiosis were to notify the A/Principal Education Officer, Health and Personal Development who would ensure that the Director, Communicable Diseases Unit and the Manager, Environmental Health Unit would be notified, so that arrangements could be made for testing of the pools. Although it was difficult to link the confirmed cases with the school pools, four school pools were tested by Queensland Health. By Friday 20 March 1998, only one of these pools tested positive, and arrangements were immediately made to sterilise the pool.

(2) Principals were advised that strict hygiene practices should be reinforced (e.g. not swimming if the child/adult has any infectious illness or disease, particularly diarrhoea, showering before entering the pool, using the toilet, washing hands after using the toilet or handling food). It was emphasised that all groups using the school pool should be notified, and in some cases where students had been swimming at Chandler pool, parents were asked to monitor their children's health and notify the school if they developed any symptoms that could be connected to the parasite. Principals are being urged to continue monitoring their local situation.

In a few cases, Principals decided to close the pool until the incubation period for those students who had swum at Chandler had passed. One school pool which was closed tested negative.

(3) School principals have notified their janitors and other personnel responsible for either pool maintenance or swimming classes and swimming clubs of the safety procedures to follow. Officers from Q Build have made themselves available to assist in

either ongoing maintenance or response to any emergency situation.

(4) The other education systems have received the information provided through Queensland Health.

205. Underground Electricity Lines

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (19/3/98)—

- (1) Is he aware that nearly 10 per cent of fatal road accidents involve power poles?
- (2) In view of the inherent advantages to the community to be gained by undergrounding of urban electricity lines, from the reduction in interruptions to supply from lightning strike and accidental damage and also the reduction in road deaths and horrific injuries resulting from collisions between cars or cycles and power poles, will he consider, as a matter of urgency, the initiation of a major program to remove the blight of power poles, overhead power lines and transformers from urban areas and from close proximity to major roads?

Mr GILMORE (20/4/98):

- (1) No, I am not aware of that particular statistic.
- (2) Clearly, there would be significant benefits to the community, and also benefits of a technical nature to the electricity distributors, if electricity distribution networks were underground. Indeed, Queensland's electricity distributors, in cooperation with local governments, already have in place a number of strategies for the undergrounding of new and, in particular circumstances, existing electricity distribution lines. However, the benefits to accrue from undergrounding power lines must be weighed against the costs involved, which costs are ultimately passed on to the community through means such as increases in electricity charges or higher land costs. I understand the cost of undergrounding all existing overhead electricity distribution lines within the Brisbane City Council area, for example, has been estimated at more than \$1.5 billion. You may be interested to know that the Federal Minister for Communications and the Arts has established a project to investigate the feasibility, the cost and methods of funding of undergrounding power and communication cables in all urban areas of Australia. A working group with broad representation has been established to undertake the project and the Minister is required to report to the Australian Parliament by 1 July 1998.

206. Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra

Mr FOLEY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/3/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra—

- (1) Is she aware of concerns among Queensland Symphony Orchestra players about uncertainty

over the future of the orchestra after its period in Symphony Australia?

- (2) What steps has she taken to consult with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra over the future of the orchestras?
- (3) Is she aware of the review of orchestral services undertaken by Associate Professor Helen Lancaster of the Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music?
- (4) What action has been taken in response to that review?
- (5) What action will she take in relation to the future of the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and the Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra?

Mrs SHELDON (20/4/98):

(1) Consultation has occurred with the musicians' representatives of both orchestras and their views have been taken into consideration. They have been reassured that their involvement and input in this matter is considered vital and will continue. Every effort will be made to accommodate the needs and aspirations of the musicians of both orchestras as progress is made towards a resolution.

(2) Meetings have occurred with senior management representatives of both orchestras and Symphony Australia. While certain aspects of change must be discussed further and resolved before a new orchestral model is adopted, a common view is shared that change is inevitable and can be achieved to the benefit of orchestral music in Queensland.

(3 & 4) Associate Professor Lancaster's views have been taken into consideration.

(5) The complex issues surrounding the future of orchestral services in Queensland including the possible impact of new models on the quality of music and breadth of repertoire provided to audiences across Queensland is fully recognised. The long term viability of orchestras in Queensland and of the relationship, responsibility and benefit which the State and Federal Government share in ensuring the success of a new orchestral model in Queensland is of vital importance. In contrast with the previous State Government, the Coalition Government of today will act with vision and fortitude to resolve orchestral services.

207. Pest Controllers

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (19/3/98)—

With reference to the issue of licensed and unlicensed pest controllers operating throughout Queensland—

- (1) What training is undertaken by persons wishing to enter this profession?
- (2) Are there any guidelines in place for the disposal of pesticides or chemicals which have expired used by dates?
- (3) What strategies are in place to encourage unlicensed pest controllers to undertake the prescribed training to rid the industry of fly by nighters?

- (4) What guarantees can he give to licensed pest controllers that their income will not be further eroded by the proliferation of unlicensed pest controllers throughout the State?

Mr ROWELL (16/4/98):

1. The term 'pest controller' is usually assigned to a person who is engaged in household pest control who holds a Pest Control Operator's licence issued by the Department of Health.

However, my Department, under the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966 (ACDC Act), grants Commercial Operator's licences to persons who are engaged in the distribution of herbicides on land that they do not own. Persons who hold these licences are known as 'commercial operators'. My responses to the question relate to commercial operators.

There are two classes of Commercial Operator's licence, unrestricted and restricted. An unrestricted licence allows a commercial operator to apply any herbicide using unlimited types of ground equipment. A restricted licence restricts the commercial operator to a maximum of five herbicides and the types of ground equipment specified on their licence.

A person applying for an unrestricted commercial operator's licence is required to pass a written examination prescribed under the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 1970. Prior to sitting for this examination the candidate needs to undergo training by studying the Pesticide Application Manual which is the text approved by the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Board, from which the examination questions are derived.

A person applying for a restricted commercial operator's licence is required to pass an oral examination testing their understanding of herbicide application technology and techniques, to the satisfaction of an approved examiner. A degree of on-the-job training would be needed before a person could undertake this oral examination.

A number of commercial operators also undertake voluntary courses of study which incorporate application technology and techniques relevant to weed control, which are conducted by outside providers, as a precursor to sitting for the prescribed examination.

2. The Department of Environment is the lead agency in Queensland for establishing guidelines for the disposal of pesticides or chemicals in Queensland. This matter is not a role undertaken by my Department.

3. I am not aware of any commercial operators who would be routinely undertaking work as unlicensed operators. Inspectors appointed under the ACDC Act, in the course of their day-to-day duties do come across the occasional operator who does not hold the appropriate licence and action is taken promptly to rectify the matter by ensuring that the person obtain the licence or face prosecution under the Act.

My Department actively promotes the need for persons wishing to enter a profession as a commercial operator, to be appropriately trained and licensed. Strategies include talks to professional bodies about the ACDC Act and its provisions by departmental

officers, word-of-mouth contacts by inspectors appointed under the Act, and wide distribution of departmental information notes on a range of subjects associated with ground distribution of herbicides.

4. As indicated in my response to part 3 of the question, I am confident that there is not a proliferation of unlicensed commercial operators in Queensland, whatever may be the case with 'pest controllers'. There are currently 4660 licensed commercial operators in Queensland and there is a very low incidence of chemical distribution infringements. Commercial operators represent a highly responsible group with an excellent licensing record. I can guarantee the Member for Inala that my Department will continue to promote the need for operators to be licensed and will be taking appropriate action whenever a person who is distributing herbicides illegally, is discovered.

208. Robina-Coolangatta Rail Link

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/3/98)—

With reference to the announcement of the extension of the rail link from Robina to Coolangatta on the western side of the Pacific Highway between Reedy Creek and Stewarts Road Tugun—

- (1) Will there be any property resumptions in the Elanora or Currumbin areas; if so, how many?
- (2) Is the Government proposing to locate the rail line between the Elanora Primary School and the Pacific Highway?

Mr JOHNSON (17/4/98):

(1) The Queensland Government has expressed a preference for recommended corridors for the Tugun bypass and the rail extension from Robina to Coolangatta arising from the Southern Gold Coast Tweed Corridor Study (SGCTCS).

The Government has decided that the next steps of the process involve detailed impact assessments which will involve close cooperation with New South Wales to ensure that their requirements are met.

This will also involve public consultation with stakeholders and all potentially affected landowners.

There may a future requirement for land from some properties. However, the extent of this requirement, if any, will be determined during the impact assessment process.

Based on the planning done to date, it is anticipated that approximately 30 landowners may be affected from Robina to Coolangatta. A letter is being sent to each property owner advising them of the situation and offering them an individual meeting to discuss the steps in the impact assessment process.

(2) The Government's preferred rail corridor follows a route on the western side of the Pacific Highway from Andrews to Tugun Heights. The alignment for the rail line would be within the Pacific Highway corridor on the western side of the existing traffic lanes.

Detailed impact assessment studies will be undertaken before the alignment on the western side is finalised.

Queensland Transport is writing to all potentially affected landowners, including the school, and is offering an individual meeting to discuss the steps in the impact assessment process.

209. Nudgee Electorate, Public Housing

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/3/98)—

With reference to (a) the recent refurbishment of approximately 30 departmental homes in the Aspley electorate part of Zillmere and (b) the proposal to refurbish another 32 homes in the same area, as the second stage of this project—

- (1) Why weren't homes in the Nudgee electorate part of Zillmere chosen for these much needed refurbishments?
- (2) Will he ensure some equity by ensuring that homes in the Nudgee electorate receive their fair share of this refurbishment project?

Dr WATSON (20/4/98):

(1) The houses chosen for this later stage of the refurbishment project at Funnell, Slessar and Brassington Streets, Zillmere, were selected as a continuation of previous stages of the refurbishment program.

(2) Departmental houses in the Nudgee electorate will be considered as part of future refurbishment programs as this refurbishment program is extended.

210. Willow Park, St George

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (19/3/98)—

With reference to his announced plans to resume part of the Willow Park property in the St George area for construction of a \$15m off-stream storage on the property—

- (1) Why have the original plans to site this storage on the nearby "Anchorage" property been shelved and on whose advice or insistence was the move made?
- (2) Is this the second time Mr Cooper's family has lost a property to the National Party through resumption for dam building purposes and is he strenuously opposing the Borbidge Government's plans to resume most of Willow Park?
- (3) Is Willow Park freehold tenure and will this dam require nearly two thirds of its 2230 hectares to be taken from the Cooper family?
- (4) How does he counter the charge that the Queensland National Party is being grossly hypocritical with this resumption having strenuously fought the Goss Government over resumptions of leasehold land for national park purposes, or is it a case of irrigation water for rich cotton farmers rates higher than conservation for all Queenslanders?
- (5) How does he counter the charge that the National Party demands pastoral leases

extinguish Native Title yet rural freehold isn't safe from the cotton industry, or is it a case of traditional Aboriginal owners can't claim freehold but, with a stroke of the pen, the Queensland Coalition Government can and hand the proceeds to a powerful rural interest group?

Mr SPRINGBORG (21/4/98):

(1) The original plans for this proposal have not been shelved. When the storage was first mooted some eight years ago, it was proposed to be smaller than the capacity currently under consideration. Hence the proposed storage may expand further into three properties neighbouring the "Anchorage". Total site requirements may now be some 4000 hectares compared with the 2000 hectares previously considered.

The possibility of using more of the property owned by Mr Cooper also developed because this land is more attractive from a number of technical aspects. It is closer to the river, provides a deeper more efficient storage and has better embankment foundation materials.

I emphasise, however, that these proposals are not yet finalised. One of the proposed components of the offstream storage is a joint venture water harvesting cell which would be funded by holders of existing entitlements.

A process has been established to confirm landholders interest in participating in this component. Depending on the outcome of this process, final details of the proposal including the area of land required from Mr Cooper will be determined.

(2) I understand that part of the Cooper family property adjacent to Beardmore Dam and on the west bank of the river was required for dam embankment construction and part for the storage.

Additionally, a stock route through the property was realigned and converted to a road reserve.

The effect of this was a partial surrender of some 230 hectares from a total area of 1630 hectares. The Coopers were paid compensation for this surrender in 1971 with the final amount being settled in 1973.

In 1982, Mr Cooper converted the property tenure from leasehold to freehold and later in the year sold the property.

(3) I understand that Willow Park is freehold tenure. Depending on the final size of storage adopted, the offstream storage may require the acquisition of up to two thirds of the Willow Park property. The proposal will not impact on Mr Cooper's home block and the extensive river frontage portion of Willow Park.

(4) This storage proposal is not only for the benefit of the irrigation industry. Indeed over half of the storage planned for the Willow Park site relates to the provision of compensation flows to provide improved stock and domestic supplies to grazing holdings and rural communities in the Lower Balonne Area and to provide for better environmental outcomes.

With the balance of supply to allocation holders, it is not only the cotton industry which would benefit. Horticulture, including melons and grapes, both table and wine varieties, are increasing in production.

Suggesting that irrigation water only benefits the direct user is a very narrow view, as an important economic stream of benefits flows on from these activities at the district and regional level.

(5) The assertion that the cotton industry is driving this development is false. What we have here is the Government undertaking, on behalf of a wide range of water user interests, a scheme which will:

improve the reliability of supply to the existing St George Irrigation Project;

enhance the opportunity for effective downstream releases to meet environmental requirements and stock and domestic needs; and

provide a basis for an expansion of irrigated production.

These outcomes are all important if we are to promote the productive capabilities of inland Queensland and maintain associated rural communities.

211. Mount Gravatt Electorate, Public Housing

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/3/98)—

- (1) How many applicants are listed for public housing in the Mt Gravatt electorate in the suburbs of Holland Park, Mt Gravatt and Macgregor?
- (2) How many public dwellings and housing units will be constructed or purchased in these suburbs during 1997-98?
- (3) How many additional dwellings and units are proposed to be made available during 1998-99?

Dr WATSON (20/4/98):

(1) Since 20 October 1997, applications for public rental housing have been managed by wait zones rather than by individual suburbs. Mount Gravatt is included in Stones Corner Zone B, Macgregor is included in Stones Corner Zone C, and Holland Park is included in Stones Corner Zone E.

The full list of suburbs included in each of these zones are as follows:

Stones Corner Zone B: Carindale, Mansfield, Mount Gravatt, Mount Gravatt East, Upper Mount Gravatt, Wishart.

Stones Corner Zone C: Coopers Plains, Eight Mile Plains, Kuraby, Macgregor, Rocklea, Runcorn, Salisbury, Sunnybank, Sunnybank Hills.

Stones Corner Zone E: Coorparoo, East Brisbane, Greenslopes, Holland Park, Holland Park West, Kangaroo Point, Woolloongabba.

Consequently, as at 28 February 1998, the combined number of applicants waiting for public rental housing in each of these three zones is summarised as follows: Stones Corner Zone B: 476; Stones Corner Zone C: 348; Stones Corner Zone E: 901.

(2) Currently, there are plans to commence construction on two detached houses and four attached houses in Mount Gravatt within the

electorate of Mount Gravatt during the 1997-98 financial year. There are no plans for construction or purchases of public housing in the suburbs of Holland Park and Macgregor within the Mount Gravatt electorate during the 1997-98 financial year.

(3) There are currently no plans for construction or purchases of public housing in the suburbs of Holland Park, Mount Gravatt and Macgregor within the electorate of Mount Gravatt during the 1998/99 financial year.

212. Tripcony Bight Protection Zone

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Environment (19/3/98)—

With reference to the establishment of the Tripcony Bight Protection Zone in the Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 1997 (Subordinate Legislation No 385 of 1997), the boundaries of which have caused considerable discontent in the local area—

- (1) Were, as claimed in a local newspaper, those boundaries drawn up in 1993 but never implemented by the former Government?
- (2) What community consultation was undertaken by his department prior to gazettal of those boundaries?
- (3) Why was he content to gazette boundaries that were not acceptable to the former Government?
- (4) Is he prepared to reconsider those boundaries to establish a protection zone in line with that expected and campaigned for by local people?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/4/98):

(1) Yes. This was one of many issues left in a mess by the Labor Government.

(2) Community consultation occurred but was not necessarily taken notice of by the Labor Government, as was the case with many issues inherited from Labor.

(3) This attempt to blame the Coalition Government for Labor Government ineptitude is based on a false supposition.

(4) I have instructed officers of the Department of Environment to review the boundaries of the Tripcony Bight Protection Zone.

213. Gladstone Police District Headquarters

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to original plans for the Gladstone Police Station which provided for secure underground parking and as a review of costs has resulted in this level being dropped from the building program—

- (1) What impact will this have on the long term serviceability of the complex?
- (2) Wouldn't a more cost effective approach be for that level to be incorporated in this first building program rather than having to later fix the problems created?

Mr COOPER (17/4/98):

(1) The budget for the new Gladstone Police District Headquarters building is \$7.6M. At no stage has this allocation of funds been adjusted. The Managing Contractor for this project advised that the costings on the original plans for the facility had been significantly under estimated, and the project would obviously exceed its budget. Alterations to the plans were made accordingly. Adequate car parks over two levels have been included in the revised planning of the facility. This revised planning provides for the same number of car parks as the original plans. This change in the car parking will not affect the long term serviceability of the complex.

(2) The provision of a basement car park is not an operational requirement and will have no effect upon local policing efficiencies. There is no requirement to incorporate additional car parking at a later time.

214. Adolescent Resource Worker Program

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (19/3/98)—

With reference to the adolescent resource worker program within her department—

- (1) What is the future of this program, including any plans to outsource this program to non-Government providers?
- (2) What is the 1997-98 Budget allocation to this program?
- (3) Will she guarantee that any outsourcing of this program will see the current level of funding maintained?
- (4) What planning and consultation has occurred to date regarding the future of this program?
- (5) What process will be used to determine the best non-Government providers to undertake these services in the event that all or part of the program is outsourced?
- (6) Will she guarantee that the Director-General's attempts to outsource this program to the Scripture Union will not come to fruition?

Mrs WILSON (20/4/98):

(1) This Program has been subject to extensive ongoing review within the Department of Families Youth and Community Care over the last year. As a result of this, the employee category Adolescent Resource Worker has ceased to exist. Duties previously undertaken by these employees are now undertaken by a new category of employee, Youth Worker (Adolescent and Youth Justice Services), who assist in the provision of supervision and support to young offenders, and by Family Resource Workers and Family and Community Workers, whose duties focus on casework support with child abuse clients. The Department intends to continue to employ such workers for the foreseeable future.

The review of the Adolescent Resource Worker program concluded that client service quality would improve if workers undertook a narrower range of tasks, and that a number of tasks associated with young offenders, could effectively be provided by

organisations having strong links with the community and young offenders. To this end information sessions and consultations have occurred, and are continuing in different parts of the state, to determine the extent of community interest in providing this service. These consultations are at an early stage and no arrangements have been entered into at this point.

(2) I am advised that the Families and Youth Program budget for 1997-98 is \$1,862,000.

(3) No plans exist to reduce the current level of funding.

(4) Extensive planning and consultation has occurred within the Department of Families Youth and Community Care which has resulted in the actions described in response to the first question.

(5) The information paper for community organisations contained criteria used by the Department when assessing the ability of a community organisation to deliver youth worker services.

(6) Any Community organisations interested in providing such services will need to make an application which will be considered by the department according to criteria outlined above.

215. State Financial Assets

Mr De LACY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (19/3/98)—

With reference to her prediction (The Courier Mail 19 March) of an end-of-financial year surplus of \$595m—

What is the estimated contribution to the end-of-year position made by increases in financial assets such as superannuation investments and the sale of Suncorp Metway assets?

Mrs SHELDON (20/4/98): The estimated contribution to the end-of-year position for 1997-98 made by superannuation investments is \$591m and the net proceeds from the sale of Suncorp Metway exchanging instalment notes, after expenses and payments due to note holders in 1997-98, is \$272.1m.

The \$591m is income on assets set aside for superannuation and is not available for general service provision.

Allowance has been made within the Budget estimates for reinvestment of Suncorp-Metway proceeds to fund the income stream forgone through that sale.

216. Goodna, Police Resources

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/3/98)—

With reference to the current number of operational police at the Goodna Police Station being below half their normal allocated strength of 38 police officers and 10 detectives—

- (1) What was the number of operational police officers at the Goodna Station at 1 March?
- (2) Are they down to less than 24 police officers in total?
- (3) What actions are being taken to address this extreme shortage of police in an area with significant crime rates?

- (4) Doesn't this example of his mismanagement of the police portfolio demonstrate yet again that he is not up to the job?

Mr COOPER (17/4/98):

(1) The number of operational police officers at Goodna station on 1 March 1998 was 20 uniform officers and 11 plain clothes officers. In addition there were two uniform officers attached to the Redbank Shopfront, one uniform officer attached to the Springfield Beat and one School Based Policing Officer at the Redbank Plains State High School.

(2) No. There are currently 35 police officers performing duty within the Goodna Police Division.

(3) Two additional First Year Constables have been allocated to commence duty at Goodna on 27 April 1998. Remaining vacant positions at Goodna are regularly advertised in the Queensland Police Gazette.

(4) No. This Government has an excellent record in the police portfolio and has boosted police numbers not only in Goodna but across the state after the previous government let numbers slump over their last three years of government.

This Government promised to provide a strengthened and enlivened police service and has done just that. By the end of 1998 Queensland will have a sworn strength of almost 7000 officers, approximately 640 more than in February 1996.

The Bingham Review into the QPS contained 197 recommendations and the vast majority of these have been acted upon to give Queensland a more efficient, effective, and accountable service. Police have new powers to put them on a level playing field with criminals and Queenslanders have the Queensland Crime Commission dedicated to stamping out organised crime and paedophilia.

217. Teachers

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (19/3/98)—

- (1) How many teachers are employed at 19 March (full time equivalents) in each of the Education Queensland districts?
- (2) How many teachers (full time equivalents) are employed in each of the departments sub-programs, ie, Preschool Education, Primary Education, Secondary Education, Special Education, Distance Education and Corporate Services?

Mr QUINN (20/4/98):

- (1) Teaching Workforce as at 19 March 1998 by District

District and FTE

Bayside—1260.4; Bundaberg—766.8; Cairns—1127.1; Cape and Gulf—256.9; Chinchilla—244.7; Coopers Plains—1549.8; Corinda—1313.5; Darling Downs—518.3; Emerald—498.8; Fraser-Cooloola—872.9; Geebung—1516.3; Gladstone—673.9; Gold Coast North—1266.3; Gold Coast South—1157.7; Ipswich—940.2; Isis Burnett—436.6; Logan Beaudesert—1511.7; Longreach—211.2; Mackay Hinterland—566.1;

Mackay North—722.5; Mooloolaba—1301.4; Mt Gravatt—1006.6; Mt Isa—352.8; Murrumba Downs—1861.7; Nambour—1040.5; Rockhampton—883.6; Roma—372.4; South Burnett—397.3; Stafford—1109.1; Tablelands-Johnstone—727.1; Toowoomba—864; Torres Strait—196.1; Townsville Burdekin—1136.2; Townsville North and West—564.3; Warwick—468.5; West Moreton—669.6

- (2) Program/Sub Program and FTE

Corporate Services—22.7; Distance Education—356.6; Secondary Education—11184.2; Pre-School Education—956.7; Special Education—2655.5; Primary Education—15208.9

218. SES Confectionery; Datafund Pty Ltd

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (19/3/98)—

- (1) Has the SES received any of the proceeds of the sale of the so called SES lollies; if so, how much?
- (2) What were the amounts, date of receipt and the fund into which proceeds, if any, were paid and will he advise of any information held by his department of the destination of any of the 95 per cent of the proceeds of the fund raiser which do not go to the SES?

Mr VEIVERS (20/4/98):

(1) The State Emergency Service (SES) Volunteer Support Unit has, to date, received a total of \$15,100 from Datafund for the sale of confectionery.

(2) A total of \$14,000 was deposited on behalf of the SES Volunteer Support Unit into a separate Datafund proceeds account on 9 January 1998 and \$1,100 was deposited on 24 March 1998.

With regard to the distribution of the remainder of proceeds; the Department of Emergency Services is not privy to the disbursement arrangements of Datafund.

219. Calvary Christian College

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/3/98)—

With reference to the extension of Woolcock Street, from Duchworth Street to the Bohle, which has provided a four-lane access to Townsville from the north and as this new length of very busy highway has created a danger, not previously present, for students attending the Calvary Christian College and as he would be aware that in similar circumstances, Queensland Rail has provided a child-proof fence to ensure the safety of children attending the Bohlevale State School—

Will he reverse the decision of the Main Roads Department and instruct the department to meet the cost, a mere \$6,000, of a fence to protect the students of Calvary Christian College from the highway traffic?

Mr JOHNSON (17/4/98): Main Roads receives numerous requests for child-proof fencing of property boundaries adjacent to State-controlled roads. However, the only situation where the Department does erect fencing is when land is resumed from an existing property that is substantially fenced.

In 1984 Main Roads resumed approximately 600m² from the Calvary Christian College. However the property was not fenced at that time.

It should be noted that the school is several hundred metres south of the new road and the school soccer field is some 30 to 50 metres from the southern carriageway, over rough ground. It is unlikely students would venture into this rather harsh environment to play.

The circumstances are quite different to the Queensland Rail situation where parents were dropping students on the highway verge, resulting in random crossings of QR's North Coast line—a highly dangerous situation. QT undertook to fence their rail corridor adjacent to the Bohlevale School to force children to cross in safety at approved locations.

In view of the circumstances Main Roads is not prepared to contribute to cost of frontage fencing which would also be ineffective without continued fencing of the Calvary Temple Assembly of God land immediately west of the school, or fencing of the western boundary of the school property.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**220. State Public Servants, Maternity Leave**

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/4/98)—

With reference to the answer provided by the Treasurer in respect of Question on Notice No. 66 asked by me on Thursday 5 March in which the Treasurer stated that responsibility for the provision of maternity leave for State public servants is a matter for the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations and in relation to the issue of 6 weeks annual leave for State public servants—

- (1) What amounts were paid under this scheme in 1996-97 and what has been paid to date in 1997-98?
- (2) To how many public servants were these amounts paid in each year?
- (3) Will he give an undertaking to the House that he supports the scheme and that he will continue to do so into the future?

Mr SANTORO (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

221. Families, Youth and Community Care Department; Teenage Prostitute

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (21/4/98)—

With reference to the recent case of a 14 year old girl prostituting herself on Brisbane streets —

- (1) When the girl's father first approached the department for assistance was he referred to a trainee or someone on work experience; if so, why did this occur?
- (2) Why, after staying with a foster family for four months did this girl run away and start living on the streets of Brisbane?
- (3) When was the department informed that the girl had absconded from the foster family's care and what action was taken at this time to locate her; if none, why not?
- (4) Are there only three Brisbane families on the department's books who will take on troubled teenagers outside the fostering system?
- (5) Are departmental staff flat out just dealing with serious child abuse cases and largely unable to address other cases?
- (6) Is the most common form of assistance offered to runaway children hostel accommodation at \$6-\$9 per night and that as few as 50 beds a night exist between Redcliffe and Ipswich?
- (7) Does she support her Director-General when he says that this girl was not in the department's care, only that she had "connections" with the department?

Mrs WILSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

222. Queensland Trade Assistance Scheme

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (21/4/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Trade Assistance Scheme (QTAS) administered by his department—

- (1) What was the total amount allocated under this scheme during 1996-97 and 1997-98 to date?
- (2) How many Queensland companies applied for grants during 1996-97 and 1997-98 to date and how many applicants succeeded in receiving assistance under this scheme?
- (3) Which companies received assistance under this scheme in 1996-97 and 1997-98 to date, how much did each company receive and for what specific purpose?
- (4) Which companies did not succeed in receiving assistance under QTAS in 1996-97 and 1997-98 to date and for what reasons was assistance not provided?

Mr SLACK (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

223. Rio Tinto

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (21/4/98)—

With reference to the meeting held in South Africa in February between Trade Unions from 14 countries who discussed the company—Rio Tinto which is operating or exploring in Australia and is considered the world's largest private mining company—

- (1) Is he aware that (a) Rio Tinto is being sued in the United Kingdom for compensation for cancer allegedly resulting from working conditions at its uranium operations in Namibia and that the number of compensation cases is steadily growing, (b) is explicitly seeking to de-unionise many of its operations, especially in Australia and that this policy has been demonstrated in the awarding of the prizes to workers at an Australian coal mine for producing non-union coal, (c) has contributed staff to the drafting of industrial laws in Australia which has now been found by the International Labor Organisation Committee of Experts to be in breach of international labour law regarding the right to organise and bargain collectively and (d) has been criticised by Amnesty International and by the Australian arm of Oxfam International, the respected aid agency, for its treatment of indigenous peoples in different parts of Indonesia?
- (2) What measures will the Queensland Government put in place to ensure that Rio Tinto operates in Australia with the full respect for labour rights, human rights and to high standards for occupational health and safety and environmental management?
- (3) Is this Government taking any action or liaising at an international level to ensure that Rio Tinto does not seek to achieve lower standards in

respect of labour rights, human rights, occupational health and safety and environmental management through forcing countries to compete for the company's investment?

Mr GILMORE (Withdrawn by Mr McGrady on 24 April 1998)

224. Daintree Rescue Program

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (21/4/98)—

With reference to the recent visit to the Daintree by the Prime Minister and his luncheon meeting with the Douglas Shire Council—

- (1) Is it true that not only local conservation representatives but the local tourism industry implored the Prime Minister to repeat funding for further land buyback in the Daintree to prevent any added clearing of lowland tropical rainforest; if so, what level of funding is being sought and over what time frame?
- (2) How many freehold rainforest blocks of land of conservation value remain in private hands in the Daintree, how many of these are currently up for sale and what funds would be required to purchase the latter?
- (3) If the Prime Minister does agree to fund a further Daintree Rescue Package, will he support a Queensland Government move to match this funding dollar for dollar as occurred with the original rescue package; if not, why not?
- (4) Was the evaluation of the original rescue package considered by the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council at its recent meeting in Brisbane; if so, what was the outcome, at what cost was the review undertaken, why was it needed, why was an outside consultant required to undertake such a review and when will the completed report be released publicly?
- (5) Does he agree that the highest and best use of the Daintree is for tourism; if not, why not?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98):

(1) Press reports of the visit of the Prime Minister to Douglas Shire indicate that conservation and tourist industry groups do support further land acquisition in the Daintree area. It is unclear what level of funding is being sought by those groups. Mr. Welford should direct his question to the groups concerned.

(2) There are approximately 1,100 private allotments between the Daintree and Bloomfield Rivers. While exact figures are not available, air photo interpretation indicates that in the order of 80% of allotments (880) would contain values of conservation significance.

Over 500 allotments have been offered for purchase under the Daintree Rescue Program. Eighty three properties (with a total area of over 1,600 ha) have been purchased at a cost of \$14.2 million.

Purchase of a further 420 allotments (with a total area of around 600 ha) would cost in the order of \$21 million.

(3) The Commonwealth and Queensland Governments are shortly to release a review of the Daintree Rescue

Program. In addition, a preliminary impact assessment of the proposed extension of grid electricity into the Daintree will be finalised before the end of May. It is premature to consider future conservation measures in the Daintree until the public have had a chance to comment on these two major reports.

(4) The Daintree Rescue Program review project has recently been completed and the Wet Tropics Ministerial Council agreed to release the consultant's report as soon as practicable. The release of the report is imminent.

The review was undertaken by Assoc. Prof. Bob Beeton of the University of Queensland (Gatton) assisted by the Commonwealth Environment Department's Program evaluation unit. It is considered common and appropriate practice that such a review be undertaken independently and at arms length from those involved in program implementation.

The total cost of the review was \$22,500 with the Commonwealth and the Daintree Rescue Program paying approximately 50% each.

(5) Tourism is the most economically significant industry in the Douglas Shire. The Daintree rainforests, together with the Great Barrier Reef provide the main focus for this industry.

Residential and agricultural use is a fact of life in the Daintree area. Future management of the locality will continue to require the striking of an equitable balance to ensure the important natural values are protected to the maximum extent possible, while the tourism industry remains sustainable and land holders interests are protected. The Government will respond to these issues once the public has had a chance to consider the two major reports previously mentioned.

225. Yorkey's Knob, Principal's Residence and Land

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (21/4/98)—

With reference to the proposal by the Government to dispose of the old principal's residence and land at Yorkey's Knob—

- (1) Will he confirm that the Cairns City Council first raised the issue with officers of his department in August 1995?
- (2) What is the exact timing and nature of representations made to him on this matter by the member for Barron River?
- (3) Given the earlier agreement with the old Mulgrave Shire Council to return the land for the school and principals residence to council free of charge, why has this agreement not been honoured?
- (4) Given correspondence from the Cairns City Council to him and the member for Barron River dated December 1997, why has he failed to respond to that correspondence other than a formal acknowledgment of its receipt?
- (5) Why has the member for Barron River been reported in the media refusing council's request when the Minister has been unable to answer council's correspondence?

- (6) What are his intentions for the former Yorkeys Knob principal's residence and land?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

226. Jimboomba , Respite Centre

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (21/4/98)—

With reference to public announcements by the Member for Beaudesert regarding the construction of a respite centre for people with a disability in Jimboomba—

- (1) Has any allocation of funds been made for a respite centre in Jimboomba by his department; if so, how much has been allocated?
- (2) From what program area has the allocation been made?
- (3) If an allocation has been made, what, if any, reference is made to the funds in the 1997-98 budget papers?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

227. Sunlander

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/4/98)—

- (1) How many prospective passengers have been unsuccessful in obtaining economy sleeping berths on the Sunlander, one of Australia's very few world class trains and an important factor in Queensland's tourism industry since the train has been reduced in size this year?
- (2) Will he consider placing an additional economy sleeping car in each of the two consists to satisfy the needs of economy passengers on this very popular service?
- (3) Will he consider the need for an additional Sunlander to Cairns on Mondays and Fridays during the tourism season and at holiday times in view of the fact that sufficient cars are available for another consist except for a second club car, which could be provided by converting car 1502 or car 1520 now spare?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

228. Wynnum Police Division, Juvenile Offences

Mr LUCAS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (21/4/98)—

With reference to the Wynnum Police Division and for the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-8 March 1998 and further with respect to answer to Question on Notice Number 86—

- (1) Of juveniles dealt with the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act for each of the above years how many convictions were recorded and what is the nature of the offences involved?

- (2) Of persons who have been dealt with for graffiti and similar offences what was the general nature of the penalties involved (eg fine, community service, jail, probation) and the number of persons in each of the categories?

Mr BEANLAND (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

229. Petrie Community Legal Centre

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (21/4/98)—

With reference to the Petrie Community Legal Centre, will he ensure that funding will continue to be provided by his department to community legal centres and thereby ensure that the Petrie Community Legal Centre continues its excellent service to the people of Pine Rivers?

Mr BEANLAND (14/5/98): Community legal centres are funded under an arrangement which is administered by Legal Aid Queensland. Funds are provided from the State and Commonwealth Governments, the Grants Fund administered by the Queensland Law Society Inc, and Legal Aid Queensland.

Funding of centres will continue to be administered by Legal Aid Queensland which is currently negotiating service agreements with centres for the 1998-99 financial year.

The Attorney-General is not aware of any plans to ease funding of centres and is aware of the broad range of services undertaken by centres which complement the work of Legal Aid Queensland and the private profession.

The Attorney-General has no reason to believe that the excellent service offered by the Petrie Community Legal Centre will not continue in the next year.

230. Cape York, Japanese Encephalitis Virus

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Health (21/4/98)—

With reference to the blood sampling and testing currently being undertaken on Cape York to determine the extent of the incidence of the Japanese encephalitis virus or its antibodies amongst humans, the local pig population and migratory birds—

- (1) How many people have now been sampled, at what locations, how many of these samples have now been tested and for what results, what is the breakdown between numbers of Aboriginal and European people tested and why is this sampling and testing taking such an inordinate length of time?
- (2) When does he intend to extend this testing to the communities of Aurukun, Lockhardt River, Weipa, Bamaga and the Islands of Torres Strait and why hasn't this been done already?
- (3) What staff and financial resources are currently being directed to this sampling and testing and is he satisfied that this level of resourcing is appropriate to the seriousness of this occurrence?

- (4) What numbers of pigs have been sampled and tested so far, at what locations, what is the breakdown between feral and domestic animals, what results have been achieved so far, where is further sampling and testing planned and when, what financial and staffing resources are being directed to this work and who is directing this work?
- (5) What species of migratory native birds are being sampled and tested for this virus or its antibodies, who is doing this work and what results have been achieved to date?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

231. Energex Office, Cleveland

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (21/4/98)—

With reference to the closure of the Cleveland Energex office and the resultant lack of customer service now available to my constituents—

Will he take immediate action to re-open this office so that my constituents and others will be able to once again have face-to-face contact with an Energex officer when they have a problem instead of the present system where they have had to spend 30 minutes waiting on the line only to be advised that they have been transferred to the incorrect extension?

Mr GILMORE (15/5/98): Determining the status of depots is a decision for which Energex is responsible as a corporatised Government owned corporation, operating in a competitive market with a commercial charter. However, I have been given assurances by Energex that, when reviewing the utilisation of its property and allocation of resources throughout its area of supply, primary consideration is given to the impact on customer service, service level commitments and possible disruption caused to customers, and cost.

232. Daintree National Park

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment (21/4/98)—

With reference to the ongoing use and protection of the Daintree rainforest—

- (1) Is he aware that this rainforest attracts more visitors than both Uluru and Kakadu National Parks combined and what were the total visitor figures for 1996 and 1997?
- (2) Is he aware that the current level of infrastructure is woefully inadequate for this level of visitation; if so, what is he doing to address this?
- (3) Is he aware that local tourism representatives are demanding more national parks' rangers be employed to police the park; if so, what is he doing to address this and how many salaried and wages staff are presently employed full-time in the park?
- (4) Is he aware that local tourism representatives are demanding some form of control mechanism be put in place to manage the number of visitors to the area; if so, what is he doing to address this?

(5) Is he aware that gridlock was reached on the main tourist road in the area during last year's peak tourism season with tour coaches and private vehicles forced to park up to 200 metres away from the car park at Cape Tribulation; if so, what is he doing to address this?

(6) Is he aware that local tourism representatives will not agree to Douglas Shire Council seeking Federal funding to complete the sealing of the Cape Tribulation Road until all of the above matters are addressed?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98):

(1) I am well aware of the very high level of tourist visitation to Daintree National Park. It is estimated that that about 300,000 people visited national park sites north of the Daintree River in the 1996-97 financial year and that some 500,000 people visited the Mossman Gorge section of the national park in that time.

(2) A key aim of the joint State-Commonwealth Daintree Rescue Program (DRP) has been to ensure that existing visitor sites in Daintree National Park are improved and new visitor sites developed. The level of infrastructure was inadequate when the Coalition Government inherited the issue from Labor.

Three new visitor sites are being developed and existing sites refurbished, at a cost of some \$6 million. These measures will greatly increase the opportunities available to tourists visiting the area and will obviously also increase commercial tourism opportunities for local people.

(3) I am aware that some tourist operators would like to see more national park rangers in the Daintree National Park. However, there are mixed messages coming from the tourist industry on this issue. I am advised that while some industry representatives say they would like more Department of Environment rangers to (for example) provide guided walks and talks in the national park, other operators are concerned that such an increase might reduce their business opportunities and would not support such a proposal.

I have arranged for Departmental staff to provide me with a report on the increased burden of managing and maintaining the new DRP visitor facilities are likely to place on Departmental rangers. I will then be using this report as a basis for discussions on future cost sharing arrangements with my Commonwealth counterpart, the Hon. Senator Robert Hill.

(4) Department of Environment staff are involved directly in two projects dealing with this issue;

a review of the effectiveness of the Daintree Rescue Program—a draft report will be released for public consideration and comment shortly; and

a discussion paper, entitled Review of Commercial tour Operations in Daintree National Park was released by my Department in April 1998.

It would be premature for me to comment on this issue prior to public and industry comments being received and assessed by Departmental Staff.

(5) The overcrowding issue is being dealt with by developing new and enhanced visitor facilities, both in the Daintree National Park and elsewhere in the area north of the Daintree River, in order to take visitation pressure off existing facilities in Daintree National Park.

I understand private operators are also establishing facilities on nearby freehold land, adding to the total tourist carrying capacity of the area.

(6) No.

233. Toorak House, Hamilton

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (21/4/98)—

With reference to the heritage listed Toorak House on Hamilton hill in Brisbane—

- (1) As virtually all of the mature trees that once adorned the front of this magnificent home have now been destroyed and removed, how many of them featured on the heritage citation as being part of the heritage significance of the property and in what way did the citation record their significance?
- (2) What types of trees were they, of what age and by whom were they planted?
- (3) How many other trees not listed on the heritage citation were also similarly destroyed in the home's surroundings by the new owners of this property, of what age and type were they and why were they destroyed?
- (4) Was application made to the Heritage Council to destroy the trees that were part of the heritage significance of the property and what was the ruling of the council?
- (5) Why was no action taken against the people who destroyed these trees in what appears to be a flagrant violation of Queensland's heritage laws?
- (6) When does he intend to act to prosecute this matter to ensure no further violations are committed by other heritage property owners who similarly dislike aspects of the heritage significance of their property?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98):

(1) & (2) The statement of significance in the Entry in the Heritage Register recognises "the picturesque quality of the mature gardens surrounding the house" and in the description notes "the grounds contain many substantial and mature trees, including mature palms, camphor laurels, jacarandas, liquidambar, and Moreton Bay Chestnuts". The entry while noting the types of mature trees, does not contain information on their age, or by whom they were planted.

(3) A substantial number of trees that have been removed from the front of Toorak were located on an adjoining block of land which is in the ownership of Toorak House, but not entered in the Heritage Register. Accordingly, the entry does not include any details on these trees, and they were not subject to the provisions of the Heritage Act.

(4) Two applications were made under s.34 of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 for works to the

grounds of Toorak House, which included the removal of a substantial number of trees. These were supported by a conservation analysis of the house and grounds and a detailed assessment of the trees by a landscape architect. Approval for the removal of some of the trees was granted by the Heritage Council, with the balance of the trees being approved for removal in accordance with a judgment issued by the Planning and Environment Court.

(5) As the removal of the trees that were the subject of the section 34 applications was in accordance with all necessary approvals under the provisions of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, there was no violation of the law.

(6) I am advised that there is no basis to prosecute in relation to this matter.

234. Mount Morgan, Water Supply

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (21/4/98)—

With reference to construction of the 4.5 metre extension of the No. 7 dam wall at Mt Morgan which has now begun, raising community expectations of industrial and urban development—

- (1) What studies have been initiated by the Department of Natural Resources to determine the current condition of Mt Morgan water infrastructure and its capacity to deliver a reliable supply to the town?
- (2) What cost would be involved in bringing the current infrastructure up to standard to meet expected increased demand and what impact would the increased demand have on reliability of supply?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

235. Electricity Blackouts

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (21/4/98)—

With reference to the recent State-wide power black-outs—

- (1) Which suburbs and towns were blacked out as a direct result of power shedding by the different electricity retailers and generators in Queensland during these four or five days?
- (2) At what time and for what duration were they blacked out, who made these decisions and on what basis?
- (3) Will he give the Parliament an unequivocal guarantee that politics played no part in the selection of these towns and suburbs at any time; if not, why not?

Mr GILMORE (15/5/98):

(1) On 23, 24 and 25 February 1998, customers throughout Queensland suffered interruptions to their

electricity supply as a result of rotational load shedding necessary because of plant failures at four of the State's base load power stations.

(2) Rotational load shedding throughout the State commenced on the morning of 23 February 1998 at the direction of the Queensland System Operator, Powerlink Queensland. On that day, electricity load of about 500 megawatts, or 10% of the total demand of 5500 megawatts, was shed uniformly across the State. The lower demand on 24 February 1998 meant that only about 300 megawatts was shed that day. Only minimal forced interruptions to power supplies occurred on 25 February 1998. While Powerlink determined the load each electricity distribution corporation was to shed in its particular supply area, the distribution corporations were responsible for rotational load shedding arrangements in their own areas. Generally, the corporations endeavoured to spread the power supply interruptions uniformly across their supply areas, to minimise the inconvenience to any particular customers. As far as possible, however, power supplies were maintained to essential services and other priority customers such as hospitals.

(3) Certainly. As I have already stated, the Queensland System Operator determined the load each electricity distribution corporation was to shed in its particular area and the distribution corporations were responsible for the load shedding arrangements in their own areas.

236. Electricity Charges, Central Queensland

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (21/4/98)—

With reference to claims that the cost of electricity in Central Queensland mining towns is increasing at the same time costs to big industry are dropping—

- (1) Is this true; if so, in which mining towns, to what extent and why?
- (2) Is he satisfied with the situation; if not, what is he doing to address it?

Mr GILMORE (15/5/98):

(1) I can categorically state that, in the term of this Government, there are no customers in Central Queensland mining towns, or any other Queensland town for that matter, who have received an increase in the price they pay for electricity, where those customers receive supply from a Queensland electricity sector corporation under standard tariff conditions.

This Government has, in fact, reduced prices for customers supplied under Commercial and Industrial tariffs with a reduction of 5% applying from 9 March.

- (2) Yes.

237. Maryborough TAFE Institute

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/4/98)—

As Maryborough TAFE has missed out on training courses for enrolled nurses to upgrade their skills, will he take immediate action to remedy this?

Mr SANTORO (19/5/98): Enrolled nurses in Maryborough will have the opportunity to upgrade their skills through TAFE Queensland. Seven strategically placed TAFE Queensland Institutes are registered to deliver the course in Medication Practice. These are: Tropical North Queensland; Barrier Reef; Central Queensland; Southern Queensland; Gold Coast; Moreton; and Southbank Institute of TAFE.

While the course is not run at all TAFE Queensland Institutes, this training is nevertheless intended for access by enrolled nurses throughout the entire State, including those in rural and remote communities. The course will be available to enrolled nurses in areas where the training is not offered locally by means of flexible delivery.

Moreton Institute will function as a 'one-stop shop' for all inquiries regarding the course in Medication Practice. As I have indicated, delivery in remote and regional areas will be effected through the use of distance education, but will also encompass tutorials and face-to-face assessment exercises.

238. Woodford Correctional Centre

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (21/4/98)—

With reference to reports from parents of young inmates at Woodford Correctional Centre that young inmates are being bashed, tortured and raped by other inmates which follow the alleged bashing, torture, raping and subsequent murder of 21 year old fine defaulter Scott Topping in September 1997 and a call by his father for a full State Government inquiry into the management of this prison—

What steps has he taken to investigate these most disturbing allegations and the prison management's response to this problem?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

239. Jacobs Well, Canal Development; Peakhurst Properties Pty Ltd

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (21/4/98)—

With reference to the Peakhurst Properties at Jacobs Well—

As a huge area of mangrove has been destroyed in this development over the past decade, what action has his department taken within the terms of the Fisheries Act over this period, what permits have been applied for, what EIS have been conducted on this area to satisfy the Department of Primary Industries actions, what notices have been issued and has the department begun any litigation over this development?

Mr ROWELL (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

240. Animal Research Institute, Yeerongpilly

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (21/4/98)—
With reference to ongoing work at the Animal Research Institute at Yeerongpilly on the equine morbillivirus and flying fox lyssavirus—

- (1) Have any staff at this institute grown cultures of equine morbillivirus in their laboratories; if so, for what purpose, was this work officially sanctioned and is the Yeerongpilly facility equipped and authorised to undertake such work?
- (2) Has there at any time been an "escape" or leakage of any of this deadly virus from any of the laboratories at this institute; if so, have any staff at the institute or visitors been exposed unnecessarily to this virus?
- (3) Who was the staff member responsible for this culturing and what action has been taken to address this issue?
- (4) Has a new mystery virus been detected in pigs south of Sydney which has the effect of causing sows to abort and have flying fox populations in Queensland been found to carry antibodies to this virus; if so, in what areas of Queensland have these flying foxes been found?
- (5) Why has this discovery of a further mystery virus been kept secret and why haven't pig producers in Queensland been warned of its existence and potential threat to Queensland's multi-million dollar pig industry?

Mr ROWELL (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

241. Police Service; Operation Scatter

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (21/4/98)—

With reference to the Police Department's activity termed "Operation Scatter"—

- (1) Will he provide details of the total cost of "Operation Scatter"?
- (2) How many police personnel were committed to "Operation Scatter"?
- (3) Over what period was "Operation Scatter" conducted?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

242. Mr S. O'Shee; Boat Registration Fees

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (21/4/98)—

With reference to a report in the Sun Herald of 8 February which refers to yet another Mundingburra by-election deal—

- (1) Did the Coalition enter into a pre-election deal with Independent Boat Owners Association President, Mr Sam O'Shee, to reduce boat charges; if so, what return was expected from the boat owners?

- (2) What contact has he or his office had with Mr O'Shee since February 1996 and what was the nature of his discussions with Mr O'Shee?
- (3) Has there been any reduction in boat registration charges as promised by the Coalition to Mr O'Shee; if so, when and of what magnitude?
- (4) Who was the senior departmental official who "visited" Mr O'Shee in the week prior to the publication of this article and what was the nature of his discussions with Mr O'Shee?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

243. Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (21/4/98)—

With reference to the detention of a 12 year old boy in the Sir Leslie Wilson Home Detention Centre for juveniles over the Christmas break—

- (1) Did a 12 year old boy suffer two sexual abuse attacks by 13 and 14 year old inmates; if so, are no charges to be laid against the attackers so that the 12 year old victim doesn't have to go through the emotional court process and relive those sexual abuse attacks?
- (2) Was the boy returned home because the department couldn't guarantee his safety?
- (3) Is any action being taken against staff who allowed these attacks to occur?
- (4) Are work practices being changed to protect all juveniles in detention centres?
- (5) How many alleged sexual attacks have occurred in Queensland juvenile detention centres during 1997 and to date in 1998?
- (6) How can the public have confidence in the juvenile justice system when he can't protect youth from attack in his detention centres?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

244. Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (21/4/98)—

With reference to the worthless statistics supplied in response to Question on Notice No. 99 and the document "Queensland Ambulance Service Staff Establishment as at end of April 1997"—

- (1) Will he provide me with an updated version of the second document if there is such a document?
- (2) If there is not such a document in that format, will he provide me with any other statistics where response times have been divided up into sections like regions, areas or even ambulance stations?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

245. Victim/Offender Conferencing

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (21/4/98)—

With reference to the provisions for victim-offender conferencing—

- (1) How many instances of such victim-offender conferencing have taken place since this Government came into office?
- (2) How many such instances have occurred in each Magistrates Court district of the State since this Government came into office?
- (3) What provisions, if any, have been made to assist Aboriginal victims of crime in remote areas of the State to participate in victim-offender conferencing?
- (4) What action does the Government intend to take to overcome problems identified in victim-offender conferencing programs?

Mr BEANLAND (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

246. Patrick Stevedores

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (21/4/98)—

- (1) Was he made aware that Patrick Stevedoring was going to sack its entire workforce before it was publicly announced?
- (2) Did he have talks with Port of Brisbane, Patricks Brisbane staff and Patricks Australian staff or his Federal colleague Hon Peter Reith in regards to the sacking of its workforce before it was publicly announced?
- (3) Did he have any knowledge from any source that Patricks was going to sack its workforce?

Mr SANTORO (22/4/98):

(1) Yes. My Office was advised by the Port of Brisbane Corporation at 9.16 p.m. on 7 April 1998, the date that Patricks issued a media release advising of the action they had taken, that action by Patrick Stevedores Operations to replace its contracted labour supply company was imminent.

(2) No, except as per (1) above.

(3) Yes. On 6 April 1998 the Maritime Union of Australia informed me and the world at large that it expected Patricks to sack its workforce when the union sought orders in the Federal Court of Australia to injunct Patricks from taking such action.

247. White Mountain National Park

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Environment (21/4/98)—

With reference to the proposal by the Dalrymple Shire Council to lease White Mountain National Park for commercial tourism development—

- (1) What discussion has he or any other Minister of Government held with the council in relation to this proposal?
- (2) Does he support the extension of commercial activity within the national park boundary as proposed?

(3) Has he finalised the conditions, if any, of any future lease within the national park following his review of commercial activities within national parks?

(4) What consultations have been held with the Gudjala people in relation to the plan?

(5) Who would be the lessees of any such commercial lease and what level of financial return would the department expect under the terms of any future lease?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98): A proposal was raised by the Council when I visited Charters Towers in November last year. The proposal could not be supported and the Council has since indicated it is not pursuing the matter.

248. Gold Coast, Police Resources

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (21/4/98)—

With reference to Gold Coast Police District plans to create a number of District Duty Officer (DDO) positions in the region—

- (1) Are there plans to fill these positions with uniformed police officer positions?
- (2) Is consideration being given to take seven uniformed officer positions from Palm Beach and 12 uniformed officer positions from Southport to fill these DDO positions?
- (3) What is the total number of uniformed officer positions that will be used to fill the DDO positions?
- (4) How many DDO positions will be created for the Gold Coast District?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

249. Nudgee Electorate, Public Housing

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (21/4/98)—

With reference to offers of housing to prospective tenants of the department within the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) What has been the number of first offers and the number of rejections in each category of housing respectively (eg seniors units, detached housing etc) since the new zonal system was introduced?
- (2) What are the comparative figures for the corresponding period 12 months earlier?
- (3) What reasons are being given by prospective tenants for rejecting their first offer?
- (4) What is the cost to the department of the additional administrative burden caused by any increased level of rejection?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

250. Nursing Homes

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (21/4/98)—

With reference to the recent audit of 3000 Australian nursing homes where it was found that five Queensland Government run nursing homes failed to meet minimum standards and to his correspondence with Federal Family Services Minister, Warwick Smith, of 30 March where he opposed installing sprinkler systems in Government nursing homes because it would cost too much—

As the Chermside area has the highest percentage of Queensland residents aged more than 70 years (many of whom will be entering nursing homes in the coming years), how can he gamble with the lives of elderly residents by refusing to install sprinkler systems in State-run nursing homes?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

251. Nathan Dam

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (21/4/98)—

With reference to the expression of interest deal the Government has signed with a developer to construct/operate the proposed Nathan Dam—

- (1) Will he make public all matters relating to the above deal including the name and registered company address of the company the Government has signed an expression of interest with to build and operate the above dam?
- (2) What are the details of the contract, what rights to sell water will the preferred contractor have, what is the cost of construction of the dam and what is the source of funding for this project?
- (3) Will he guarantee that he has not signed off on a deal which will bind future Governments to construct the dam?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

252. Parliamentary Service, Enterprise Bargaining Agreement

Mr SMITH asked the Premier (21/4/98)—

With reference to the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement for Parliamentary Service Officers and Electorate Officers—

- (1) Was agreement reached in January for a 2 per cent wage increase from the date of commencement of the agreement with provision for further increases on 1 September 1998, 1 September 1999 and 2 September 2000; if not, what is his understanding of the agreement reached?
- (2) Has Cabinet now decided to refuse to pay this increase from 1 January and in fact to put back all subsequent increases by one month on each occasion; if so, why?
- (3) Does he accept that this represents a violation of the Governments original promise to

Parliamentary Service Officers and Electorate Officers; if not, what is his understanding of this promise?

- (4) How does he respond to the Australian Services Union charge that this reversal is in extremely bad faith and indicates a lack of care and respect on the part of the Premier towards staff?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

253. Pacific Film and Television Commission

Mr FOURAS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (21/4/98)—

- (1) Does she have full confidence in the impartiality of the procedure for selecting successful grant applicants under the Pacific Film and Television development schemes?
- (2) Is she aware that recently a writer was informally approached and assured of funding before the funding application process had even started and further that writer was approached by Mr Henry Tefay, formerly of Film Queensland now of Pacific, to write up to four feature film scripts on an unpaid basis with the false promise that one of those scripts would be financed into a low budget feature film and that, again falsely, only that particular writer had been approached for that purpose?
- (3) Is she aware that certain writers and producers have been required to accept the "creative" ideas of public servants within Pacific and to develop their scripts in accordance with the "directions" of Henry Tefay of Pacific in order to receive funding whether or not those writers and producers agree with his ideas?
- (4) Is she aware that where one writer disagreed with those directions, that writer was told, again by Mr Tefay, that "a view" has been taken on the writer by Pacific in relation to the funding of that writer's future projects?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

254. Runcorn Railway Station

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (22/4/98)—

With reference to the recent demolition of the station master's house at the Runcorn Railway Station—

- (1) Did Q-Rail conduct any research to determine the local heritage values of this house before it was demolished?
- (2) Did Q-Rail conduct any research to determine whether this house could have been used for other purposes by either the State Government or community based organisations prior to its demolition?
- (3) What was the cost of the demolition of this house and what will the land be used for?
- (4) Why did Q-Rail not advise or consult with me, as the local Member of Parliament, before demolishing this house?

- (5) What processes is he now prepared to put in place to stop Q-Rail making unilateral decisions without any consultation with elected representatives of communities or consideration of local heritage values or the needs of community organisations that could be assisted by the disposal of assets no longer required by Q-Rail?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

255. Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (22/4/98)—

With reference to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund and the distribution of funds on an electorate basis—

- (1) What funds have been allocated to organisations in each electorate in each of the financial years since the establishment of the fund?
- (2) In respect of each electorate in each of these years, how many projects were supported from the fund?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

256. Prince Charles Hospital, Waiting List

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Health (22/4/98)—

With reference to a recent case at Prince Charles Hospital in which a male patient was told he will have to wait until 2001 for diagnostic tests for the possibly fatal condition of sleep apnoea—

- (1) Was this patient referred to the hospital for this testing by an ear, nose and throat specialist?
- (2) Did this referral result from the patient having been found by his wife to have stopped breathing in his sleep?
- (3) Is he aware that the patient is a pensioner and has already paid \$180 for some of the tests at St Andrew's Private Hospital?
- (4) Has the patient also been informed by the hospital that this 2001 date may even blow out further if other urgent cases come up in the meantime?
- (5) Does he believe that a March 2001 appointment for further testing at Prince Charles could be regarded by any fair minded person as being indicative of a health system being properly funded and managed by Government?
- (6) Is he aware that this patient could die of this condition well prior to his March 2001 appointment?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

257. Land Valuations, Brisbane

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (22/4/98)—

With reference to the issue of valuations of land for rating purposes in the Brisbane area—

- (1) What valuation increases have occurred in the suburb of Coorparoo in the last six months, in what parts of the suburb and why?
- (2) What calculations were used to devise these increases, in some cases reportedly as high as 25-30 per cent?
- (3) Why has Coorparoo seemingly been subjected in isolation to increases of these magnitudes?
- (4) What avenues are open to residents who believe they have been unfairly valued and wish to appeal these rises?
- (5) Will he give the residents of Coorparoo affected by these increases a guarantee that these increases are justified and in accordance with guidelines?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

258. Children with Disabilities in Care Fund

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (22/4/98)—

With reference to the Children with Disabilities in Care Fund administered by her department—

- (1) What is the total budget for this fund for 1997-98?
- (2) What is the total allocation for services to children from this fund to date?
- (3) What is the total number of children to whom funds have been allocated to date?
- (4) What is the amount of each allocation?
- (5) What is the total number of new allocations for services to children in 1997-98 as distinct from 1996-97?
- (6) In which regions do these children receiving these funds reside?
- (7) What is the total number of new applications seeking funds for services for eligible children and in which regions and area offices have they been made?
- (8) Is the current budget for this fund sufficient to meet the need for services to eligible children in need; if not, what action is being taken to ensure that all eligible children are provided with services they need?

Mrs WILSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

259. Police Resources

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (22/4/98)—

With reference to the issue of police staffing—

- (1) What is the present 'actual' strength of the Queensland Police Service?
- (2) What is the present 'authorised' strength of the Queensland Police Service?
- (3) What percentage of officers are presently engaged in an operational role?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

260. Cooktown State School

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (22/4/98)—

With reference to plans to relocate the Cooktown State School primary campus to the secondary department campus—

- (1) At what stage is planning for this project?
- (2) Have tenders been called?
- (3) When will tenders be let and when is construction due to start?
- (4) What is the anticipated completion date?
- (5) Given that he has been approached by the Cook Shire Council to allow the existing primary school buildings to be used by the council and the community, will he agree to this request; if not, what does the Government plan to do with the buildings and land?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

261. Radiation Treatment, Waiting List

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (22/4/98)—

With reference to the unprecedented situation where Queenslanders with cancer are having to wait for four weeks before starting essential life-saving treatment and as staff are working exhausting hours and shifts to minimise the distress caused at both Queensland Radium Institute and Mater Radiation Oncology Centres—

Will he state the reasons for his arrogant refusal to negotiate treatment of waiting patients by a contract with willing private radiation oncologists?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

262. Police Resources

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (22/4/98)—

With reference to the issue of police staffing and to his comments in the Parliament on 30 April 1997 concerning the free availability of copies of the Regional Police Staffing Model and the information contained therein and to his answer to Question on Notice No 953 (7 October 1997), to which he attached a copy of the Regional Police Staffing Model—

- (1) In light of his comments in 1997 and his answer to the Question on Notice referred to above, will he once again provide a copy of the current Regional Police Staffing Model showing model, authorised, 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 that provided in his answer to Question on Notice No 953?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

263. ABC Enterprises

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Environment (22/4/98)—

With reference to Department of Environment Commonwealth Bank cheque No 416005 for \$1.7m drawn on 30 October 1997 and payable to ABC Enterprises at 459 Sherwood Road, Toowong—

- (1) Why was this cheque drawn and what services did ABC Enterprises provide to the department that could cost \$1.7m?
- (2) Is he aware that ABC Enterprises has not operated from 459 Sherwood Road, Toowong for some considerable time; if so, why is this organisation and its address still on current departmental computer records?
- (3) Why, when and by whom was the cheque cancelled?
- (4) Is he satisfied that nothing untoward has occurred with this cheque and that staff operating computers in the financial section of his department are doing so in full accordance with the requirements of the internal Financial Administration and Audit Act?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98): I would have thought the member would have more important issues to address in his electorate. However:

(1) The cheque was one of a small run produced (not drawn) with a dummy vendor and a dummy amount to enable the correct alignment of dates, names and cheque amounts on a new batch of cheque forms. The cheque was not signed and was not issued by the Department. Therefore the question of any services provided does not arise.

(2) As far as my Department is aware, ABC Enterprises exists only as a dummy vendor in the Acceptance (or testing area) of the Department's financial system.

(3) The dummy cheque was stamped "cancelled" on the day it was printed by Financial Services staff in accordance with Departmental procedures relating to cheques produced during the testing of cheque printing runs.

(4) Departmental inquiries have been made and appropriate action taken.

264. Environment Department, "Herbie" Logo

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Environment (22/4/98)—

With reference to his plans to allow private firms to use the department's "Herbie" logo for commercial advertising—

- (1) Which companies have either already been given permission or are presently being negotiated with to use this logo, in which way and for what products?
- (2) What return has been negotiated from these companies and what percentage of the retail sale price of the product does this represent?
- (3) What guidelines have been put in place to cover the use of Herbie in these promotions?
- (4) To what departmental program will the proceeds of these sponsorship deals be directed and to what use will they be put?
- (5) Will he give a guarantee that we will not see a repeat of the disgraceful Emergency Services "jelly bean" promotion flowing from this very similar departmental promotion?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98): It is not envisaged at this point in time that private firms will be allowed to use the Department's "Herbie" logo for commercial advertising.

(1) The Department has been approached by one company in the Far Northern Region regarding such use and has refused the application. Another company operating an "ecotourism lodge" in the Daintree area has had initial discussions with Departmental officers regarding the potential to establish a national park information service and marketing outlet for Departmental products. The potential use of the "Herbie" logo has been canvassed in this context. No agreements or commercial arrangements have been entered into. The scope of these discussions have been limited to the potential presentation of Departmental visitor information (interpretative materials, maps and brochures) and marketing of products.

(2) Discussions have been of a preliminary nature and have not advanced to the stage where these issues have been considered in any detail.

(3) Guidelines have not been developed as there has been no application to date that has led to any detailed consideration of the issue.

Further consideration would only be given to this matter where there may be opportunities for non-government centres to directly assist the community gaining improved access to information about visitor use and access to national park areas. Any such program would be directly controlled by the Department and would not involve any delegations of management or legislative responsibility.

(4) There is no basis for such a decision at this time.

265. Eatons Hill State School

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Education (22/4/98)—

With reference to the Eatons Hill State School—

- (1) What was the enrolment at the commencement of the 1998 school year?
- (2) What was the enrolment as at the end of the first term?
- (3) When will the contractors hand the school over to the department?
- (4) When will the school be officially opened?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

266. Transmission Line, Tarong-Calvale

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (22/4/98)—

With reference to the construction by Powerlink of a new transmission line between Tarong and Calvale—

- (1) What consultation occurred with the traditional owners of the land that the transmission line traverses?
- (2) Who were these traditional owners and what was the outcome of this consultation?
- (3) Does he believe these aboriginal people were the correct indigenous custodians of this land and what efforts were put into ensuring the correct people were consulted?
- (4) At what stage is the transmission line presently at and what further consultation is planned with the traditional owners?
- (5) Will construction of the power line be halted while this consultation is undertaken and will the wishes of the traditional owners be respected?

Mr GILMORE (15/5/98):

(1) Powerlink are engaged in the most extensive consultation program with the traditional owners (Aboriginal) that has ever been developed on any transmission line in Queensland. It commenced as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process for the project in September 1996 and is still continuing, and will continue until the end of the project.

(2) Consultation has taken place with representatives of traditional owners along the entire 330 km length of the line and has involved the following groups: Gangulu-Dawson and Callide Valley; Goorang Goorang/Wakka Wakka-Eidsvold; Wakka Wakka-Gayndah; Djakunda and Representatives from the Goolburri Land Council.

The outcome of the consultation has been:

the establishment of a Steering Committee to present the views of the traditional owners;

the signing of the Memoranda of Understanding with the Steering Committee and Retainer Agreements with Goolburri acting on behalf of the Steering Committee;

the completion of a cultural and heritage clearance for the line route;

the establishment of a Cultural and Heritage Management Plan and Work Plans for the construction activities;

the establishment of a good working relationship between the traditional owner groups and Powerlink to allow this important project to proceed while ensuring that cultural and heritage values of the Aboriginal people of the area are not compromised.

(3) Representatives for the Steering Committee were selected by the Aboriginal communities along the route of the line.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process traditional owners were initially identified through research by an independent consultant archaeologist/anthropologist. Subsequent meetings were arranged with Aboriginal communities in the area to identify appropriate representatives to the Steering Committee. During the widely advertised process associated with Native Title resumption, no new traditional owner groups were identified or came forward.

We have to accept that the Aboriginal communities living in the area have the knowledge of who the traditional owners are and will select representatives who will properly reflect their views.

(4) Construction is nearing completion in the southern section out of Tarong. It is well advanced in the central section, and it has yet to start in the northern section into Calvale (near Biloela). Powerlink is currently on schedule to meet their construction completion target of late 1998. Consultation with the traditional owners through the Steering Committee will continue to the end of the project.

(5) Consultation continues in parallel with construction to ensure that the wishes of the traditional owners are properly addressed.

267. Surfers Paradise, Tourism

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (22/4/98)—

With reference to a claim by Peter Johnston, a Director of the Gold Coast Tour Operators' Association, that Surfers Paradise is a tourist "wasteland"—

- (1) Does he agree with Mr Johnston's claims that Surfers Paradise is in the grip of a "severe visitor drought"; if not, what visitor and occupancy figures can he produce to support his position?
- (2) Are, as Mr Johnston claims, many accommodation houses on the coast achieving little better than 40 per cent capacity with March being even worse, with figures as low as 20 per cent?
- (3) Does he agree that the loss of Indy from its March timeslot cannot be blamed entirely for this collapse in Gold Coast patronage; if not, does he still support its change in timeslot?
- (4) Does he agree that these poor occupancy figures prove that the multi-million dollar "ever changing, always amazing" Gold Coast campaign by the QTTC and the Gold Coast Tourism Bureau clearly was not working?
- (5) Is he aware that one of Victoria's largest domestic travel agencies reported this month that inquiries for the Gold Coast were down by over 50 per cent?
- (6) Is he aware that practically none of Victoria's travel agents are even aware of the "ever changing, always amazing" campaign?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

268. Sunshine Coast, Athletics Tracks

Mr NUNN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (22/4/98)—

With reference to her much publicised two athletics tracks planned for the Sunshine Coast—

- (1) Have there been calls on her to halve the size of the track at Currimundi to save an environmentally important wildflower refuge?
- (2) What has been her response to these calls and how does she justify this?
- (3) Does she seriously believe there is a current need for two athletics tracks on the Sunshine Coast at this time; if so, on what basis?
- (4) Does she realise that with the track promised at Southport by the Minister for Sport, the one under construction at Nudgee College, the one at QE II and her two on the Sunshine Coast, south-east Queensland has five international class athletics tracks and regional and rural Queensland have none?
- (5) How does she counter the charge that this is yet another example of the Liberal Party pork barrelling the south east corner of the State for pure political purposes?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

269. Environment Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Environment (22/4/98)—

With reference to his capital works spending—

- (1) What percentage of his 1997-98 capital works funding has been committed and what percentage has actually been spent?
- (2) Why is he re-prioritising capital works spending of his department and which projects have been elevated in priority and which have been relegated and why and is reallocation of funding occurring from project to project; if so, what amounts and which projects are involved?
- (3) Have the dinosaur footprints at Larks Quarry been given a higher priority; if so, why and what adjustments have been made to the funding of this project?
- (4) In which State electorates are the elevated capital works projects and will he give the Parliament an ironclad guarantee that this is not yet another example of National Party pork-barrelling in the run down to the next election?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98): The Member would better serve his constituents by addressing local issues, such as the mismanagement of Fraser Island by the Labor Government of which he was part, particularly with regard to funding, despite the questionable \$50 million pork-barrelling exercise called the Great Sandy Package.

- (1) The percentage of the 1997-98 capital works funding committed is 100%. The percentage of the 1997-98 capital works funding expended as at 24 April 1998 is 81%.

(2) Two projects were elevated by the department in priority in the 1997-98 capital works program. The first involved the construction of two ranger houses, a park office, and the conversion of the existing office to staff accommodation at Lawn Hill Gorge in Lawn Hill National Park. The second project was to construct a Marine Parks base at Abel Point, located near Airlie Beach in the Whitsundays. The work at Abel Point includes a workshop and boat storage facility, visitor information centre, berths for four vessels and a public boat ramp and parking area. Funding for the Lawn Hill project is \$401,434 in the 1997-98 financial year. This project was elevated in priority to enable three ranger positions to be advertised to provide enhanced management of Lawn Hill National Park. No alternate housing is available. Funding for the Abel Point project is \$348,000 in the 1997-98 financial year. The Abel Point project was necessary for the efficient operation of the marine parks base at Airlie Beach and to provide enhanced facilities for the public in the provision of information regarding the marine park area and boat launching at Abel Point. The project had strong local support, including representations from the Whitsunday Shire Council. The Labor Member for the area showed little interest, if any, in the project. Projects relegated to provide the additional funding necessary to accelerate these two projects were:

- Slade Point Workshop—\$9,000
- Whitsunday office extension planning—\$17,000
- Idalia-Lissoy boundary fence—\$20,834
- Welford and Diamantina alternate power study—\$20,000
- Sundown historic fence consultancy—\$10,000
- Cape Pallarenda Gas BBQs—\$7,500
- Bowling Green Bay, Alligator Creek day use area—\$13,092
- Homevale residence upgrade—\$5,000
- Magnetic Island Office—\$20,000
- Magnetic Island Alma Bay lookout—\$5,000
- Whitsunday Islands site works—\$6,408
- Whitsunday Island Hill Inlet lookout—\$17,000

The dinosaur footprint project at Lark Quarry Conservation Park has not had any change in priority in the 1997-98 year. During this financial year climate testing and a feasibility study were completed. Funding will be provided next financial year to undertake the detailed design required and the commencement of the works to fully enclose the trackway.

The Lawn Hill project is in the Mt Isa electorate and the Abel Point Marina is in the Whitsunday electorate. As both of these electorates are held by Labor members, it is difficult to see how these projects represent National Party pork-barrelling.

270. Narangbah-Burpengary, High School

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Education (22/4/98)—

With reference to his advice in July 1996, that proclamation of a suitable site for a high school in the

Narangbah-Burpengary area would occur in the latter part of 1996 and in July 1997, the Education Department acknowledged that—"the Burpengary-Narangbah area was a significant growth focus that should be served by its own local high school"—

- (1) Will he advise the reasons why it is taking so long to acquire the selected site?
- (2) What action has he taken to ensure the 400 year seven students of Narangbah and Burpengary who will be attending high school in 1999 will not be disadvantaged by having to attend either Dakabin or Morayfield High Schools which currently have a combined population of 2765 students enrolled to date?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

271. Tourism Industry

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (22/4/98)—

With reference to an article published in The Courier-Mail on 9 February in which he is quoted as saying "Queensland alone will lose 150,000 tourists over the next 12 months as a result of the Asian economic crisis—about half a million bed nights"—

- (1) What impact will this devastating reduction in tourism numbers have on employment within the industry and in supporting industries throughout Queensland, particularly the Mackay/Whitsunday region?
- (2) On what data is the figure based?
- (3) At what location does he expect these reductions to impact within the Queensland tourism industry?
- (4) Isn't this statement contrary to that of the Premier's in which he stated quite confidently that he and the Treasurer had fireproofed the Queensland economy against the Asian financial crisis?
- (5) Does he seriously believe that the allocation of a further \$5m to the industry is going to arrest the decline in the industry he readily admits is coming?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

272. Tourism Industry

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (22/4/98)—

With reference to a Tourism Task Force report released on the Gold Coast this week which strongly criticises local authorities for their poorly designed approval processes for local tourism development—

- (1) Does he agree with the report's findings in this regard; if so, what approaches has he made to the Local Government Minister to address these problems and what results have been achieved?
- (2) Does he agree with the report's assertion that there has been an appalling record of financial failure in regional tourist accommodation

ventures; if not, what figures can he produce to justify his position?

- (3) Does he agree with the report's contention that local authorities needed to rezone more "attractive sites" for the tourism industry and facilitate community consultation for these developments?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

273. Queensland Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Natural Resources (22/4/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation of 1994, which provides management guidelines which require the conservation of existing populations and habitat of the koala and the short beaked echidna and also to a public notice, published by the Redcliffe City Council in the Redcliffe and Bayside Herald, announcing a proposal to amend Consolidated Planning Scheme S2.18 of Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act, which proposes to open up part of the Chelsea Street bushland tract in Kippa Ring and to the fact that it was his department which asked Redcliffe City Council to proceed with this proposal—

Why is he pushing developments which are contrary to his own Government's regulations?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

274. Patrick Stevedores

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (22/4/98)—

With reference to the recent and potentially illegal sackings of Patrick Stevedoring's entire workforce—

- (1) What discussions or contact has he or any of his staff had with any other stevedoring company or its representatives regarding the sacking or potential sacking of all or any of its employees?
- (2) Has he or any of his staff given assurances or indications of support to any other stevedoring company or its representatives in the event that they pursue similar actions to Patricks?
- (3) Has he or any staff in his office or his department given advice to any employer on the practices to be adopted in sacking all or large numbers of employees?

Mr SANTORO (23/4/98):

- (1) None.
- (2) No.
- (3) Neither I nor any of my staff have given any such advice. I am unaware of any such advice having been given by any departmental staff.

275. National Park Management Plans

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (22/4/98)—

With reference to the preparation of management plans for Queensland's national parks—

- (1) Has the department been instructed to fast-track 60 of these management plans; if so, which are the parks being targeted?
- (2) What timeframe has been adopted for the preparation of these plans and what resources have been directed towards this work?
- (3) Will these plans be condensed to nothing more than a folded A4 sheet and is he satisfied that such brief treatment of such important subjects is proper?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98): The Labor Party had done little to address the need for park management plans, though they were a requirement under the Labor Government's own legislation. The Coalition Government has taken action to address Labor's lack of action.

On 23 September 1997, the Minister for Environment announced, via a media release, an accelerated program to prepare management plans, with a target of 60 management plans to be completed in the 1997-98 financial year. (Copy of media release attached). Plans are prepared in one of two formats, as appropriate to the complexity of the protected area and its planning needs. Concise plans, in the form of a double-sided, folded A3 sheet, are prepared for those smaller parks that have few management issues and little need of significant management intervention. For larger parks (or groups of small parks), that have more complex issues and require a greater level of management intervention, a larger A4 sized format is used.

276. Sexual Offenders Training Program

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (22/4/98)—

With reference to the fact that successful completion of Sexual Offenders' Training Program (SOTP), a six-month program specifically designed to help sexual offenders correct their behaviour is mandatory before consideration is given to any form of early release—

- (1) Will he take action to make this program available in centres such as Townsville, Cairns and Rockhampton?
- (2) Has he been made aware that many sexual offenders in regional Queensland are declining the opportunity to participate in SOTP because they fear if they transfer to south Queensland to undertake the program, they will lose support provided by their family and they are not confident of being able to cope without essential support?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

277. Burnett Shire Council

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (22/4/98)—

With reference to her answer to my Question on Notice No 1315 of 19 November 1997 concerning the 1995-96

roadworks loan of the Burnett Shire Council and the reply that implied that all proper financial requirements have been fulfilled—

- (1) Does she still stand by her answer in light of the fact that (a) the Burnett Shire Council only authorised the raising of a loan of \$500,000 for roadworks in 1995-96 on 23 January 1998 and (b) point 7 and 8 of the CEQ's report to the Burnett Shire Council that a transfer was processed with a notation 'transfer QTC roadworks loan 08 to reserve' and 'again there appears to be no budget against these accounts'?
- (2) Will she now publicly acknowledge that the Burnett Shire Council did not properly account for the 1995-96 roadworks loan for \$500,000, that the concerns and information provided by the Burnett Shire CEQ on 23 January 1998 confirms that the proper accounting procedures were not followed by the council and that the 1995-96 roadworks loan was only properly approved by the council on 23 January 1998?

Mrs McCAULEY (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

278. Moreton TAFE Institute

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (22/4/98)—

With reference to his statement to me that the \$8m promised to the bayside campus of the Moreton Institute of TAFE which was to be used to establish a Cleveland Campus and which I requested be allocated to the bayside campus to provide for better facilities on the campus—

- (1) Why has he reneged on his promise to me that this \$8m budget allocation would be used to expand and upgrade the bayside campus of the Moreton Institute of TAFE?
- (2) As the bayside campus of TAFE is an essential educational facility for the Redlands, will he immediately re-allocate the \$8m to the campus so that the quality education that the staff now deliver can be delivered on a safer and better resourced campus?

Mr SANTORO (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

279. Jacobs Well, Canal Development; Peakhurst Properties Pty Ltd

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (22/4/98)—

With reference to the Peakhurst Properties development at Jacob's Well—

- (1) Has the department ever reviewed this development or has the department ever had to give the Albert Shire Council or now Gold Coast City Council any approvals to allow the development to proceed?
- (2) Has the department ever had any reason to question any local government as to their decisions in allowing the development to proceed?

- (3) What is the current status of the development?
- (4) Does the department expect to have to grant any approvals or exemptions to allow the development to be completed as a canal subdivision?

Mrs McCAULEY (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

280. Energex, Service Fee

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (22/4/98)—

Is Energex charging consumers a \$10 service fee to check possible faulty meters in domestic households; if so, will he direct Energex to cease this practice given that the equipment is owned by Energex?

Mr GILMORE (15/5/98): Electricity network corporations such as Energex may require consumers, who request a check of the accuracy of their meters, to pay a fee of \$10 for the service. The fee is prescribed by regulation and is to be refunded to the consumer if the meter is found to be registering outside statutory limits.

The intent of the fee is to deter frivolous use of the service by customers. In any event the actual cost of providing the service would be far in excess of the regulatory fee of \$10.

I will not direct Energex to cease the practice, which has been in place in the industry for more than thirty years.

281. Auctioneers and Agents Act

Mr PURCELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (22/4/98)—

With reference to an article in the Cairns Post of 22 April headed "Car dealers charged" and I quote from the article "Mr Cant said other matters had been pending against Crossland but were not proceeded with due to a fault in the Auctioneers and Agents Act—

- (1) What are the faults in the Act referred to in the article and were other matters dropped against the other two car dealers mentioned in the article?
- (2) What are the matters that should have been proceeded with, what has he done to see that this does not happen again and will the Act be changed; if so, how?
- (3) In relation to the charges mentioned in the same article, when were the complaints received, how long did each complaint charge take to get to court and were all complaints received by the department proceeded with; if not, why not?
- (4) Are there any other matters pending in regard to car dealers in Cairns district; if so, who are the car dealers and what are the matters pending?

Mr BEANLAND (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

282. Mackay Base Hospital

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Health (22/4/98)—

- (1) Is he aware that a seriously injured patient was flown by CQ helicopter from Moranbah to the Proserpine Hospital instead of the better equipped and closer hospital at Mackay because the intensive care section at Mackay Base Hospital was full and staff were already overloaded, putting at risk the life of the patient?
- (2) Why has he allowed this hospital to become so unequipped and understaffed?
- (3) Why has he not made arrangements with Mackay Mater Hospital to take any emergencies that cannot be handled by the Mackay Base Hospital?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

283. Cherside Electorate, Public Housing

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (22/4/98)—

How much was spent in 1996-97 and 1997-98 to date from his departmental budget in the Cherside electorate (or, if that information is not readily available, in the suburbs of Wavell Heights, Cherside, Cherside West and Stafford Heights) on (a) new stock (both new constructions and purchase of existing houses) and (b) upgrading of existing stock (in particular, the program to refurbish bathrooms, kitchens and driveways)?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

284. Tennyson Power Station Site

Mr FOLEY asked the Premier (22/4/98)—

With reference to the report to Government on planning for the future of the site of Tennyson Power House—

- (1) What action is now being taken in relation to the future of the site?
- (2) Is he aware of strong community support for public access to the riverfront part of the site?
- (3) Will he give an assurance that public access to the riverfront will be guaranteed in any future use of the site?
- (4) What is the timetable for decision-making on the future of the site?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

285. Gladstone/Calliope, Rural Landowners

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (22/4/98)—

With reference to the many rural landowners in the Gladstone/Calliope region who have been disadvantaged because of industrial development of land directly located on or adjacent to their properties as declared development areas and as these owners find they cannot sell properties or they have diminished collateral values on properties—

What assistance will the Government give to these property owners who are being asked to be custodians of property (with limited development potential) for the community benefit?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

286. Glenala State High School

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Education (22/4/98)—

With reference to the proposal to provide students at the Glenala High School with a multi-purpose sports complex, first signed off three years ago—

- (1) Why has the construction of the facility not commenced?
- (2) What are the impediments present, if any, to prevent the construction of such a facility?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

287. Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund

Mr LUCAS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (22/4/98)—

- (1) How is the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund funded?
- (2) What clubs/hotels within the electorate of Lytton contribute funds to the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund?
- (3) What is the individual contribution of each club/hotel within the electorate of Lytton to the fund for each year since its inception?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

288. Currumbin Valley/Tallebudgera Rural Fire Brigades

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (22/4/98)—

With reference to funding for rural fire brigades—

Will he provide a breakdown of funding and support given by his Government to the Currumbin Valley and Tallebudgera Rural Fire Brigades from February 1996 to date?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

289. Home Help

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Health (22/4/98)—

- (1) Will he seek additional funds to provide adequate resources for home help in the southern suburbs of Brisbane, where inadequate resources are causing great distress to elderly and incapacitated residents?
- (2) Will he also consider the outstanding need for home modification and home maintenance services which are obvious to his departmental

staff in those same suburbs and confer with his colleague, the Minister for Public Works and Housing?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

290. Townsville, Supreme Court Building

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/4/98)—

With reference to the recent disastrous fire in Townsville that destroyed the historic and heritage listed 19th century Supreme Court building—

- (1) Was he or his department aware that this building was being used on a regular basis by vagrants; if so, what did he or they do to address this matter?
- (2) Was long grass allowed to grow up and around this timber building; if not, what maintenance was carried out on the building and its grounds by his department since February 1996 and at what cost?
- (3) Was half a million dollars spent by the previous State and Federal Labor Governments to restore the exterior of this most significant heritage building?
- (4) What funds were spent by this Government in finishing this restoration by addressing the interior of the building and finding a suitable tenant or tenants and why wasn't greater effort put into this work?
- (5) What other State owned heritage buildings are similarly being allowed to fall into disrepair and neglect by this heritage irresponsible Government?
- (6) Was this building's future at the time of the blaze becoming a local election issue for the upcoming State election and that on the very night of the fire a high level meeting to discuss its condition and tenancy was held in Townsville?
- (7) Had his department received any development applications or queries for this site prior to the fire; if so, from whom?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

291. National Competition Policy; Competition Payments

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (23/4/98)—

With reference to the implementation of the National Competition Policy—

- (1) What competition payments will be made to Queensland in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 should the Queensland Government fulfil its obligations under the Competition Agreements?
- (2) By what amount will competition payments be reduced in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 because of her inability or refusal to implement water industry reforms?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

292. Sunnybank Hills State School

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/4/98)—

With reference to the construction of a new teaching block at Sunnybank Hills State School—

- (1) Why was the original design of the block altered to remove the provision of cold water taps for the children and shade cover outside the school block?
- (2) Given the serious concerns expressed by the Parents and Citizens' Association about the absence of these facilities, will he intervene to now provide these facilities?
- (3) What guidelines are in place to ensure that a repeat of this cost cutting exercise is not repeated to the detriment of the health of State school children at this or other schools in Queensland?
- (4) Is there a set of standards used by his department that outlines the basic facilities and design for new school buildings and will he provide me with a copy?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

293. Age-wise Kit

Mr LAMING asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (23/4/98)—

- (1) Is he aware of allegations suggesting that the Age-wise Kit, a consumer affairs guide for Queensland seniors, has been scrapped?
- (2) Is there any truth to these allegations?

Mr BEANLAND (14/5/98):

(1) I am appalled by suggestions that the Age-wise Kit has been scrapped. There is a Labor Party document entitled 100 Broken Promises, signed by Peter Beattie and authorised by Mike Kaiser, that falsely states that the Kit has been scrapped by the National/Liberal Coalition Government. The Age-wise Kit is one of the most popular publications produced by the Office of Consumer Affairs and is in constant demand by Seniors Associations, community organisations and carers organisations throughout the State. The Kit is particularly valuable for Seniors because it contains information on consumer matters like retirement villages, pre-paid funerals, door-to-door sales and itinerant traders, home security and safety in the home, making complaints and electronic shopping.

(2) I am pleased to say that there is no truth to allegations that Age-wise has been scrapped. In fact 20,000 copies of a new Kit, which was updated with important new information and advice, have recently been printed. The 1998 edition was launched with great success in February: in the first week alone Consumer Affairs received more than 600 calls from the public requesting copies.

Age-wise Kits have now been distributed to Members of Parliament, retirement villages, community care

centres, senior citizens clubs, ethnic community care centres, regional Consumer Affairs offices, aged care centres and thousands of individual seniors and are freely available from the Office of Consumer Affairs.

294. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (23/4/98)—

- (1) Is he aware of any suggestions that, in the justice portfolio, the Coalition Government has not kept its promises?
- (2) Is there any substance to these claims?

Mr BEANLAND (14/5/98):

(1) I am aware that the ALP has published a document entitled "100 Broken Promises". Under the heading "Attorney-General" this publication identifies a mere 4 promises which it is alleged this government has failed to honour.

(2) There is no substance to these claims. Three of the claims are totally inaccurate while the fourth has been superseded.

Firstly, the document alleges nothing has been done to provide for restitution by offenders to victims. This is inaccurate. Amendments to the Juvenile Justices Act introduced in 1996 provided for this. It should be noted, however, that Labor opposed this bill. When this tactic failed, Labor successfully moved amendments which will make it more difficult for victims to recover money from offenders.

Secondly, the document alleges the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is underfunded. This is untrue. In the two years of this government, 1996/97 and 1997/98, it is expected \$35.5 million will be spent by the DPP. This contrasts with \$29 million spent in the final two years of the previous government. The DPP has the responsibility to manage its own internal affairs. However, the DPP has received greater financial support than occurred in the final years of the Labor government.

It should be noted that Volume 3 of the Criminal Justice Commission's Criminal Justice System Monitor dated April 1998 states: "If funding for the committals projects is included, real funding per deposition will be at its highest level ever in 1997-98."

Thirdly, the document alleges members of the judiciary are not appointed on merit yet does not indicate which of the 2 Supreme Court appointments or 3 District Court appointments were not made on merit. Labor's document does not indicate whether its authors believe the appointment of the Honourable Paul de Jersey as Chief Justice was not based on merit. This allegation is completely untrue and constitutes an unwarranted attack on the judiciary.

The document asserts that appointments as Chief Justice should be based on seniority alone. It does not refer to merit.

Former Chief Justice of Queensland, Sir Walter Campbell, has written on the subject of seniority: "In short, only three of the sixteen Queensland Chief Justices appointed have actually been the senior judge in length of service at the time of their

respective appointment. It appears that seniority has not been the determining factor in the appointment of the Chief Justices in the other Australian States and the Federal Court of Australia."

The complaint in the document is in contrast to the statement by the Leader of the Opposition, reported in the Courier Mail of 29 January 1998, that Labor would "welcome and support" the appointment of Justice de Jersey.

One of the four promises remains unfulfilled—the appointment of a Master of the Supreme Court. This has been overtaken by events including the appointment of two new Supreme Court Judges and the proposed appointment of judicial registrars. The passing of the Civil Justice Reform Bill and the introduction of uniform court rules will make justice speedier, less costly and more efficient. In their six years in office Labor was unable or unwilling to introduce such long-awaited reforms.

295. Ms M. Toth and Mr M. Fietz

Mr McGRADY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (23/4/98)—

With reference to the recent award by the courts under the Criminal Injury Compensation Scheme to Mira Toth of Mt Isa and Mr Max Fietz—

Why has his department refused to abide by the decision of the courts and will he take steps to implement that decision post-haste?

Mr BEANLAND (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

296. TAFE Institutes, Financial Status

Mr BRADY asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (23/4/98)—

With reference to his claim that the financial crisis experienced by TAFE throughout 1997-98 has been fixed by Government funding—

Will he provide a full financial status report for TAFE and the individual institutes of TAFE at 31 March?

Mr SANTORO (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

297. Mrs R. Eather

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/4/98)—

With reference to a review conducted by the Queensland Building Services Authority into a complaint from a Mrs R Eather of Hakea Street, Chapel Hill—

- (1) Did the review recommend that Mrs Eather should be compensated; if so, what amount was recommended?
- (2) Why has this compensation not yet been paid and when will it be paid?
- (3) If Executive Council approval is required for such a payment, why hasn't the necessary minute been prepared and when will he undertake to take such a minute to Executive Council?

- (4) Could all up costs of the review conducted to date reach as high as \$50,000; if not, what figure has been spent and how can this be justified if the recommendations are to be ignored?
- (5) Is he aware that due to this issue, plus a debilitating medical condition, Mrs Eather is now in danger of losing her uncompleted home; if so, will he give an undertaking to give this matter a priority rating and personally intervene to bring the matter to a just and equitable conclusion?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

298. River Heads Barge Ramp, Special Lease

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (23/4/98)—

With reference to an application by barge operator Syd Melksham for a special lease over the barge ramp and carpark at River Heads near Hervey Bay—

- (1) In referring this application to Hervey Bay City Council, should one assume he or his department are seriously considering this application?
- (2) Is he aware that significant parts of the Hervey Bay City Council are opposed to the issuing of this special lease and have compared it to "fencing off a beach"?
- (3) Does he accept that the new barge ramp and parking facilities at River Heads were built with public funds and the issuing of this lease could create a monopoly over barge transport to Fraser Island; if not, why not?
- (4) Was it Mr Melksham's representations to the Premier that gained State funding for the River Head's facility; if so, have Mr Melksham or the Premier made representations to him to approve this special lease application; if so, when and in what way did these representations occur?
- (5) Does he intend to support Mr Melksham's application; if so, when can we expect a decision on this matter?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

299. Jacobs Well, Canal Development; Peakhurst Properties Pty Ltd

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (23/4/98)—

With reference to the approval by the Gold Coast City Council of 179 extra allotments at Jacobs Well by Peakhurst Properties on 30 March and as this approval has been granted despite the fact that the area has severe acid sulfate soil problems identified in the Environmental Impact Study and although the final approval is conditional on the company supplying council with a revised plan on how to deal with this problem—

- (1) How can the department allow this development to proceed before it has dealt with this severe environmental problem?

- (2) How many allotments have now been approved in this development?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98):

- (1) Under the repealed Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act the Department of Environment (DoE) is defined as a referral agency under Schedule 1 and 2 of the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Regulation 1991. This proposal was referred to the DoE under that legislation for comment.

The DoE response dated 27 June 1997 to the Gold Coast City Council included advice on the need for Acid Sulfate Soils management. Advice included the recommendation for the formulation of Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan(s) for areas to be disturbed.

It was subsequently reiterated to Council in correspondence dated 13 January 1998 regarding the amended rezoning application for the proposal that a complete ASS Management Plan be "submitted to the Department for assessment and approval prior to its implementation to ensure no adverse impacts on the Marine Park".

However, final approval for the management of Acid Sulfate Soils remains with the Gold Coast City Council, but the Council would be expected to take the department's advice into account.

- (2) As cited above, final approval remains with Council. No document outlining conditions of approval from the Gold Coast City Council has been sighted by the Department of Environment as of 29 April 1998. The exact number of allotments that have been approved to date should be clarified with the Gold Coast City Council.

300. Native Title; Traditional Hunting Rights

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Environment (23/4/98)—

With reference to a recent judgment of the Queensland Court of Appeal which found that Aborigines had no Native Title rights to traditional hunting of protected fauna in Queensland—

- (1) What instructions has he, his office or senior bureaucrats given to departmental officers regarding traditional hunting practices both on and off national parks following this decision?
- (2) Does he believe this judgment overrides hunting rights bestowed by successful claims over Cape York national parks like Cape Melville and others by traditional owners under Queensland's Aboriginal Land Act and the Nature Conservation Act?
- (3) What role did he, his office or his department play in this appeal to the Queensland Appeals Court?
- (4) If a High Court appeal is mounted by lawyers acting for Mr Yanner, would he expect this to go much the same way a similar case involving the taking of a Bustard by an Aborigine in the Mt Isa district in the 1980s went?
- (5) Does he empathise with Justice Bruce McPherson's use of the word "regretfully" in bringing down his judgment in this case?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98):

(1) No instructions have been issued by myself or senior departmental officers in relation to traditional hunting following the Court of Appeal judgment.

(2) The judgment in the case is to the effect that the native title right to hunt certain fauna was extinguished in 1974, before the commencement of the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

Thus certain fauna to which the decision related cannot now be hunted on national parks by indigenous people pursuant to any claimed native title right to do so.

However, where indigenous people successfully claim a national park under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, management arrangements in relation to that national park entered into with the Department of Environment under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 may allow for some traditional hunting subject to the terms and conditions of those management arrangements.

(3) It is my understanding that the appeal was conducted by Crown Law on the instructions of the Queensland Police Service.

(4) No useful purpose is served in speculating on the outcome of a High Court appeal.

(5) I don't intend to speculate on the basis for Mr Justice McPherson using a particular word in his judgment. In fact, I am advised that the transcript of the judgment contains the word 'regret' not 'regretfully'.

301. Bray Park Railway Station

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/4/98)—

With reference to recent assaults and other incidents at Bray Park Railway Station—

(1) What actions have been taken to improve personal and property safety at Bray Park Station?

(2) What facilities are available at Strathpine, Lawnton, Bray Park and Petrie Railway Stations to enhance personal and property safety?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

302. Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (23/4/98)—

With reference to the Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy—

(1) Are the 19 youth worker positions to be created, full-time or part-time?

(2) Where will the 19 positions be based?

(3) What area will each position cover?

(4) What support will these workers receive and from whom?

(5) How will these positions differ from the staff employed in the Young People at Risk Program?

(6) Has the Young People at Risk Program been evaluated; if so, what was the outcome and how will any recommendations be addressed?

Mrs WILSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

303. Sandgate Electorate, Land Valuations

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (23/4/98)—

With reference to the large number of objections lodged from land owners residing within the precinct of the Brisbane City Council following the release of the 1998 land valuations and, in particular, by residents residing in the Sandgate Electorate and bearing in mind that valuations have jumped up to 80 per cent in some instances for land in the Shorncliffe and Sandgate areas—

(1) Is he in a position to provide an undertaking that the objections that have been made by various land owners will receive an acknowledgment and a final response on the outcome of the objection and that the process will proceed as expeditiously as is humanly possible?

(2) Will he provide information regarding the process and calculations used by his department in determining that certain properties land valuations increased in the vicinity of 30 per cent to 80 per cent?

(3) Is he able to provide any undertaking or assurances to residents that a review will be undertaken of the current system used by his department to value the "unimproved" land, so that massive increases that have been recommended in 1998 are not repeated?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

304. Bundaberg, Roadworks

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/4/98)—

With reference to the Government's decision to scrap the overpass from Bourbong Street to Quay Street over the main north coast railway line and the increasing congestion of traffic in the CBD area of Bundaberg—

(1) What plans does the Main Roads Department have to overcome the traffic delays caused at the Bourbong Street level crossing?

(2) When will the proposed upgrade to Quay Street commence, what works are to be included and what is the expected cost of the works?

(3) What other works are planned for roads under the control of his department in and around the CBD area?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

305. Brisbane Airport Rail Link

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/4/98)—

With reference to the recent announcement by the Treasurer of the deal between the Government and Airtrain Citylink Ltd for the construction and operation of a rail link to Brisbane Airport and in the light of his previous statements that no Government money would go towards this project—

- (1) Will he repeat his assurance that not one cent of Government money will go towards this project?
- (2) Will he explain what happens if the project fails to achieve its optimistic patronage forecasts?
- (3) Does the Government have any exposure in these circumstances?
- (4) Is it possible for Airtrain Citylink Ltd to fail as a business?
- (5) What contingency plans does the Government have for such an eventuality?
- (6) Has the Government provided any indemnity for or made any contribution to, either directly or indirectly, this project?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

306. State Public Servants, VERs

Mr FOURAS asked the Premier (23/4/98)—

With reference to his statement in a recent edition of Public Sector Voice to the effect that no further VERs would be issued unless these were endorsed by the Public Service Commissioner—

How many have been issued since the publication of that edition of Public Sector Voice and will he list by departments the names of the people who have since been offered VERs?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

307. Mackay Electorate, Public Housing

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/4/98)—

With reference to public housing administered by the Mackay Whitsunday Area Office of Public Works and Housing—

- (1) How many dwellings are currently available to public housing tenants in Zones B, C, D,E in each category of dwelling (a) apartment—dwelling containing 1 to 3 bedrooms in buildings of two or more stories, (b) attached house or townhouse dwelling unit of 1 to 4 bedrooms, (c) cluster house, (d) duplex—containing 1 to 5 bedrooms, (e) detached house—containing 1 to 5 bedrooms and (f) seniors' units?
- (2) Where are these dwellings located in each category?
- (3) How many people are currently on waiting lists in each category in each zone?
- (4) What is the waiting time for each category?

- (5) What is the projected number of dwellings required in each category for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

- (6) How much money has or will be allocated for (a) construction of new dwellings or land, (b) purchase of new dwellings or land, (c) refurbishment/improvements to dwellings and (d) maintenance for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

308. Police Districts

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (23/4/98)—

With reference to Queensland Police Service Statistical Review 1996-97 and the changes to the approximate areas covered by each police district, including increases in the size of the Cairns, Innisfail, Mt Isa, Townsville, Gladstone, Mackay, Bundaberg, Redcliffe, Charleville, Roma, Toowoomba, Warwick, Logan, Gold Coast and Oxley Police Districts—

Will he detail which stations were moved from one district to another as a result of the changes to police district areas?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

309. Jamboree Heights, Hospital Site

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (23/4/98)—

- (1) Have tenders been called for the development of the "old hospital site" along Dandenong Road, Jamboree Heights?
- (2) Will the site be sold for redevelopment?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

310. Tow Truck Operators, Payment of Spotter Fees

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (23/4/98)—

With reference to the 18 months suspended sentence imposed in the Supreme Court on 3 February as reported in the Courier Mail of 4 February on a former police officer who pleaded guilty to receiving "spotter's fees" after giving tow truck operators the location of motor vehicle accidents—

- (1) Have any other police officers or public servants been dealt with for similar offences; if so, what penalties were imposed?
- (2) What action has been taken against the tow truck operators who paid the spotter fees to the former police officer referred to above?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

311. Bulimba Electorate, Public Housing

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/4/98)—

How much was spent in 1996-97 and 1997-98 to date from his departmental budget in the Bulimba Electorate on (a) new stock (both new constructions and purchase of existing houses) and (b) upgrading of existing stock (in particular, the program to refurbish bathrooms, kitchens and driveways) including the number of dwellings involved?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

312. Emergency Services Department, Advertising Budget

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (23/4/98)—

- (1) How much has his department spent on advertising and promotion campaigns during 1997-98?
- (2) How much of that expenditure has been on campaigns coordinated by the Premier's Department and how much on departmental initiatives?
- (3) How much has been spent in respect of each individual promotion or advertising campaign?
- (4) What allocation remains for advertising and promotional activities by his department during 1997-98?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

313. Building and Construction Industry; Portable Long Service Leave

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (23/4/98)—

With reference to the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991—

What amendments will be implemented to bring about changes to the Act to compensate those "employees" as defined by the Act who find they are no longer eligible due to a promotion to accrue service with the Portable Long Service Leave Scheme and are ineligible for a pro-rata payment under 10 years?

Mr SANTORO (19/5/98): I am advised that the question of the treatment under the Scheme of employees engaged as supervisors has been referred to the tripartite Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Board for consideration and advice. The matter is still before the Board and until I have had a chance to consider any recommendations which the Board may make on this issue I am unable to advise what legislative response, if any, is appropriate.

314. Legalcare

Mr De LACY asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (23/4/98)—

With reference to the recent collapse of Legalcare's training scheme in Brisbane—

- (1) Is she aware that all of the trainees were employed and paid not by Legalcare but a New South Wales based company called Australasian Executive Consultants; if so, is this consistent with the contract Legalcare entered into with the Queensland Government?
- (2) Is she aware that the only difference between the Board of Directors of Legalcare and Australasian Executive Consultants is that Sir Laurence Street is not on the latter and is she comfortable with this arrangement?
- (3) How does she respond to the charge that unlike her public pronouncements that she had attracted this firm to Brisbane with financial incentives, the reality is they were syphoning Queensland taxpayers money through a southern company with its headquarters in Crow's Nest, New South Wales?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

315. Bio Garden Products

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Environment (23/4/98)—

With reference to a firm called Bio Garden Products operating out of Mulles Road, Yatala, which is supposedly recycling human sewage sludge into organic fertiliser and mulch—

- (1) Is he aware that this company has been the subject of numerous odour complaints both to his department and the Gold Coast City Council all to little avail?
- (2) Has this company been licensed by the Department of Environment or the Gold Coast City Council in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Protection Act; if so, what are the conditions of that licence particularly the tonnage of sludge they can accept weekly?
- (3) Is there any linkage between this company and Barkoola Environmental Services and companies found guilty of sewage dumping and pollution breaches in New South Wales by the Independent Commission Against Corruption; if so, who were the New South Wales companies and what was the linkage?
- (4) Is he aware of trucks illegally dumping toxic liquid waste into pits off Mulles Road in areas about to be sold for housing?
- (5) Is he aware that sludge run off water is draining onto Mulles Road and into adjacent creeks and rivers and that middle of the night pumping of overflow from dams in this plant after storms has also ended up in local creeks?
- (6) Are the proprietors of Bio Garden members of the National Party or just financial contributors or both?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98):

(1) I am aware of numerous odour complaints to the Department and to Gold Coast City Council from the Yatala Industrial Estate. Officers from the Department have identified five sources or potential sources of odour in the area. Investigations have resulted in operational changes being undertaken at these sites to improve their performance in regard to odour generation.

The investigations into Bio Garden's activities have been conducted in accordance with the Department's enforcement guidelines. The company has recently obtained the services of people with appropriate expertise to design an improved operation, and has lodged a voluntary Environment Management Program (effectively a contract between the company and the government) which details how it will be reducing odour emissions, and detailing its transition to an improved environmental standard.

(2) Bio Garden Products Qld Pty Ltd received a licence issued under the Environment Protection Act 1994 on 17 April 1998. This licence replaces one which was cancelled due to a failure to pay the annual fee prescribed under the Regulation.

The application includes details of design and management techniques which should minimise the odour problem in the short term and prevent noxious and offensive odours beyond the boundary of the property in the mid and long term. The approach taken, to enclose the composting operation, could be considered best practice for this industry, and a significant improvement on the previous management methods.

The licence conditions provide, among other things, that:

all composting operations are to be enclosed by 14 July 1998;

all odorous air within the enclosed operation is to be treated prior to release to the atmosphere; and

sludge volume and source will be limited to 1500 tonnes per month (375 tonnes per week) until such time as the odour treatment system has been demonstrated not to release noxious and offensive odours beyond the boundary. Once the odour treatment system has been demonstrated to be working satisfactorily the quantity of sludge can be increased to 2200 tonnes per month (550 tonnes per week).

(3) The department is not aware of any link.

(4) Neither I nor officers of the Department of Environment are aware of any illegal dumping of toxic waste into pits off Mulles Road. Any information regarding the allegation should be forwarded to the Department so that an investigation can be undertaken.

(5) The Bio Garden operation has been designed such that any run-off from the composting activity is collected in dedicated dams. This contaminated run-off is transported by tanker to be disposed of at a local government sewage treatment plant. Once composting is enclosed the contaminated run-off will be collected in tanks for transport to the Council plant.

Stormwater run-off from neighbouring properties passes through the Bio Garden site, isolated from the contaminated run-off areas previously described.

A water quality survey was conducted on 3 March 1998 in the nearby section of Sandy Creek. The results showed no evidence of dumping or routine discharge of contamination water to the creek.

The EP Act licence requires the company to monitor the stormwater run-off entering and leaving the property, as well as any dams on-site which collect contaminated or potentially contaminated run-off from the activity.

(6) I am not aware of the proprietor's politics.

316. Gladstone, Public Works and Housing Department Land

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (23/4/98)—

With reference to a Petition of over 1400 signatures which has been tabled relating to the retention of Public Works and Housing land in the Gladstone City area—

Will he give consideration to the industrial development within the region, air quality issues and community concern in considering the dollar return on this land versus the community benefit being sought?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

317. Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (23/4/98)—

With reference to reports of Queensland ambulances becoming slower to respond to life threatening incidents—

- (1) What has been the precise drop in response time to life threatening incidents in 1997-98 to date as compared with 1995-96?
- (2) What numbers of vacancies presently exist in the Queensland Ambulance Service, how long have these been vacant and why?
- (3) How many and which ambulance stations in Queensland have reduced staff since February 1995 and why?
- (4) What proportion of lower paid officers, such as Ambulance Transport Officers, untrained for emergencies are now in the Queensland Ambulance Service as compared to December 1996 and why?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

318. Main Street Program

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (23/4/98)—

With reference to defunding of the Main Street Program and his admission in a letter to Councillor

Quirk on 8 April that the Regional Business Development Scheme will not fund projects within the Brisbane City Council area—

How does he explain (a) his department's blatant funding preference for business outside of Brisbane (b) his department's failure to positively influence small business development in Brisbane and (c) the completely unsatisfactory way the Main Street financing by his department is occurring?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

319. Redcliffe, Police Resources

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (23/4/98)—

What was the sworn strength of the Redcliffe Police District at 21 April?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

320. Coopers Plains, Natural Resources Department Land

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Natural Resources (23/4/98)—

With reference to the recent sale by the Department of Natural Resources of land at Coopers Plains, which was the homestead of the first settler in the northern sector of this historic suburb and which gave Orange Grove Road its name and identity and for which the local community had well developed plans under the settlers name of Soden Place and in view of the restrictive nature of the site between Motorway 2 and major road 11 and opposite two rows of houses—

What uses will be available to the purchaser, when the land is rezoned from Government uses to private use?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

321. North Queensland, Power Station

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (23/4/98)—

With reference to North Queensland people who are involved in business and industry development, and who welcome the construction of the two gas-fired emergency/peak lopping power stations in Townsville and as there remains an undiminished call for the construction of a base-load station as a central feature necessary to attract large industry—

Will he formally acknowledge the paramount need for the northern base-load power station and will he provide an assurance that the legitimate goals of the people of North Queensland will not again be sacrificed on the altar of expediency with the construction of the next major power station being sited yet again in southern Queensland?

Mr GILMORE (15/5/98): The recommissioning of Collinsville and Callide A power stations are continuing on schedule and will be commissioned later this month. The interconnection with New South Wales

will be completed in 2001. The AES Transpower 283 MW power station located at Mount Stuart and the Transfield 158 MW power station at Yabulu which are both continuing on schedule, will exceed the Labour plans for the area and will generate a combined total of 441 MW in the Townsville area. A 303 MW plant is also due for commissioning in Oakey in early 2000.

With the recent restructure of the electricity industry, competition has been enhanced for power generation projects to the benefit of all electricity consumers in Queensland. As a result of these changes, increases in electricity demand in the period beyond 2001/02, will be met from power stations built in an environment of competition where the choice of power station location and fuel source is based on the ability to provide the best economic solution to Queensland's electricity needs. In this competitive environment, there has already been a proposal for a gas fired base-load station at Townsville (Stanwell Corporation/Destec joint venture). Unlike the Labor Government's 1995 Energy Policy Statement, which determined that base load power needs in 2003-6 would be sourced from central and southern Queensland, the current Government has made no stipulation that future power projects should be confined to southern and central Queensland.

322. National Parks, Economic Assessment

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (23/4/98)—

With reference to the employment of an economist to assess the value of the States national parks—

- (1) Who is being engaged?
- (2) What is the consultancy fee or budgeted cost of the assessment?
- (3) What are the precise terms of the brief given to the economist?
- (4) What information will be gathered as part of the assessment and who will be consulted?
- (5) For what practical purpose will the information and results be put?
- (6) Will the costs of repairing environmental damage caused by inappropriate activities be treated as 'value' generated by national parks?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (14/5/98): This project is one part of an effort by the Coalition Government to address the chronic under-funding situation for National Parks left by the Labor Government.

(1) Kinhill Economics, a Business Unit of Kinhill Pty Ltd.

(2) \$11,520.

(3) The objectives of this project are to use existing available information to:

Prepare a statement on the full range of economic and non-economic benefits associated with the existence, management and use of the protected area estate with a focus on an economic interpretation of the value of protected areas to Queensland.

Objectively estimate the economic value of tourism and recreation use associated with national parks and other protected areas in Queensland using indicators such as expenditure associated with management expenditure (including direct and indirect effects), and visits to protected areas by free and independent travellers and commercial passengers.

Outline the basis for public investment in protected area management and provide a model to determine the level of funding required to ensure that tourism and recreation use associated with national parks and other protected areas in Queensland can be managed sustainably.

(4) The project methodology involves an assessment of the economic benefits flowing from protected areas in Queensland using primarily existing available information. Information that will be used to make this assessment include day and overnight use levels for both commercial passengers and independent travellers for each protected area in 1997 and relevant studies conducted at regional and subregional levels.

A sample of commercial operators with a permit to conduct commercial activities (eg. tours) in protected areas were contacted. Relevant Departments will also be consulted as part of this project.

(5) The results of this study will be used to develop the basis for improved public understanding of the value of protected area management and provide a model to determine the appropriate level of funding required to ensure that tourism and recreation use associated with national parks and other protected areas in Queensland can be managed sustainably.

(6) The costs of repairing environmental damage caused by inappropriate activities is one of the many costs associated with managing protected areas.

323. National Competition Policy

Mr **ROBERTS** asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (23/4/98)—

With reference to the competitive neutrality principles of National Competition Policy which in essence require that the competitive advantages and disadvantages of both private sector and public sector ownership be neutralised when operating in a particular market?

- (1) Why are Government business enterprises such as SDS and Q-Fleet prevented from seeking work, sales and contracts in the private sector when at the same time, private companies are allowed to seek work, sales and contracts within their traditional market (ie Government departments)?
- (2) Is this practice consistent with National Competition Policy principles?

Mrs **SHELDON** (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

324. Cool Schools Program

Mr **BREDHAUER** asked the Minister for Education (23/4/98)—

- (1) Which Queensland schools have received funding under the "Cool Schools" program to assist with air conditioning?
- (2) In each case, what work has been undertaken and, in particular, how many classrooms have been air conditioned in each school?
- (3) What is the cost of work undertaken at each school?
- (4) What is the extent of parents and citizens' contributions to funding the work in each school?
- (5) What other financial contributions have been made by individual schools?
- (6) What formula is used to determine the Governments contribution towards operating costs for air conditioners?
- (7) What allocation (in days and in dollars) will each school receive for operating costs?
- (8) What contribution has been made to date to fund air conditioning of non-Government schools?
- (9) How much has been expended to date under the "Cool Schools" program?

Mr **QUINN** (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

325. Cleveland Court House

Mr **HEGARTY** asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (23/4/98)—

Is he aware of any statements purporting to claim credit for the proposed Cleveland Court House?

Mr **BEANLAND** (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

326. Moolabin Goods Yard

Mr **FOLEY** asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (23/4/98)—

With reference to noise problems at the Moolabin Goods Yard—

- (1) Is he aware of serious concerns among residents of Tennyson over these noise problems?
- (2) What action has been taken to address these serious concerns?
- (3) In view of the ongoing serious concerns of local residents, what further action will be taken to minimise rail noise at the Moolabin Goods Yard, particularly during night time hours?

Mr **JOHNSON** (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

327. Legalcare

Mrs **ROSE** asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (23/4/98)—

With reference to the support given to Legalcare by the Queensland Government to establish in Brisbane—

- (1) Did she advance this company payroll tax relief and training funds to the tune of \$1.5m; if so, is this the first time such tax relief advances have been offered as incentives to business operating or intending to operate in Queensland; if not, when has this financial device been used previously, with which companies and to what level of funding and wouldn't it be fair to assume that a company requiring such assistance upfront has dubious financial credibility?
- (2) What other incentives other than payroll tax relief advances were given to this company and what sums of money were involved?
- (3) What amounts have Legalcare now paid back to the Queensland Treasury and when were these payments made?
- (4) Have William Angliss 2000 paid back any of the six figure sum they received as part of their contractual arrangements with this company; if so, how much and when?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

328. Prince Charles Hospital

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (23/4/98)—

With reference to the major re-development at the Prince Charles Hospital, including the possible co-location of the Holy Spirit Hospital at Chermiside and the fact that Queensland Health has not undertaken any community consultation as part of the process—

- (1) Considering the close ties developed between the Prince Charles Hospital and the local community over forty years, why were local residents ignored by his department?
- (2) Why were groups such as the Kedron-Wavell Sub-branch of the RSL, Burnie Brae Senior Citizens, Chermiside pensioner groups, independent retirees, churches and service groups ignored, given that many members of these community groups will be frequent users of the services at the Prince Charles Hospital?
- (3) Why has he treated the residents of Brisbane's inner northern suburbs with disdain by ignoring them when he would never do this to householders in Coalition seats such as Toowoomba, the Sunshine Coast and Longreach?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

329. Community Corrections Centres

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to the community corrections program administered by his department—

- (1) What are the weekly actual occupancy rates for each centre (both Government and non-Government) in 1997-98 to date?

- (2) For what capacity rate has each centre been funded during this time?
- (3) For what rate per occupant has each centre been funded during this time?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

330. State Emergency Service, Volunteers

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (12/5/98)—

With reference to Section 29 of the State Counter Disaster Organisation Act of 1975—

Have there been any instances of a volunteer suing a group leader or an officer of the SES as a result of an injury sustained by that volunteer as a result of a direction given negligently (or otherwise) and what is the department's policy if and when such a circumstance occurs?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

331. Carinbundi Centre, Bundaberg

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (12/5/98)—

With reference to the Carinbundi Centre, run by the Burnett Respite Services Inc, request for additional funding to cover the SACS award payments and his department's refusal to increase funding to cover these extra wages costs—

- (1) Will this centre, which provides respite care to parents of children with disabilities or at risk, have to close over weekends because of the mean attitude of her department?
- (2) Has her department provided extra funding to other Disability Service Groups in Queensland to cover these SACS award payments?
- (3) Who were those groups which received those extra funds?
- (4) Why has the Bundaberg Carinbundi Centre been singled out and not given the funding for this very necessary service for Bundaberg families?

Mrs WILSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

332. Cairns Base Hospital, Compensation Claims

Mr BEATTIE asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (12/5/98)—

With reference to his handling of compensation claims by "victims" of the tragic shooting in the radiography department at the Cairns Base Hospital—

- (1) How many of the staff who were present at that time have applied for compensation for the trauma they have suffered as a result of their experience and what amounts have been applied for?
- (2) What counselling was offered to these people subsequent to the slayings?

- (3) Were some of these people so close to the victims as to suffer hearing impairment from the noise of the shootings and to have blood spattered on them from their murdered work colleagues?
- (4) Did several of these people have the murder weapon pointed at them by the killer during the incident?
- (5) Have these staff received letters from the Attorney-General's Department telling them that there is no evidence to support their claim of "nervous shock" because the killer did not individually threaten them?
- (6) Can he understand some of these people levelling a charge of "lack of compassion" against him as a result of this decision?

Mr BEANLAND (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

333. Walla Weir

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Environment (12/5/98)—

With reference to reports compiled by his department in relation to the environmental impacts of Walla Weir—

- (1) Was the initial report prepared by the department critical of the proposal; if so, (a) in what way, (b) what were its recommendations and (c) will he release it?
- (2) When was the addendum made to this report, what new information was in this report, from whom was it received and on whose instigation and will he release it?
- (3) Did the Federal Environment Minister, Senator Hill, write to him in July 1996 refusing Federal funding because the project threatened long-term lung fish and tortoise survival?
- (4) Is he aware that the Director-General of the Department of Natural Resources was telling local farmers three months before Cabinet made a decision on the weir that it would go ahead and that the final environment report would be favourable?
- (5) Is he satisfied that this matter was handled in a proper and satisfactory manner and that environmental considerations as set out in legislation were undertaken and adequately discharged?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

334. Byfield, Sandmining

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Environment (12/5/98)—

With reference to the matter of negotiating away mining approvals at Byfield—

- (1) Has he some \$2.5m unspent in his budget to compensate the mining companies with interests in the Byfield area; if so, what stage are these

negotiations at and when does he expect the matter to be finalised and the money paid over?

- (2) When does he expect the prospective mining area will be declared national park and will he rule out the possibility of any of it being declared resource reserve?
- (3) Will he give the environment movement a commitment to declare the entire area national park prior to the next State election; if not, why not?
- (4) Will he give the environment movement a commitment that sand mining will not occur in this area; if not, why not?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

335. "Wandovale", Charters Towers

Mr MULHERIN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (12/5/98)—

With reference to the recent auction sale of a property in the Charters Towers district called "Wandovale"—

- (1) Did the Department of Natural Resources give totally conflicting advice on the subdivisional prospects for this property within a matter of hours?
- (2) Was he at any time consulted on this matter and did he override the earlier advice given that subdivision was not possible; if so, why did he take the decision and on what advice?
- (3) What consultation occurred with stakeholders in the area, particularly the local authority and local grazing organisations, before this decision to allow subdivision to occur was taken?
- (4) Did the Integrated Planning Act come into play in facilitating this subdivision and was farm build-up the only justification given for the move?
- (5) Did representatives of either of the well-known National Party families of Annings and Atkinsons have contact with him in the run-up to this decision being taken?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

336. Beenleigh Road, Railway Crossing

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/5/98)—

With reference to concerns expressed by the Kuraby State School Parents and Citizens' Association that the railway crossing at Beenleigh Road does not provide safe access for students travelling to and from school by bicycle or on foot—

Is he prepared to allocate funding to upgrade safety at this railway crossing by installing pedestrian control gates similar to those installed at the railway crossing at Bonemill Road, Runcorn; if so, when would such work be carried out?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

337. South Pacific Cruise Lines

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (12/5/98)—

With reference to the failed South Pacific Cruise Lines venture—

- (1) Did this company enter into voluntary administration one week prior to recent Sydney Court action by the Federal Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) to recover in excess of \$700,000 owing to it and has this move blocked recovery of these moneys?
- (2) Was the money paid by South Pacific Cruise Lines head, Greg Adams, to a company called Booker International for insurance of a cruise ship included in this amount, or has Booker International paid these funds back to DEETYA; if so, what amount is involved?
- (3) Is Don Booker of Booker International also a Director of the Brisbane based firm Legalcare who received \$1.5m in financial assistance from the Queensland Government to establish here and who recently dismissed 86 of their trainees in yet another failed Government backed training scheme?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

338. Ipswich, Police Resources

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to police numbers in Ipswich—

- (1) What is the approved strength of the police service in Ipswich?
- (2) What is the current strength of the police service in Ipswich?
- (3) What is the classification of each of the positions currently unfilled?
- (4) For how long have each of these positions remained unfilled?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

339. Public Works and Housing Department

Mr MACKENROTH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (12/5/98)—

With reference to the budget and morale of his department—

- (1) Has the amalgamation of the two major parts of his department not proceeded smoothly with budget overruns now of the order of \$60m; if not, what is the true figure?
- (2) How much of these costs have been incurred in marrying different computer systems and redirecting long established work practices and cultures?

- (3) How many public servants in the department still find their permanent positions unresolved after almost two years with some initially told resolution would take as little as three months?

- (4) What is he doing to address the morale in the department which reports would indicate has hit rock bottom?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

340. Tilt Train

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/5/98)—

With reference to the tilt-train—

- (1) By what date does he expect to have this service operational?
- (2) Where will this train be maintained?
- (3) What work will be carried out on this train in Rockhampton?
- (4) Will all maintenance on this train be carried out by Queensland Rail employees or is it his intention to have this work carried out by outside agencies, eg. Walkers?
- (5) What is the proposed timetable for this train?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

341. Fire and Rescue Authority, Caloundra

Mr DOLLIN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (12/5/98)—

With reference to a Parliamentary briefing note from the Chief Commissioner of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) regarding the relocation of the North Coast Regional Office of the QFRA—

- (1) Has Treasury been approached by the QFRA for funding to purchase a vacant Energex complex at Caloundra?
- (2) When did such an approach take place?
- (3) How much funding was sought for the purchase?
- (4) What were the reasons given for such a purchase?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

342. South Pacific Cruise Lines

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (12/5/98)—

With reference to the recent Sydney Court action involving the failed South Pacific Cruise Lines (SPCL) company—

- (1) How many of the 280 trainees left unemployed at that time have now been found full-time jobs in Queensland as promised by him in the Parliament at that time?
- (2) Has Mr Kevin Beck, who headed William Angliss 2000, the training company involved, recently

been dismissed by that firm and was there a linkage between that dismissal and his involvement in the failed SPCL venture?

- (3) What accreditation has now been given to what number of trainees for the months of work they undertook during this scheme and is this accreditation widely recognised in Queensland and nationally?
- (4) How many trainees received whole or part of the \$500 offered by William Angliss 2000 to cover trainees out of pocket expenses after the collapse and what specific amounts did they receive?
- (5) What work has now been completed at the Colmslie Sugar Wharf to prepare it as a temporary cruise ship terminal and at what cost?
- (6) When will construction work commence on the new cruise ship terminal on the old cold stores site at Hamilton, when is the first cruise ship booked to berth there and which ship is it?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

343. Electricity Industry, Consultants; Prof. D. Anderson

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (12/5/98)—

With reference to the employment of consultants in his reforms of Queensland's electricity industry—

- (1) How many consultants have been employed in this process, how much has each been paid to date and what role did each play in the reform process?
- (2) How much has Professor Don Anderson been paid to date, when was he appointed and when is it planned his consultancy will end?
- (3) Does he regard Professor Anderson's level of remuneration as being consistent with current "market rates"?

Mr GILMORE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

344. Police Resources

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to the issue of police staffing—

- (1) How many officers have left the Queensland Police Service in 1997-98 to date in each of the months July to March?
- (2) What was the projected separation rate for the Queensland Police Service for 1997-98?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

345. Centenary Village, Roadworks

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/5/98)—

With reference to the dangerous traffic conditions that exist in and around the suburbs of Centenary Village bordered by the Ipswich Motorway and the Centenary Highway—

Had a sum of \$100,000 been set aside to provide an access road into Centenary Village; if so, has the \$100,000 been spent; if not, will he give urgent consideration to providing a safe access into Centenary Village by using the \$100,000 already allocated?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

346. Uranium Mining Projects, Townsville

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (12/5/98)—

With reference to the start on a feasibility study on the controversial Ben Lomond Uranium Project near Townsville—

- (1) What discussions has he, his staff or his department had with the proponent of this scheme, Anaconda Uranium, and does he welcome this start to a feasibility study?
- (2) Is Townsville's residential development now as close as 15 km to the Ben Lomond lease and does he believe the mine poses a risk to Townsville's water supplies drawn from the Burdekin basin in which the lease exists; if not, what is the basis of this belief?
- (3) What time frame is Anaconda Uranium working to in "kickstarting" the Maureen Uranium deposit 300km west of Ben Lomond and do their plans involve actual mining; if so, in what amounts, what mining approvals have been given to the company by his department and what ore transport plans does the company have?
- (4) What exploration approvals have been given to Summit Resources and Resolute Limited to continue their exploration work at the Valhalla deposit near Mt Isa, when were these approvals given and what timeframe are these companies following in exploiting this resource?

Mr GILMORE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

347. Prison Escapes

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to intelligence reports from police that a southern criminal ring intended to stage prison break-outs in Queensland using helicopters and bombing raids—

- (1) What was the nature of these reports, from whom were they received and by whom?
- (2) What action has now been taken against the persons plotting such escapes?
- (3) Do such risks still exist?

- (4) What measures were taken at that time to protect residents living adjacent to prisons at Wacol in the event such attacks took place?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

348. Caboolture-Bribie Island Road

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (12/5/98)—

With reference to local newspaper reports that two sections of passing lanes will be constructed on the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road commencing in September and as the Coalition promised during the 1995 election campaign through no lesser person than the then Leader of the Opposition (and now Premier) to four-lane the road in its first term in Government and as the former Labor Government gave a commitment to develop three new sections of passing lane on the road at the rate of one section each financial year commencing 1995-96 —

What justification is there for the Government's delay in delivering the former Labor Government's lesser program, having abandoned its election commitment to four-lane the road?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

349. Correctional Centres, Product Manufacture

Mr NUNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to an allocation in the next State Budget to boost jail production and industries—

- (1) What particular products and industries does he have planned and which of these are already undertaken in Queensland's prisons?
- (2) How does he intend to ensure that local businesses are not competed with unfairly?
- (3) In which corrective centres are gun and evidence safes currently manufactured and where are these items currently sold?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

350. Police Academies, Graduates

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to the issue of police staffing—

- (1) Will he provide the dates on which graduation ceremonies have occurred in each of the Townsville and Brisbane academies in 1997-98 to date?
- (2) How many officers graduated from the academy on each of these occasions?
- (3) In which region and district were each of the graduating officers assigned?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

351. Rockhampton Watchhouse

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to the inability of Rockhampton police to be able to use the new Rockhampton Watchhouse under the new recently opened Rockhampton Court House due to the non-provision of phones to the watchhouse as a result of a dispute over who should pay for them—

- (1) Why did he allow this unacceptable position to occur?
- (2) When will he address this issue to allow police to make use of these much needed facilities?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

352. Commercial Fisheries Licence Buy-back Scheme

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (12/5/98)—

With reference to the commercial fisheries licence buy-back scheme—

- (1) What is the total number of licences bought back under the scheme in (a) in-shore netting, (b) beam trawl, (c) line fishing, (d) ocean beach, (e) east coast trawl endorsements, (f) primary vessel licences and (g) any other category?
- (2) What criteria were used to assess whether a particular licence was bought back?
- (3) What were the range of prices (ie. highest, lowest and average) paid for bought back licences in each of the categories referred to in (1) above?
- (4) How many persons who had their licences bought back have subsequently purchased an identical or similar licence from another licensee and were there any differences in price between the price paid for the "bought back" licence and the price paid by the individual to purchase the replacement licence from another licensee?
- (5) What licences were bought back in the Moreton Bay area?
- (6) What steps have been taken to ensure the effort reduced as a result of licences taken out of the Moreton Bay area is maintained by prohibiting other licensees from transferring their operations to the Moreton Bay area?

Mr ROWELL (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

353. Non-State School Status

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (12/5/98)—

- (1) As his response to Question on Notice No. 109, part 1, tabled 15 April, stated that twenty five (25) applications for new non-State school status had been received since February 1996,

will he please provide the following details for each of these schools: (a) name of school, (b) date of application for non-State school status, (c) date on which non-State school status was granted, (d) date of application for planning approval, (e) date on which planning approval was granted and (f) date the school commenced operations?

- (2) Has St Pauls College, Greenbank been granted non-State school status and SIROS; if so, how could this have happened given that the school did not receive local government approval to operate; if not, why were they allowed to operate?
- (3) Will he list all non-State, multi-age, non-graded, non-religious, low-fee, P-12 schools operating in Queensland, including the name and location of each of these schools?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

354. Kurwongbah Electorate, Police Resources

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to crime concerns expressed by many of my constituents—

- (1) What are the most recent crime statistics for the seat of Kurwongbah?
- (2) How much funding has the Police Service in Kurwongbah been provided for 1997-98?
- (3) What is the average response time for the Petrie Police Station?
- (4) What is the average response time for the Dayboro Police Station?
- (5) How many uniformed police currently patrol the Pine Rivers area?
- (6) How many police vehicles are available to the Petrie Police Station?
- (7) How many speed cameras have been allocated to the Petrie Police Station?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

355. School Capital Works Projects

Ms SPENCE asked the Minister for Education (12/5/98)—

With reference to schools that are in line to become leading schools and have considerable pre-existing minor capital works needs—

Will he (a) ensure that the outstanding minor capital works projects are completed before they become leading schools or (b) provide the school with a grant to enable them to carry out their minor works projects on becoming a leading school?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

356. Pimpama River, Dredging

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Environment (12/5/98)—

With reference to Calypso Bay environmental review October 1996 and, in particular, to Section 4.2.2, page 22, regarding dredging of the Pimpama River—

- (1) Will he give Parliament an assurance for all the reasons given in the report that no dredging will be allowed in the Pimpama River to allow boat access to this development?
- (2) Regarding Section 7.1.1, page 38, what action was taken against the company for construction of canals without approval?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

357. Nudgee Electorate, School Security

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (12/5/98)—

Further to my recent correspondence and Questions on Notice regarding Building Better Schools projects in the Nudgee Electorate, particularly with reference to security upgrades—

Will he outline the current status of proposed security upgrades, in particular, any changes since my last Question on Notice regarding this issue?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

358. Pollution of Creeks, Brisbane

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Health (12/5/98)—

With reference to environmental concerns over pollution in Brisbane creeks—

- (1) What action has been taken to monitor water quality and to decrease pollution in Oxley Creek, Stable Swamp Creek, Rocky Water Holes and Ekibin Creek?
- (2) What future action is planned for these creeks?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

359. Fire and Rescue Authority, Attendance at Traffic Accidents

Mr FOURAS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (12/5/98)—

With reference to an article in the Bundaberg News Mail of 25 April concerning the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (QFRA) (12/5/98)—

- (1) What is the policy of the authority with respect to charging traffic accident victims for the cost of attendance by the QFRA at the scene of a traffic accident?
- (2) In what circumstances will a person who is not covered by comprehensive insurance be charged call out and other costs by the QFRA for attendance at the scene of a traffic accident?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

360. Queensland Health, Dental Services

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (12/5/98)—

With reference to the past practice of Health Department dentists being able to refer specific dental prosthetics to private practitioners—

- (1) What level of referral has occurred during the past 12 months?
- (2) Will Health Department dentists be able to continue outsourcing oral prosthetics to avoid discomfort and embarrassment to clients?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

361. Elanora State School Site

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Education (12/5/98)—

- (1) Is he aware of speculation that the Elanora State Primary School site will be used for the location of a railway station?
- (2) Has his department been approached by the Department of Transport expressing an interest in acquiring this site?
- (3) If such an approach has been made, will he indicate his position on the future of the Elanora State Primary School?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

362. Caboolture Shire, Residential Development

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (12/5/98)—

With reference to residential development in Caboolture Shire—

- (1) Is he aware of a subdivision development proposed for Thornhill Park adjoining the Caboolture River?
- (2) What comments, if any, has the Environment Department made on this development application?
- (3) Why is the subdivision for residential use being rezoned to "special facilities" zoning?
- (4) How many allotments are proposed?
- (5) What water and wastewater services will be used by these allotments?
- (6) What are the conservation values of the Caboolture River and riparian zone adjacent to this development?
- (7) Has an environmental impact study of the impacts of the development been done; if not, why not?
- (8) What impacts will the development have on the health of the adjacent reach of the Caboolture River system?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

363. Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, Sexual Assault

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to a recent incident in the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre in which a 19 year old man jailed over unpaid fines was sexually assaulted—

- (1) On what date and at what time of the day did the assault occur and where?
- (2) What was the victim's name and what was the nature of his unpaid fines?
- (3) What was the nature of the sexual assault and what injuries has the victim sustained?
- (4) Are one or more assailants suspected, what investigation has been undertaken and by whom and what charges have been laid?
- (5) Does he expect the public to accept that a properly run prison system can still allow such assaults on teenagers (or anyone) to occur?
- (6) If his prison intelligence is so good that it alerts him to upcoming riots and disturbances, why doesn't it alert him to assaults like this one?
- (7) Where is this youth now and is there any likelihood of him being returned to the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and why was a person so young placed anywhere near hardened criminals?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

364. Gordonstone Mine, Industrial Confrontation

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

With reference to the recent industrial confrontation at the Gordonstone Mine in Central Queensland and allegations that employees of True Guard Security, engaged by ARCO coal, carried firearms in and around the town of Emerald while on duty—

What investigations were undertaken by police into these allegations, what was the outcome of those investigations and what action was taken against those who breached the Weapons Act?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

365. Waterfront Dispute

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (12/5/98)—

- (1) Will he make available the report into the serious accidents that have occurred on the Brisbane Wharves while the MUA employees have been locked out of their work place?

- (2) If there are no accident reports why haven't the accidents been reported to his department?
- (3) Have departmental officers been instructed not to inspect occupational health and safety on the wharves while the MUA are locked out; if not, will he make available the reports of the visits and any duty of care orders, corrections or make good orders?
- (4) Will he make available information including departmental officers names and how many visits his department made to the Brisbane Wharves while MUA members were locked out of their work place?

Mr SANTORO (13/5/98):

(1) There was only one accident at Patrick's wharves reported to the Department during the period in question. This occurred at the Fisherman Islands facility involving a collision between a crane and a truck. The truck driver was in the vehicle at the time of the collision. I am advised that after a brief exchange of words with the crane driver, the driver of the vehicle drove off without reporting any personal injury. It was not until later that the truck driver was admitted to hospital complaining of neck and back pain. The matter is still under investigation as officers of my Department have as yet been unable to interview the truck driver.

(2) There is no obligation under the Workplace Health and Safety legislation, as introduced by the former Labor administration, to report injuries that do not result in death or overnight hospitalisation.

(3) No. There has been one on-site inspection of the workplace health and safety procedures of Patrick's Fisherman Islands operation which I instigated in response to claims by MUA representatives that correct procedures were not being followed and unlicensed operators were being employed. During the inspection checks were made by the Chief Inspector to ensure adequate workplace health and safety procedures were in place, all operators had completed safety and induction training, and all operators of plant and equipment held appropriate certificates of competency where required. No deficiencies were detected and no notices were issued. A copy of the internal Departmental report of the inspection is attached.

(4) Mr Gary Chaplin, Director Workplace Health and Safety, and Mr Keith Whelan, Senior Technical Officer, attended the above inspection on 15 April 1998. This was the only visit by Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors to the Brisbane wharves during the period in question.

366. QE II Hospital, Refusal to Admit Patient

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (12/5/98)—

With reference to the fact that on 8 May the QE II Hospital A and E Registrar refused to admit or to even see and treat a seriously ill young woman although (a) her GP had referred her with a letter to QE II for admission and treatment of a serious infection and had called A and E to alert them, (b) both the triage

sister and attending resident doctor believed the young woman should be admitted for treatment and reported that to the registrar and (c) the reason the registrar gave for refusing to see and assess the woman was that "he expected to be busy later with sporting injuries"—

Is this appalling state of affairs a result of the rapid turnover of experienced medical staff at QE II and the resultant low morale at QE II or does it mean that QE II Hospital is now reserved as a sporting injuries clinic?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

367. Electricity Supply, Barron River Electorate

Ms WARWICK asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (12/5/98)—

Will he inform the House about the quality of electricity supply to the northern beaches area in the Barron River Electorate and what the Government has done to rectify past problems?

Mr GILMORE (15/5/98): There can be no debate that the reliability of the electricity supply in the northern beaches area in the Barron River Electorate has been well below the expectations of the community in that area. A recent review of the system performance in the area has revealed three significant causes for more than 80% of outages occurring over a twelve month period.

Trees coming into contact with or falling on power lines caused in excess of 70% of the actual outages over the period. The reason trees had grown to be such a major problem in the area results from the activities of minority groups of locals, opposed to tree trimming, in the 5 to 7 years prior to March 1997.

The Far North Queensland Electricity Corporation ("FNQEB") adopted a defensive strategy with regard to vegetation control because of the active support given by Dr Lesley Clarke, the previous Member for Barron River, to public resistance of tree trimming and to the perceived influence she had with the then Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr McGrady. The failure to trim the trees led to numerous incidences of supply interruptions caused by trees coming in contact with mains. The resultant operation of fault protection equipment at the Kamerunga Substation and the consequential operational stresses placed on the substation's equipment may well have contributed to the ultimate failure of the substation.

In the term of this Government, FNQEB has spent in excess of \$750,000 in the northern beaches area on a vegetation management program. The program addressed the problem of trees growing in the vicinity of 22 kV feeders and focused on the removal of all species of trees that could reasonably be expected to cause interference and revegetation with more appropriate species.

FNQEB has willingly participated in considerable discussion and consultation meetings with concerned groups during the program. However, despite a last minute attempt by Dr Clarke to halt the program, the work was carried out. During the recent wet season

there was only minimal interference to supply as a result of problems caused by trees.

The other significant causes of supply interruptions in the northern beaches area are the performance of the Kamerunga Substation and storm activity.

The Kamerunga substation was constructed in the early 1970s and the equipment installed was designed to meet the expected growth in customer demand and to have an operational life of forty years. Unfortunately, despite proper maintenance, the operation of the substation equipment has not met performance expectations.

Given the less than satisfactory performance of the substation and the need for expansion to meet higher than expected growth, the Board of FNQEB approved a project to replace the substation in November 1997. Following an explosion and resultant equipment and fire damage, temporary working arrangements were installed to provide electricity to customers supplied from the substation and the replacement project was 'fast tracked' for completion in August 1998.

At present, work is one week ahead of schedule and, while some equipment is required to be imported, there is not expected to be any impediment in meeting the final project completion date.

All that can be done to minimise the effects of storm activity on the local network is already being done. However, because the existing transmission system which supplies most of FNQEB's power is operating very near the limits of its effective capacity, storm activity along the route of the transmission lines has caused a number of power interruptions in the recent storm season.

The impact of storms affecting the transmission system is expected to be reduced with the commissioning of the Chalumbin to Woree transmission line, expected to be completed by June this year.

368. Police Resources

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (12/5/98)—

- (1) What were the establishment numbers of Queensland police in each of the nine years 1989-90 to 1997-98 and what were the numbers actually in service at the beginning of each of those nine years?
- (2) How many police were employed officially as traffic officers at the beginning of each of those years?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

369. Community Diabetes Care Service

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (12/5/98)—

Recognising that ABS figures indicate that, in the area from the Brisbane River north to the Pine Shire, 16,000 people suffer from diabetes—90 per cent of whom are non-insulin dependant (NIDDM's) with more than 10,000 patients being treated by their General

Practitioner who helps them manage diabetes through diet, exercise and oral medication, and further recognising that the program called "Community Diabetes Care Service—Brisbane North" is providing excellent preventive measures which will result in massive savings (in terms of both finances and human suffering)—

- (1) What will Queensland Health do to ensure that this service will receive the \$285,000 needed to operate effectively?
- (2) What can the district health officers do to ensure that this service is properly funded?
- (3) What steps will Queensland Health take to access Federal health funding to tackle diabetes, which is listed in the top 5 priority listing of health areas needing attention?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

370. Moreton Bay Marine Park

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Environment (13/5/98)—

With reference to recent changes to the Moreton Bay Marine Park zoning plan—

- (1) Have the national park zonings at Peel Island and Tripcony Bight been changed; if so, in what way and why?
- (2) Will commercial fishing now be allowed in either or both of these areas; if so, what controls will be placed on this fishing and does he believe such activity is consistent with the conservation values of these areas?
- (3) What public consultation was undertaken on these changes, when, where, by whom and with whom?
- (4) Is he aware that substantial public consultation was undertaken during the course of the preparation of this plan with a very wide range of stakeholders in these two areas before arriving at the decision to designate them as national park zones?
- (5) Can he see the futility of allocating additional funding to the management of Moreton Bay when the plan being followed has little substance?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

371. Importation of Pork, Chicken and Oranges

Mr DOLLIN asked the Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier (13/5/98)—

With reference to the continued flood of imported pig meat, chicken meat and oranges onto the Queensland domestic market which is sending pork, chicken and orange farmers to the wall—

Is he going to allow this situation to continue until all these rural producers are financially ruined adding more unemployed to the already long dole queues, or is he going to implement urgent measures to stop the flood of these imports?

Mr SLACK (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

372. Returned Services League, Legal Fees

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (13/5/98)—

With reference to an investigation by his Department of Consumer Affairs in December 1994 into the affairs of the State Branch of the Returned Services League of Australia, Queensland Branch, and the unauthorised payment of legal fees by the State Branch of that organisation—

- (1) Will he confirm that this investigation occurred?
- (2) Who were the departmental officers involved?
- (3) What was their finding?
- (4) What RSL officers were interviewed in relation to this matter?
- (5) Is he aware that the State President of the RSL (Q) stated to the Directors of the RSL of Australia that he had never spoken to officers of his department?

Mr BEANLAND (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

373. State Public Servants, VERs

Mr WELLS asked the Premier (13/5/98)—

With reference to his statement in a recent edition of Public Sector Voice to the effect that no further VERs would be issued unless these were endorsed by the Public Service Commissioner, and to Public Service directive No. 1 of 1998 which indicated that VER schemes may be issued at the discretion of the Chief Executive of a department except in the case of senior officers of the public service—

- (1) Is he aware of a number of cases recently in which public servants have been forced out of the public service with a VER that was issued without the endorsement of the Public Service Commissioner?
- (2) Does all this amount to a retreat from the position which he adopted in the above edition of Public Sector Voice?
- (3) How many have been issued since the publication of that edition of Public Sector Voice and will he list, by departments, the names of the people who have since been offered VERs?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

374. Ipswich City, Local Government Boundaries

Mr HAMILL asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (13/5/98)—

With reference to the review of the local government boundaries of the City of Ipswich currently being undertaken—

- (1) What is the anticipated cost of this review?
- (2) Which departments or authorities will bear this cost?
- (3) What will be the respective share of these costs which will be borne by these bodies?

Mrs McCAULEY (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

375. Waterfront Dispute

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/5/98)—

With reference to the number of police used to monitor the pickets of sacked waterside workers at Hamilton and Fisherman Island—

- (1) How many police were used to monitor the pickets at both sites for each shift during the period of the dispute?
- (2) How many police were taken away from their ordinary shift duties to monitor the pickets and which stations were they drawn from?
- (3) On the weekend of 2 and 3 May, how many police were drawn from the Mt Gravatt Police Station to monitor the MUA pickets?
- (4) How many break and enters have occurred in the suburbs of Sunnybank, Robertson, Macgregor, Runcorn and Eight Mile Plains in each week between 1 February and 10 May?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

376. South Pacific Cruise Lines

Mr HOLLIS asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (13/5/98)—

With reference to the answer to Question on Notice No. 1216 of 1997 supplied by his colleague the Minister for Mines and Energy in which Mr Gilmore denies any knowledge of a company called Cascade Gems, a company listed in South Pacific Cruise Lines funding application to the Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry as being part of their financial backing—

- (1) Does he now regard this application by South Pacific Cruise Lines as fraudulent; if not, why not?
- (2) If he agrees that their original application was fraudulent, does he intend to refer South Pacific Cruise Lines to the relevant authorities for appropriate investigation and action; if not, why not?
- (3) If he does intend to refer this matter to the relevant authorities, when does he intend to do it, who will it be referred to and why hasn't this action been taken already?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

377. Comet River, Dam

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources (13/5/98)—

With reference to his recent announcement to cancel plans to dam the Comet River at Starlee on environmental grounds—

- (1) What was the "yield" of the proposed dam and would he agree that this dam would have struggled to produce enough water to justify its existence and was the computer modelling based on a yield of 350,000 megalitres, rather than 290,000 megalitres as stream measuring indicated?
- (2) What values were put on the production to be lost from the land to be inundated and what was the total projected compensation payable to affected land holders?
- (3) What were the evaporation rates expected from the dam and was it a valid criticism to describe the dam as being relatively "shallow" and what were consumers of water from the dam to be charged for this water?
- (4) Is the Comet River more often a dry gully than a river and from 1993 to 1995, 27 of the 36 months, had zero or negligible flows and would it have taken five years of average river flows to fill the dam?
- (5) Would the dam have taken out of production 35,000 hectares of alluvial river flats in order to irrigate a mere 20,000 hectares downstream?
- (6) What was it going to cost to relocate the town of Rolleston, rebuild the junction of three highways and replace four productive gas wells?
- (7) What moneys have been spent in total so far in planning this dam and the relocation of Rolleston?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

378. Treasury Building

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Environment (13/5/98)—

With reference to the heritage listed Treasury Building in Brisbane—

- (1) What works to this building have formed the basis of applications to the Heritage Council since February 1996?
- (2) Which of these applications have been refused, which have been altered and then approved and which have been refused and why?
- (3) Which applications have involved loss of any of the heritage fabric of the building?
- (4) Does the attachment of the perspex entry awnings to the actual fabric of the building comply with the Burra Charter for conservation of heritage properties ; if not, were they approved by the Heritage Council and why?
- (5) Was the neon lighting on the eastern side of the building approved by the Heritage Council and does it comply with the Burra Charter?
- (6) Were the two storey high gaudy elongate banners at each corner of the building approved by the Heritage Council and in what way do they conform with the Burra Charter?
- (7) Was the attachment of the suspended maroon banners to the northern face of the building approved by the Heritage Council; if so, when?

- (8) What other inappropriate and potentially damaging advertising has been applied for by the operators of the Casino in this building?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

379. Pine Rivers Shire, Emergency Accommodation

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/5/98)—

With reference to women who reside in the Pine Rivers Shire and are victims of domestic violence—

- (1) What is the current level of emergency accommodation for these women in the Pine Rivers Shire?
- (2) What is the current funding for emergency accommodation for women in crisis in the Pine Rivers Shire?
- (3) Are any increases in funding or accommodation facilities planned in 1997-98?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

380. Sugar Industry, Effect of Asian Financial Crisis

Mr MULHERIN asked the Premier (13/5/98)—

With reference to a recent statement of his on Radio 4QY in Cairns in which he predicted that the Asian economic crisis will end sooner than many people expect—

Why then did the Canegrowers' Chairman, Mr Harry Bonanno, issue a press release on 22 April stating, and I quote, "because Queensland sells 65 per cent of its sugar to Asia, the unstable economic situation in the region had cast a cloud over earlier more optimistic expectations" and "Because of the deteriorating outlook for 1999 and beyond (he) has advised growers to review their circumstances carefully ..."?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

381. Cairns, Organised Crime

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/5/98)—

With reference to claims by the newly appointed Crime Commissioner that organised crime, including criminal paedophilia, currently exists in Cairns and always will—

- (1) Does he agree with Mr Carmody's assessment of this particular crime in Cairns; if so, how prevalent is the practice; if not, why would Mr Carmody make such a statement?
- (2) What incidence rate for paedophilia has been recorded for Cairns from 1996 to the present?
- (3) In light of Mr Carmody's statement, what steps has he taken to address this issue; if none, why not?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

382. Oyster Cove Development

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (13/5/98)—

With reference to the proposed Oyster Cove Development on the Gold Coast—

- (1) As significant elements of this proposal have now been rejected by both the Department of Primary Industries and the Gold Coast City Council, has he received representations from the developer to overturn these decisions; if so, what has been his response?
- (2) Has the developer modified his proposal in light of these problems and resubmitted an altered application; if so, where is this currently at with his department and what are its chances of gaining approval?
- (3) Will he give a guarantee that he will not allow this development to proceed if it in any substantial way compromises the environmental integrity of the site; if not, why not?

Mr ROWELL (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

383. Oakey Power Station

Mr FOURAS asked the Premier (13/5/98)—

With reference to his recent sod-turning ceremony for the new Oakey Power Station—

- (1) What is the work program and timeframe for this power station?
- (2) Is this relatively small power station not expected to be completed and come on line until the year 2001 with little on-site work planned in the immediate future?
- (3) Was the sod-turning ceremony yet another example of his pre-election stunts designed to cover up his Government's inadequacies over the last two years?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

384. Narangba, Electricity Supply

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (13/5/98)—

With reference to the on-going power cuts in the Narangba area, on average three times a week, the latest being two occasions on Tuesday 12 May—

Will he give an undertaking to the people of Narangba that the problem will be identified and rectified and not just given 'band-aid treatment' each time a cut in power supply occurs?

Mr GILMORE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

385. Daintree Rescue Program

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Environment (13/5/98)—

With reference to a report tendered to the recent Wet Tropics Ministerial Council in Brisbane on the Daintree Rescue Program—

- (1) What is the total area so far purchased in the 83 blocks or part blocks acquired by the package and at what cost were the blocks bought?
- (2) Where are the further 20 properties still being negotiated for, what total area do they comprise and what funds are in place to purchase them?
- (3) To what protective tenure have the 83 blocks and part blocks been converted since their purchase; if none, why not?
- (4) What staff and funds have been directed towards managing these resources since February 1996 and does he believe this to be adequate for land of such high conservation value?
- (5) Does he support further funding being directed towards acquiring more freehold blocks in the Daintree supporting pristine lowland vegetation; if so, what amount; if not, why not?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

386. Bundaberg Hospital, Staffing

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (13/5/98)—

With reference to the incident where a young mother was locked out of the Bundaberg Hospital on early Saturday morning, 9 May, and her baby was born on the footpath in front of the hospital—

- (1) How many staff were on duty at that time—2 am, 9 May, and what was their classification and section in which they were working?
- (2) How many patients were in the hospital at the time?
- (3) In the case of a fire (a) would these staff be adequate to safely evacuate the patients in the hospital and (b) are the doors that were locked denying access to the public able to be opened from the inside so patients could evacuate the hospital in an emergency?
- (4) Will he ensure there are adequate 24 hour contact points and staffing levels to allow access by the public to all sections of the hospital and safety for the patients?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

387. Waterfront Dispute

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (13/5/98)—

- (1) Did he direct, or approve, the closure of the public road to the Brisbane Port at Fisherman Island and the erection of gates and the provision of security guards to police who could use the road or did the Brisbane Port Authority do this themselves?
- (2) Under what law or by-law was the road closed?
- (3) Did he know that a public boat ramp was not allowed to be used by the public on the say so of a private army of security guards?

- (4) Who paid and is paying the wages of the private army of security guards on the public road to the Brisbane Port and at other areas with Port Corporation control and supervision?
- (5) How much has this security cost the corporation?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

388. Moorooka State School; Leading Schools Program

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Education (13/5/98)—

- (1) Is he aware of serious concerns on the part of the Moorooka State School Parents and Citizens' Association over the proposed inclusion of the school in the Leading Schools Program?
- (2) Is he not concerned at the high maintenance costs of older schools such as the Moorooka State School and the unfair and uncertain maintenance costs burden to be imposed on school councils of such schools under the Leading Schools Program?
- (3) Is he not concerned at the inequitable treatment of different schools as a consequence of the Leading Schools Program?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

389. Waterfront Dispute

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/5/98)—

With reference to the maritime industrial dispute where Patrick Stevedoring illegally sacked its workforce and, in particular, to the Queensland Police Service operations at Fisherman Island and Hamilton Wharves—

- (1) How many police officers have been involved in undertaking policing and other duties in the course of the dispute at or around (a) Fisherman/Whyte Island and (b) Hamilton Wharves?
- (2) How many of such police officers are officers ordinarily stationed for duties within the Wynnum Police District?
- (3) How many hours of (a) ordinary police work and (b) overtime have been involved in the said police operations?
- (4) What is the total cost of the hours referred to in question 3 above?
- (5) Will the Police Service be expected to meet the cost of these operations out of its ordinary budgetary funds?
- (6) Were police officers diverted from ordinary operational tasks (such as the local crime car) within the Wynnum Police District so as to be placed on operations at Fisherman/Whyte Island or Hamilton?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

390. Water Police, Gold Coast

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/5/98)—

With reference to the comments of Police Media Unit spokesperson, Brian Swift on ABC Radio on the morning of 26 February, in which Mr Swift stated that the Gold Coast Water Police only have eight officers but perform half of the work of Queensland Water Police—

- (1) In view of these comments by his own department, when will he take action to increase the number of operational water police on the Gold Coast and stop putting the lives of coast residents and tourists at risk?
- (2) How many additional police are required to bring this unit up to requested operational strength, including coverage of recreational and sick leave entitlements?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

391. Hospital Waiting Lists

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (13/5/98)—

What are the most recent figures for people on Category 2 waiting lists waiting longer than 90 days for surgery at each of the ESP hospitals and each of the phase 2 hospitals in Queensland?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

392. Coolangatta Watchhouse

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (13/5/98)—

With reference to statements that the Coolangatta Watchhouse will be reopened—

- (1) When and why did the watchhouse close?
- (2) How much will be spent on the upgrading?
- (3) When will the watchhouse reopen?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

393. Water Infrastructure

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Environment (13/5/98)—

With reference to the Government's manic dam building plans—

- (1) How many proposals for river flow regulation are currently under consideration and what are their locations?
- (2) Which of these proposals have been assessed for environmental impacts by his department?

- (3) Out of all proposals, how many and which proposals has his department advised are environmentally unacceptable?
- (4) What advice did his department give in relation to (a) Cooper Creek system, (b) Walla Weir, (c) Comet Dam and (d) Finchhatton Gorge proposal?
- (5) What advice is his department giving in relation to the Nathan Dam on the Dawson River?
- (6) What funding has been (a) allocated, (b) expended to date and (c) budgeted for future expenditure by his department's assessment of these issues?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

394. Nudgee Electorate, Public Housing

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/5/98) (14/5/98)—

With reference to the Nudgee Electorate—

- (1) What capital works projects for new public housing are planned for 1998-99?
- (2) What refurbishment work is programmed for 1998-99?

395. Chermside Electorate, Home Assist/Secure Program

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (13/5/98) (14/5/98)—

With reference to the letter dated 17 April from the Chermside and District Senior Citizen's Centre Incorporated, operating from the Burnie Brae Centre at Kuran Street Chermside, to Mr M Gray, Projects Officer, Home Assist/Secure Unit (a copy of which was sent to the Minister's office), and recognising that the Chermside area has the highest percentage in Queensland of persons aged over 60 years—

Will he approve changes to operational procedures with respect to "carry over funds" in the Home Assist/Home Secure Program, so that organisations such as the Chermside and District Senior Citizen's Centre Incorporated, who have a proven record of good financial management and who respond appropriately to community needs, are able to provide sustained on-going services, rather than having to work in the current stop-start manner because of the length of time taken for a departmental audit and because of the timing of the allocation of funds to service providers such as the Chermside and District Senior Citizen's Centre Incorporated?

396. Camira, Inclusion in Brisbane City Council Area

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (13/5/98) (14/5/98)—

With reference to the issue of residential areas such as the suburb of Camira in the Ipswich City Council, where certain residents have indicated to me that they would prefer to be part of the Brisbane City Council—

What steps should these residents take to assist them in deciding whether they should pursue this option?

Mrs McCAULEY (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

397. Adoptions Act

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (13/5/98) (14/5/98)—

With reference to the Coalition 1995 election policy to make significant changes to the Adoptions Act—

- (1) What, if any, steps have been taken to draft amendments to this legislation?
- (2) Which organisations, if any, have been consulted about changes to the legislation during the term of the Coalition Government?
- (3) Has any documentation been prepared to implement the Coalition 1995 election policy; if so, when will the public be informed of any planned changes?

Mrs WILSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

398. Salisbury-Kuraby Rail Line

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (13/5/98) (14/5/98)—

When will action be taken to provide a third railway track from Salisbury to Kuraby to enable more express trains to be scheduled in peak hours to outer suburbs and Logan City and to reduce journey times on Gold Coast express trains?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

399. Waterfront Dispute

Mr BEATTIE asked the Premier (14/5/98)—

With reference to the recent disruption to work at Patrick's Wharves at the Port of Brisbane—

- (1) Did the Board of Queensland Rail take a formal decision not to send any trains into the port during the dispute?
- (2) Did he personally ring members of the board to indicate his Government's dissatisfaction with this decision and that he would not stand by and allow it to occur?
- (3) Which members of the board did he ring and when?
- (4) Did the Government give a formal direction to the Board of Queensland Rail that it was to continue to send trains into the port; if so, what form did this directive take, when was it issued and to whom?
- (5) Was this directive issued under Section 124 of the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993?
- (6) When will the shareholding Ministers in this Government owned corporation, namely Vaughan Johnson and Joan Sheldon, cause a copy of the directive to be published in the Government Gazette?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

400. Public Safety

Mr McGRADY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy (14/5/98)—

With reference to public statements concerning the lack of attention to safety at various establishments around Queensland—

- (1) Has his department been issuing licences following requests for same via telephone calls without any physical inspection and will he confirm that such licences have been issued for devices ranging from 3" mortar to 250lb aerial bombs?
- (2) Will he confirm that his departmental officers are not inspecting premises where such devices are on public display and is he aware that such establishments such as museums attract up to 100 persons a day and are at risk?
- (3) Does he consider his lack of action has been putting at risk the lives of these people?

Mr GILMORE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

401. Mount Bellenden Kerr Range, Communications Cableway

Mr GIBBS asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (14/5/98)—

With reference to calls from a Cairns City Councillor for the redevelopment of the communications cableway on the Mount Bellenden Kerr range to allow it to carry tourists—

- (1) Has he had official approaches from the Cairns City Council or elsewhere for this conversion?
- (2) Has he given his support to the idea?
- (3) Is he aware the proposal is not included in the Wet Tropics Management Plan?
- (4) What do the operators of Skyrail feel about this proposal?
- (5) Does he believe he can overcome the opposition to the idea being expressed by the National Transmission Agency; if so, how?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

402. Legalcare

Ms SPENCE asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (14/5/98)—

With reference to her earlier pronouncements regarding the firm Legalcare which she claimed she had attracted to Queensland to set up their world headquarters and who would employ 1020 trainees and inject some \$200m into the State economy—

- (1) Did they only part complete the first training course for the initial intake of 120 trainees before cancelling the training and dismissing the remaining 86 trainees?
- (2) Were the vast bulk of the trainees dissatisfied with the quality of training particularly the general level of disorganisation?

(3) Is she aware that with Legalcare's inability or unwillingness to secure a suitable building in which to place the trainees, they found themselves being accommodated in an un-airconditioned, hot and unpleasant basement in the old YMCA building in George Street?

(4) Is she aware that trainees became so stressed on occasions during training that training was at times suspended for entire days and trainees taken for walks around the City?

(5) Is she aware that at times trainees were reduced to tears by training staff attempting to cram impossible amounts of highly complex information into people in unrealistic time frames?

(6) Is she aware that towards the end of this disgracefully flawed training, many of the trainees were unable to be accommodated at the company's Park Road, Milton Office and were sent home to do further study while still receiving their training wage and that in some cases this "home study" period extended to several weeks?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

403. White Mountain National Park

Mr NUTTALL asked the Minister for Environment (14/5/98)—

With reference to plans to develop White Mountain National Park near Hughenden—

- (1) Who is behind the proposal to develop this park for tourists?
- (2) Is part of the proposal to bitumen the access road into the park; if so, what will this cost and who will meet these costs and does he support the idea?
- (3) Does the proposal consist of plans to build small, low impact cabins on the park; if so, how many are planned and in what locations?
- (4) Does the proposal have an aboriginal component; if so, what is it?
- (5) Is a management plan for the park in preparation; if so, when is it due for completion and will it accommodate this idea?
- (6) What projected tourist figures have been identified by the proponents of the scheme?
- (7) Will the proponents of the scheme be operating camping grounds or controlling access to walking tracks in the park?
- (8) What is the departmental advice on the proposal?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

404. Cape York, Developments

Mr SCHWARTEN asked the Minister for Natural Resources (14/5/98)—

With reference to intended developments on Cape York announced by his predecessor—

- (1) Is the Moreton Telegraph Station which he intends to auction, listed on the Queensland Heritage register or nominated for inclusion on the register and will this listing or potential listing be made known to bidders at the auction; if not, why not?
- (2) What numbers and sizes of freehold blocks will be made available at Portland Roads and at which locality and to meet what demand?
- (3) Which management options does he have in mind to bring forward for Batavia Downs?
- (4) Which large holdings does he have in mind in Cape York for "appropriate subdivision" into "viable living areas" to stimulate the pastoral industry and what does he consider constitutes a "viable living area" on the Cape in the pastoral industry and will he rule out Starcke and Silver Plains as being amongst those to be subdivided?
- (5) What parts of the Cape's road network does he intend to approach the Transport Minister for additional funding for improvement work and why has he selected these roads?
- (6) Are any of the properties he intends to restock following the BTEC program, on the east coast of the Cape and therefore in the Goss Government's original wilderness zone proposal; if so, which ones?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

405. Legalcare

Mr HAMILL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (14/5/98)—

With reference to her strong support given to the company Legalcare to get it to establish its supposed world headquarters in Brisbane—

- (1) What due diligence checks were done by her, her staff, or her department on this company before committing some \$1.5m of taxpayer's funds to them?
- (2) Did these checks support the company's claims that they had sold 40,000 of their mediation based insurance policies in Victoria since their launch or did they show the number sold was less than 100 in that time frame?
- (3) Did these checks support their claim that they had entered into a joint venture with LEADR (Lawyers Engaged in Alternate Dispute Resolution) to establish the Australian Institute of Mediators; if not, have they yet entered such a joint venture?
- (4) Did these checks support Legalcare's claim that they have entered into a contract with IRPC Ltd in the United Kingdom in order to start a risk management business; if not, have they yet entered into such a contract?
- (5) Did these checks show that a director of Legalcare, Ken Copeland, had entered into voluntary administration back in the 1980s owing a six-figure sum of money?
- (6) Is she satisfied with the level of due diligence checks done on this company and its business plan claims?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

406. School Security

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Education (14/5/98)—

With reference to the provision of security measures in schools—

- (1) Which Queensland schools have had their security upgrades revised, to what extent, in which direction and why?
- (2) How many security incidents at schools have been reported to the department since 30 June, 1997 regardless of whether insurance claims were made by the school or not?
- (3) How many security incidents at schools have been claimed for on insurance since 30 June, 1997?
- (4) How many security incidents at schools have been reported to police since 30 June, 1997?
- (5) Does he believe that school vandalism is increasing, stable, or decreasing and why?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

407. Sir David Longland Correctional Centre; Escapees

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/5/98)—

With reference to the November 1997 break-out and shooting rampage from the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre and further to my Question on Notice No 1451 of 1997, (including the details provided in the referred to question) up to the present time—

- (1) How many police officers have been involved directly in attempts and operations to recapture the escaped prisoners?
- (2) How many hours of (a) ordinary police work and (b) police work have been involved in police attempts or operations to capture the escaped prisoners?
- (3) What is the total cost of the hours referred to in Question 2 above?
- (4) What other costs (eg. contractors, police airwing time, vehicle costs, etc) have been incurred by the Queensland Police Service as a result of the escape?
- (5) As his earlier answer he indicated that the Police Service will be pursuing Budget supplementation for costs incurred as part of the Cabinet Budget Committee process, has this taken place and what is the result?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

408. Woodwark Bay Development

Mrs BIRD asked the Minister for Environment (14/5/98)—

With reference to his Government's supposed resolution of the Woodwark Bay development issue—

- (1) Has the 70 hectares of freehold land previously held by the developer and initially exchanged for the 60 hectares of national park come into or remained with the national park as required in the original agreement with the developer; if not, why not?
- (2) Have areas of State Forest that were made available to the developer at the time of the original arrangement with Government been returned to the Crown; if not, what lease arrangements have been made over these lands to protect their ownership by the Crown?
- (3) From what date has the new State 1 commencement date of 23 November 1998 been shifted and why?
- (4) What indication of progress on this project by this company has moved the Government to offer such high levels of ongoing support?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

409. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Workload

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care (14/5/98)—

With reference to the work undertaken by Family Services officers of her department—

- (1) What is the average FSO/client workload in each region of the department?
- (2) What is the average FSO/client workload in each area office of the department?

Mrs WILSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

410. Caboolture Shire, Sewerage Plants

Mr MILLINER asked the Minister for Environment (14/5/98)—

With reference to reports of the failure of stand alone sewerage plants in wide use in Caboolture Shire—

- (1) Are these failures resulting in the discharge of high levels of pathogens into properties where the plants are located?
- (2) What is causing these failures and what is the extent of the problem?
- (3) What is he doing to address the problem?
- (4) What warnings has he issued to local residents regarding these discharges?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

411. Townsville, Supreme Court Building

Mr McELLIGOTT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/5/98)—

With reference to the recent disastrous fire in Townsville that destroyed the heritage listed 19th Century Supreme Court building—

- (1) What tests have been undertaken on the site to determine the cause of the fire and by whom?
- (2) Have samples from the site been sent to Brisbane for further forensic testing; if so, is this normal procedure; if not, what prompted such a move?
- (3) Were nearly residents and firefighters astonished at the speed and extent of the blaze in its early stages?
- (4) When will the results of this testing be completed and will the results be publicly released; if not, why not?
- (5) How many people who supposedly occupied the building as vagrants have now been interviewed in relation to the blaze and how many were actually occupying the building at the time the blaze commenced?
- (6) What explanation have they given as to the cause of the fire and is any action planned against any of these people?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

412. Education Department, Meetings at Outside Venues

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Education (14/5/98)—

- (1) Have any workshops, seminars or executive meetings for his senior staff been conducted during 1998 or during 1997 at locations other than departmental premises; if so, what has been the nature of these workshops, seminars or meetings?
- (2) Where have they been conducted and who has attended them?
- (3) What has been the cost involved for the venues?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

413. Fraser Island, Middle Rocks Project

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Environment (14/5/98)—

With reference to the communique issued following the recent Fraser Island World Heritage Ministerial Council meeting held in Brisbane—

- (1) At what stage of construction are the Middle Rocks boardwalk and toilet facilities currently at?
- (2) Why does the communique state that these capital works were completed this year if they weren't?
- (3) What other parts of the communique are similarly false?
- (4) What funds were spent "supposedly completing" these projects?

- (5) Why has he misled his Federal colleagues in this way?

Mr LITTLEPROUD (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

414. Transport and Main Roads Departments, VERs

Mr HAYWARD asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (14/5/98)—

- (1) How many people in either his departments or the statutory authorities that he has Ministerial responsibility for have been offered VERs since he became the Minister?
- (2) What is the total cost of those VERs?
- (3) How many people who have been given VERs have now been re-employed by his departments or statutory authorities?
- (4) What is the total cost of their salary packages?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

415. Sale of Crown Land

Mr DOLLIN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (14/5/98)—

With reference to a recent announcement that further sales of Crown land are planned in the coming Budget—

- (1) Could such land sales amount to as much as \$100m in 1998-99?
- (2) What types of land was she referring to, at what locations, of what area and to what purpose is the land currently dedicated?
- (3) Are any of the blocks part of the previous Labor Government's Cape York wilderness zone; if so, which blocks are they and for what purpose will they be sold?
- (4) Are any of the blocks intended for sale available for claim by traditional owners as vacant Crown land under the Native Title Act; if so, how does she justify such sale?
- (5) Which blocks were sold in 1997-98 to raise \$50m and why was the proposed \$124m of sales forecast in the present budget not achieved?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

416. Waterfront Dispute

Mr WELLS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (14/5/98)—

With reference to the recent waterfront dispute at the Port of Brisbane—

- (1) Did the Police Commissioner ask him or his department in the early stages of this dispute to make available an Emergency Services helicopter for use by the police in surveillance and other duties at the port; if so, when was the request made?

- (2) Was his or his department's reply, that they would not agree to this request and that in the event it occurred costs were to be met by the Queensland Police Service; if so, why did he adopt such a stance?

- (3) Did the Police Minister subsequently speak to him regarding this matter and ask him to reconsider his position; if so, what was his response?

- (4) If that response was a request for direction on the matter, did the Premier issue that direction to him; if so, what form did it take, when was it issued, will he table it; if not, why not?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

417. Members Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee, Alleged Breach of Westminster Convention

Mr NUNN asked the Premier (14/5/98)—

With reference to a recent report from the Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee which stated that he might have breached a Westminster convention by gaining access to a confidential Cabinet document of the previous Labor Government—

- (1) Will he rule out any involvement by his Director-General, Mr Peter Ellis, in obtaining and supplying him with this document?
- (2) Will he rule out any involvement by the Director-General of the Department of Mines and Energy, Mr Bob Day, in obtaining and supplying him with this document?
- (3) Does he now admit that his actions in accessing this document were a flagrant violation of Westminster convention and when does he intend to apologise to Parliament for his disgraceful conduct in this matter?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

418. Emergency Services Department, Staffing

Mr De LACY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (14/5/98)—

With reference to the number of spills of positions in his department and its agencies—

- (1) Did the Premier write to the Minister personally over this matter; if so, did he indicate in that letter his great concern about these losses; if so, when did he write and is he prepared to table the letter?
- (2) Did the Premier also indicate in that letter that he had had many representations from other Ministers and Members of Parliament over the matter?
- (3) Did this same letter advise the Minister to "cease spilling positions forthwith"?
- (4) How many and which positions in which parts of his portfolio was the Premier referring to, when, how and why were they spilled and at what cost to the taxpayer?

(5) Has the Premier's directive been heeded?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

419. Economy, Effect of Asian Financial Crisis

Mr MULHERIN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for The Arts (14/5/98)—

With reference to statements she made regarding the Asian currency crisis at a recent Morgan stockbroking breakfast—

- (1) Did she acknowledge at this function that the Asian crisis would have a significant negative impact on this State's economy; if so, what does she now acknowledge that impact will be?
- (2) How does this statement equate to the Premier's oft repeated statement that the Queensland economy was now one of "Asia's economic tigers" and the Prime Minister's boast that he had fireproofed the Australian economy against the Asian meltdown?
- (3) Does she believe the current recessionary problems in Japan's economy will have serious consequences for Queensland's economy; if not, why not?

Mrs SHELDON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

420. Correctional Centres, Sexual Assaults

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/5/98)—

With reference to the repeated rape incidents in Queensland Correctional Centres involving Raymond Garland—

- (1) Was Garland imprisoned in 1987 for the rape of a 14 year old boy in a police watchhouse; if so, why was a 14 year old boy being held in such a facility with so little protection?
- (2) Did the Supreme Court award damages as a result of this attack totalling \$180,000 against two Government departments and which departments were involved, how were they at fault and how were these costs apportioned to the two departments?
- (3) How many other inmates of Queensland Correctional Centres have come forward since that time with allegations of similar attacks by Garland and how many of these are pursuing legal action?
- (4) If all victims chose to pursue legal action could the State be facing substantial legal and compensation payouts; if so, what is likely to be the size of such a pay out?
- (5) Is it true that even while Moreton Correctional Centre staff were meeting to devise a plan to manage Garland in prison he was assaulting yet another prison victim?

(6) How is Garland currently being managed to prevent further assaults of this nature?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

421. Jacobs Well, Canal Development; Peakhurst Properties Pty Ltd

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (14/5/98)—

With reference to the approval to Calypso Bay's 1200 homes by Peakhurst Properties at Jacobs Well—

- (1) Have all EIS requirements under the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 been met?
- (2) Will she make these available to the House?
- (3) Will she assure the House that this development will not cause major ASS leakage as suggested by sampling and analysis procedures for lowland ASS in Queensland 15 October 1997 by the QASSIT Department of Natural Resources?

Mrs McCAULEY (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

422. Queensland Health, Meetings at Outside Venues

Mrs EDMOND asked the Minister for Health (14/5/98)—

- (1) Have any workshops, seminars or executive meetings for his senior staff been conducted during 1998 or during 1997 at locations other than departmental premises; if so, what has been the nature of these workshops, seminars or meetings?
- (2) Where have they been conducted and who has attended them?
- (3) What has been the cost involved for the venues?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

423. Women and Veterans, Legal Aid

Mr FOLEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (14/5/98)—

With reference to the concerns expressed by women's groups and veterans over the adverse impact of inadequate Commonwealth legal aid—

- (1) Does he share the concerns expressed by women's groups over the Commonwealth's inadequate funding for family law matters and the resultant lack of opportunity for women to have legal representation in parenting matters affecting the welfare of children?
- (2) Does he share the concerns expressed by veterans over restrictions to their access to legal aid?
- (3) Will he condemn the Commonwealth Government for their failure to meet their proper responsibilities in this area?

- (4) What action will he take to address the legal aid concerns expressed by women's groups and veterans?

Mr BEANLAND (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

424. Elanora State School Site

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (14/5/98)—

Has his department made any approach to the Education Department expressing an interest in acquiring the Elanora State Primary School site for a railway station?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

425. Ambulance Service Conference, Kooralbyn

Mr BRISKEY asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (14/5/98)—

With reference to the proposed Regional Local Ambulance Conference, scheduled for 24 and 25 October at Kooralbyn—

- (1) Are volunteer members of the local ambulance committees being asked to pay up to \$120 per night for accommodation and \$110 per head for meals?
- (2) Is he aware the local ambulance committees are maintained by working people and retired people who spend a lot of their spare time fundraising for the Queensland Ambulance Service?
- (3) Is it the case that senior departmental officers attending the conference will be attending on an all expenses paid basis?
- (4) Why is he promoting a conference which only the fat cats can afford to go to?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

426. Students with Disabilities

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Education (14/5/98)—

With reference to the allocation in the 1997-98 Budget of \$400,000 to assist with transport of students with disabilities to attend non-State schools—

- (1) Have guidelines been put in place for this allocation; if so, what is the criteria for eligibility?
- (2) How much of this \$400,000 has been expended to date?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

427. Elimbah Creek, Commercial Fishing

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry (14/5/98)—

- (1) Will he confirm that a trader purchasing fish from commercial fishermen surrendered the tag from a

flathead that had been tagged in Elimbah Creek the day before it was sold to the trader?

- (2) Is he aware of the behavioural characteristics of flathead that make it unlikely that the individual fish would have moved very far from Elimbah Creek in the 24 hours between being released with the tag and being sold to the trader?
- (3) What steps have been taken to identify the commercial fisherman involved and to investigate the prima facie case that the fisherman in question has undertaken commercial fishing activity in a closed area?

Mr ROWELL (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

428. Education Department, Capital Works Program

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (14/5/98)—

- (1) What effects will the cuts to the 1998-99 Education Department Capital Works program have on schools in Brisbane's northern suburbs (including the Chermside Electorate), particularly when it is recognised that many of these schools are 35 to 55 years old and require significant maintenance, repair and upgrading?
- (2) What schools in this area will have work delayed or cancelled in the coming year because of the slowdown in Education Capital Works?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

429. Sanctuary Reserve Pty Ltd, Study Grant

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry (14/5/98)—

With reference to the \$10,000 grant given to Sanctuary Reserve Pty Ltd for a pre-feasibility study into a proposed rhino park in North Queensland—

- (1) Was part of this work subcontracted to the Northern Territory University; if so, why, to whom, what actual work was undertaken by this university and at what cost?
- (2) Who is on the expert panel assessing this report, who appointed the panel, when is it expected to report and to whom?
- (3) How many other "one off grants" at Ministerial direction like this one has he made since February 1996, to whom, for what amounts and for what purposes?
- (4) What grant was made to the Rimmer Corporation, for what amount, when and for what purpose?
- (5) In the application from Sanctuary Reserve Pty Ltd to raise the grant from \$5,000 to \$10,000, how had the air fares and travelling allowance cited as reasons for the increase been incurred, by whom, where and when?

Mr DAVIDSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

430. Toombul Police Beat Shopfront

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (14/5/98)—

With reference to the Toombul Police Beat Shopfront located in Toombul Shoppingtown—

- (1) How many officers and staff are allocated as permanent at this location?
- (2) Is there a police vehicle or other means of transport allocated for use at this location?
- (3) What are the geographical boundaries for routine duties performed out of the station?
- (4) What is the basis for the decision on these boundaries?
- (5) Is there any reason why officers operating out of this station can't conduct foot or bicycle patrols in suburbs adjacent to Toombul Shoppingtown (eg Toombul, Nundah)?
- (6) What are the main functions performed by officers assigned to this station?
- (7) Approximately what proportion of officers time at Toombul is allocated for patrols (foot or otherwise) within the stations area of responsibility?
- (8) Will he support the extension of beat patrols out of Toombul Station to include neighbouring suburbs (eg Toombul, Nundah)?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

431. Bundaberg, Health Services

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Health (14/5/98)—

Will he confirm that in relation to the Bundaberg Health Service, the Borbidge State Government has (a) closed the birthing unit, (b) stopped the early discharge program (c) closed some beds in the Mental Health Unit over the Christmas period, (d) reduced funding that caused Community Nursing Services to retrench staff and (e) imposed stringent criteria to reduce the number of patients and their relatives who receive financial help to travel to Brisbane for medical treatment under the Patient Transit Scheme?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

432. Queensland Rail, Management Positions

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (14/5/98)—

- (1) Has the new organisational structure for Queensland Rail, Metropolitan Freight and Regional Operations Division, dated 8 May, reduced management numbers of employees or has there been an increase in such employees?
- (2) Has there been an increase in salary levels in the new appointments?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

433. Beaudesert Electorate, National Party Preselection

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Premier (14/5/98)—

With reference to claims that polling has been conducted in the electorate of former Minister Lingard in recent times to ascertain which National Party identity might best replace him as the candidate for Beaudesert at the next State election—

- (1) Who conducted this research, was he aware of it and what role did he play in its commissioning and analysis?
- (2) Will he rule out any element of the National Party as having had a role in this research?
- (3) Does Mr Lingard have the Premier's full support as the National Party's candidate for Beaudesert at the coming State election?
- (4) Will he rule out any possibility of Joy Drescher, Michael Fraser, Garth Carey, Judy Harvey or John Brent receiving his support as candidates for Beaudesert in the coming State election?
- (5) Has he had any discussions with any of these people regarding their political ambitions in the Beaudesert electorate at the coming State election; if so, whom?
- (6) Did Mr Lingard play a significant role in behind the scenes moves in late 1997 to ascertain the support within the National Party for a challenge against his Premiership?

Mr BORBIDGE (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

434. Patrick Stevedores

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (14/5/98)—

- (1) Does he still fully support his colleague the Hon Peter Reith in his support of the illegal sacking by Patrick Stevedoring of its workforce?
- (2) Does he agree with Patrick Stevedoring's arranging of its company structure so that the company cannot pay its legal debts, particularly commenting on the money owed to their employees?
- (3) Does he support Patrick Stevedoring's chief executive Chris Corrigan?

Mr SANTORO (18/5/98): The honourable member for Bulimba unfortunately appears to have made the same mistakes as have been made by so many others. There has been no finding by a Court, other than the ALP Kangaroo Court, that the actions taken by Patricks were illegal. What the Federal Court found was that there is an arguable case to be heard by the Court. That case is yet to come to trial.

What has transpired to date has been a series of hearings and appeals about the granting of temporary orders by the Federal Court. Justice North found, inter alia, when granting temporary orders on 21 April 1998 that "there is a serious question to be tried that the threatened termination of the employees is the effect of conduct of the employers in breach of s 298K(1) [of the Workplace Relations Act 1996 (Cth)]." The

allegation has not been proven in a court of law, only in the minds of some.

The honourable member also holds the mistaken belief, probably based on listening to too much MUA misinformation and disinformation, that the MUA employees have been sacked. The MUA employees have not in fact been sacked.

In his decision of 21 April 1998, Justice North said—

"At the commencement of the hearing on 8 April 1998, counsel for Patricks told the Court that, during the previous evening, each of the employers has appointed administrators under Part 5.3A of the Corporations Law. He said that **the employees had not been dismissed** but that the administrators intended to dismiss them because the employers were insolvent. I **granted an injunction to restrain the employers under administration from so doing ...**" (emphasis added)

Maritime Union of Australia & Ors [1998]
378 FCA, page 10 *

The motives of Lang Corporation Ltd in restructuring its subsidiary companies' affairs similarly have not been tested in Court. Corporate counsel for Lang Corporation told the Court that the reasons for the restructure were to avoid customer confusion as to which entity owned which assets, to allow better performance monitoring and to allow borrowing at better rates.

Justice North in the conclusion to his decision said—

"The applicants argued that a relevant consideration in determining the balance of convenience was that Patricks had acted dishonestly and with stealth. **It is undesirable to express a conclusion on these allegations.** It is not necessary to do so. The balance of convenience favours the applicants without the need to determine this issue. **I do not do so.**" (emphasis added)

Maritime Union of Australia & Ors [1998]
378 FCA, page 22 *

With regards to my support for Minister Reith or Mr Corrigan, I and the Coalition Government fully support Minister Reith's and Mr Corrigan's determination to see genuine reform on Australia's wharves by removing the restrictive work practices that have been entrenched over the years making us uncompetitive when compared to our trading partners.

*http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/federal_ct/1998/378.htm

435. Rifle Ranges

Mrs CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Natural Resources (14/5/98)—

With reference to the public statements made regarding the provision of rifle ranges etc for clubs in Queensland—

Will he outline the timeframe proposed?

Mr SPRINGBORG (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

436. Inala Community Health Centre

Mr PALASZCZUK asked the Minister for Health (14/5/98)—

With reference to the closure of the pharmacy at the Community Health Centre at Inala—

As the closure of this facility is now creating difficulties for people who used the pharmacy, will he give consideration to re-opening the pharmacy if there is evidence of hardship for users of the Community Health Centre?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

437. Oxford Park TAFE Campus

Mr WELFORD asked the Minister for Training and Industrial Relations (14/5/98)—

With reference to Oxford Park TAFE Campus—

- (1) What funding has been allocated for courses in Semester 2 of 1998?
- (2) What courses are conducted at this campus?
- (3) How many applications were received for each of these courses in Semester 1 of 1998?
- (4) How many students have been accepted in each course?
- (5) What is the unimproved value of the land occupied by the campus?
- (6) What is the current zoning of the land?
- (7) When will applications be invited for courses to be conducted in Semester 2?
- (8) What courses will be conducted in Semester 2?
- (9) Will he give an unqualified commitment that the campus will not be sold off at any time in the next term of a Coalition Government; if not, why not?

Mr SANTORO (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

438. Emergency Services Department, Enterprise Bargaining Process

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (19/5/98)—

With reference to the enterprise bargaining process occurring within his department—

- (1) Was an enterprise bargaining ballot held recently for ambulance officers which resulted in a 67 per cent no vote against the proposal put to the meeting?
- (2) Was the number of votes returned in this ballot as high as 70 per cent of officers balloted with those voting no totalling 822 and those yes 404?
- (3) Does he view this two to one rejection of the proposal as anything other than a major vote of no confidence in him and the Government's handling of ambulance officers' grievances?
- (4) Does he now understand that the level of frustration that drove ambulance officers onto the streets of Brisbane in December 1997 in relation to response times and staffing levels still

pervades this service to the detriment of all Queenslanders?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

439. Compton Independent Living Complex

Mr J. H. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/5/98)—

With reference to the department's subsidy for tenants of the Compton independent living complex which will see approximately 250 pensioners accommodated in the complex shortly and as the complex has no hostel accommodation or nursing home beds attached—

- (1) Where does he propose tenants would access hostel or nursing home facilities when needed?
- (2) Where does he propose tenants would access hospital services as needed, given that his colleague the Minister for Health, reduced the number of beds at Caboolture Hospital's State 2 by 62?
- (3) Does he regard relocating 250 pensioners into an area where hostel, nursing home and hospital services are limited as good social policy?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

440. Eatons Hill State School

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Education (19/5/98)—

With reference to the unacceptable inordinate delay in the construction of the Eatons Hill State School including the delay in constructing the tuckshop, the library, the sports oval and the associated disruption to the students—

Will he now show good faith and compensate the school community by (a) paying to the school a reasonable sum for profit forgone from not having a tuckshop built and available to be operated for several weeks after the school opened, (b) providing additional library resources especially books and (c) providing additional sports equipment?

Mr QUINN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

441. Gold Coast, Canal Developments

Mr D'ARCY asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (19/5/98)—

- (1) How many approvals and applications for subdivisions with canal allotments have currently been approved or lodged with the Gold Coast City Council?
- (2) How many canal allotments are under consideration?
- (3) What are the obligations of the department under the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 and other acts of this Parliament to protect South East Queensland wetlands from destruction and assurances that

disturbance of ASS will not poison out waterways?

Mrs McCAULEY (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

442. John Oxley Youth Detention Centre

Ms BLIGH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/5/98)—

With reference to the recent riots at the John Oxley Youth Detention Centre—

- (1) What is the capacity of this centre and how many young offenders have resided at the centre for each month of this financial year?
- (2) How much of the current accommodation at the centre is in temporary demountable facilities?
- (3) What steps has he taken to identify and acquire a site for a new youth detention centre?
- (4) If a site has been identified, what is the address of the site?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

443. Trinder Park Nursing Home, Bus Service

Mr ROBERTSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/5/98)—

With reference to his department's decision to close the bus service provided to residents at Trinder Park nursing home by the owner of the Logan Plaza Shopping Centre—

- (1) What are the reasons for this decision?
- (2) What other arrangements will the department put in place so that residents are not disadvantaged?
- (3) Will Clark's provide a courtesy bus service for residents to travel to local shopping centres?
- (4) Why doesn't he amend the relevant act to allow this popular service to continue?
- (5) Did Clark's contact his department to complain about this service?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

444. Lytton Road, Upgrade

Mr LUCAS asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/5/98)—

With reference to the proposed road between Port of Brisbane and the Gateway Arterial Road and the current very poor state of Lytton Road—

- (1) What (a) moneys have been expended and (b) work has been undertaken on the proposed Port Road and Lytton Road for 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (2) What (a) moneys will be expended and (b) work will be undertaken for the next three financial years on the Port Road and on upgrading Lytton Road?

- (3) Does the Government not propose to widen Lytton Road on the segment east of the Doboy Creek Bridge up to the intersection with Hemmant and Tingalpa Road until such time as all the businesses along the northern side of Lytton Road redevelop their properties—thus requiring them to devote the appropriate right of way to the department?
- (4) Does he believe that such a delay in widening and median-separating such a dangerous and high traffic area of Lytton Road is acceptable, bearing in mind ever increasing volumes of port, commercial and private traffic expected to share a road that is essentially one lane in either direction, without separation, for the vast majority of its length?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

445. Cairns-Forsayth Rail Line

Mr BREDHAUER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/5/98)—

With reference to the proposal to establish a rail service from Cairns to Forsayth—

- (1) How much has been spent upgrading the rail line including a breakdown of how the money has been allocated?
- (2) How many expressions of interest from private operators have been received to run the proposed rail service?
- (3) Who is the successful operator for the service and when is the service expected to start?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

446. Townsville Railway Workshops

Mr ELDER asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/5/98)—

With reference to the current level of fixed term employment in the Townsville workshops and the continuing decline in the number of permanent employees—

- (1) Has he made any estimates of the number of permanent employees who may take VERS in the future?
- (2) Will he confirm that under current commitments none of these departees will be replaced?
- (3) Will he also confirm that under his current plans none of the fixed termers will be made permanent employees in the foreseeable future?
- (4) Does he have any idea of a target for the number of permanent employees at the Townsville workshops; if so, what is that figure?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

447. Bundaberg Railway Station

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/5/98)—

Why were no funds directly allocated to the refurbishment of the Bundaberg Railway Station?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

448. Public Transport, Integrated Ticketing

Mr ARDILL asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/5/98)—

- (1) Has he developed plans for integrated ticketing between City Train and private and BCC buses in the outer metropolitan area?
- (2) Is he aware of confusion in the minds of interstate migrants who are used to transferring between various modes of transport on a single ticket?
- (3) How soon will action be taken to improve on the present situation to assist patrons and to increase patronage on public transport and to relieve vehicle pressure on roads?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

449. Nundah and Hamilton Fire Stations

Mr ROBERTS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport (19/5/98)—

With reference to the decision to amalgamate and relocate both the Nundah and Hamilton Fire Stations to Nudgee Road, Hendra—

- (1) Will the new station have facilities to house two fully equipped fire fighting appliances; if not, what fire fighting appliances (including emergency tenders) will be provided at the station?
- (2) How many full-time fire fighters will be permanently allocated to the new station?
- (3) Will any positions be made redundant as a result of the proposed amalgamation; if so, how many and what positions?
- (4) What will be the impact on response times to residential areas covered by the Nundah Fire Station and Hamilton Fire Station respectively?
- (5) What will be the geographical area of coverage for the new station?

Mr VEIVERS (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

450. Moolabin Goods Yard

Mr FOLEY asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (19/5/98)—

With reference to the proposed sale of land at the Moolabin Goods Yard at Tennyson to a lessee—

- (1) Why was this proposed sale not subject to open competition?
- (2) What is the long-term use proposed for the land?
- (3) Is he aware of concerns by Tennyson residents that development of this site could prejudice the amenity of their suburb?

- (4) Will he assure Tennyson residents that the future use of this site will not prejudice the amenity of their suburb?
- (5) Is he satisfied that taxpayers have received a fair and proper price for the sale of the site; if so, how has he satisfied himself on this matter?

Mr JOHNSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

451. Public Works and Housing Department Land, Currumbin Waters

Mrs ROSE asked the Minister for Public Works and Housing (19/5/98)—

When will funding be provided to build pensioner units on departmental land in Riverside Drive, Currumbin Waters?

Dr WATSON (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

452. Corrections System

Mr BARTON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing (19/5/98)—

With reference to his statement on ABC Stateline on 1 May in which he described the Queensland Corrective Services system, of which juvenile detention is a key part as "probably the best system in Australia if not the world", the riot at John Oxley Youth Detention Centre on 15 May in which two warders were taken hostage and the statement made by Queensland Corrective Services Commission's (QCSC) director Bonnie Robinson during the opening ceremony of QCSC moving forward together conference on 18 May "Juvenile detention is in a state of crisis and we must do something about it now"—

- (1) When will he accept that his corrections system is not the best in Australia let alone the world, that it is in crisis, particularly juvenile detention

which has been waiting for promised new detention centres for over two years?

- (2) Will he follow Bonnie Robinson's advice and do something about it now?

Mr COOPER (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

453. Prince Charles Hospital, Beneke's Bush

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health (19/5/98)—

With reference to a flyer being distributed the Chermside/West Chermside area by the Liberal Party which claims that the area of vegetation called Beneke's Bush in the south-west corner of the Prince Charles Hospital was preserved because of the efforts of the Liberal Party candidate—

- (1) Will he immediately make available to the local Quest Newspapers all Queensland Health and Ministerial correspondence on Beneke's Bush over the last four years?
- (2) If he will not release this information, will he confirm that the local councillor Terry Hampson, Mr Brian Coates and the Neighbours of Huxtable Park, the Men of Trees organisation and myself have been the persistent driving forces insisting that Beneke's Bush be preserved?
- (3) Will he confirm that, in his letter of 5 February to Brisbane's Lord Mayor Jim Soorley, he refused to agree to a Voluntary Conservation Agreement for Beneke's Bush and that he did a backflip last month only because of intense media attention including exposure on Brisbane's "Extra" program?
- (4) Will he confirm that the Liberal candidate is dishonest in her attempts to falsely claim credit for work which she did not do?

Mr HORAN (Answer not received prior to dissolution of Legislative Assembly)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**454. State Forest; Crown Land**

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (4/8/98)—

- (1) What area of the State, both in real and percentage terms, is classified as State forestry?
- (2) What area of the State, both in real and in percentage terms, is unallocated Crown land.

Mr WELFORD (1/9/98):

(a) Approximately 4 255 000 hectares of land in Queensland is reserved under the Forestry Act 1959, as State forest and timber reserve. This amounts to about 2.5% of the State.

(b) Owing to the number of property dealings which occur on a daily basis, the area of unallocated State land varies from time to time. However, it is estimated that the area of unallocated State land at present is about 1,000,000 hectares which represents about 0.58% of the State.

It should be recognised that not all of this area is available for all uses. Some uses are clearly incompatible with land reserved under the Forestry Act 1959. Some areas of unallocated State Land are property retained for community uses or conservation purposes. Clearly, in percentage terms; very little of the State remains in forestry, conservation and other unallocated community lands. It is not the policy of this government to use these limited public resources to dispense political largesse as obsessively practiced by the National/ Liberal parties in Government.

455. Gun Clubs

Mrs E. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (4/8/98)—

With reference to the impact of National weapons legislation on all forms of gun clubs across Queensland—

When will the necessary changes to forestry leases occur to enable clubs to continue in compliance with Queensland's legislation?

Mr WELFORD (1/9/98): The process to provide shooting clubs with access to State lands for the establishment of rifle ranges is a relatively complex process and does not guarantee all clubs can be accommodated.

Matters to be considered include identification of suitable sites, environmental and planning considerations, compliance with State and Local Government regulatory arrangements, adherence to the provisions of the Land Act 1994, approval of the Weapons Licensing Branch of the Queensland Police Service, and of course Native Title and cultural heritage considerations.

If State Forests are to be involved, it is necessary for Parliament to revoke the State Forest status as this use is incompatible with the provisions of the Forestry Act 1959. Once revoked the land would need to be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Land Act 1994.

Given this complexity, the Rifle Range Advisory Panel agreed that a local approach would be the best way forward so that site specific issues could be considered on the ground. This process is under way.

Consequently, it is not possible to provide a single date when new tenure arrangements are to be implemented. Each case will have to be considered on its merits and proceed at its own pace.

Despite the expectations created by the previous Government on this matter, some of the impediments are such that it may not be possible for them to be overcome. While the Beattie Labor Government recognises the needs of legitimate sporting shooters, we do not want to create the impression that the issue can or will be resolved easily or quickly.

456. State Development Centres

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (4/8/98)—

With reference to the Governor's Speech at the Opening of Parliament and quote: "Economic development plans for each of Queensland's regions have been formulated and will be implemented in conjunction with local people through the establishment of State Development Centres in each of the regions"—

- (1) Does he intend to utilise the regional group 'Growzone' to be the local representation for economic development in the Darling Downs and south west Queensland?
- (2) Where is it intended to establish the State Development Centre in this region?
- (3) Does he acknowledge it would give a much needed boost to the rural areas in this region if this State Development Centre was established outside Toowoomba—a centre already growing at the expense of small western centres?

Mr ELDER (3/9/98):

(1) The Department of State Development is presently finalising the process to implement its policy in relation to Regional Economic Development. However you may be assured that the process will involve consultation with reputable community based organisations.

I will be meeting with Growzone on 8 September 1998. After this meeting I will have a better understanding of Growzone's achievements and future direction.

(2) No final decisions have been taken on locations for State Development Centres but as far as possible we will be utilising the existing infrastructure and resources of my former Departments.

(3) Regional Queensland does need access to the information, advice and resources that a State Development Centre will be able to provide to support the enhancement of regions but in locating State Development Centres it is also important to choose locations that provide the maximum opportunity for businesses to access their services.

457. Heiner Inquiry

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (4/8/98)—

Does he know that he told an untruth to Parliament and misled Parliament when he said he would release all the Cabinet documents related to Cabinet Meetings on 12 February, 19 February and 5 March 1990 concerning the Heiner Inquiry; if not, why did he not release the attendance register of Cabinet Ministers for those meetings and why did he not release the documents pertaining to such destruction (the privilege documents)?

Mr BEATTIE (31/8/98): I wish to confirm that all relevant Cabinet documents relating to the Heiner Inquiry have been tabled in good faith in the House. This includes Cabinet Submissions and Decisions of 12 and 19 February, and 5 March 1990.

These are the documents on which Cabinet would have based its decision-making.

Cabinet attendance registers were not tabled as they are not relevant to this issue. Attendance registers are not used in the decision-making process.

There are no other Cabinet documents relating to the Heiner Inquiry. Everything that is relevant to the issue, and possible to be released under my authority, has been tabled.

Rather than waste the time of the House, the Honourable Member should identify exactly what further documents he requires so that any debate can be based on fact rather than generalisations and vague references.

458. Bob Marshman and Associates

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (4/8/98)—

- (1) What is the relationship of the Minister's Director-General to a consultancy organisation known as 'Bob Marshman and Associates'?
- (2) Have any of the 'Associates' been employed in any departmental, ministerial or related office since Labor assumed Government; if so, will he list the individuals and their positions?
- (3) What payments did Marshman and Associates receive from the construction training entities located at Salisbury during the past two financial years?
- (4) Did Marshman and Associates receive any payments from Ipswich Skills Share (YUPI)?
- (5) What policy has he put in place to ensure that his Director-General is free from any 'conflict of interest' situations when dealing with his former private clients?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98):

- (1) Bob Marshman and Associates Pty Ltd is a registered company in which the Director-General is the sole director and sole shareholder.
- (2) No. There were no formal associates of the company.
- (3) These private business dealings are commercial-in-confidence.

(4) No.

(5) Public trust, professionalism and ethical conduct are non-negotiable standards in DETIR. Strict compliance for all officers to the department's Code of Conduct is non-negotiable as is Directive 1/96—Declaration of Interests: Chief Executives

459. TAFE

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (4/8/98)—

- (1) Will he table the cost benefit analysis and other documentary materials underpinning his decision to abolish TAFE's Strategic Centre and the two TAFE General Manager positions?
- (2) Will he also table all communications, (e.g., letters, E-Mail, memorandums), between himself, his Director-General and Unions in relation to these decisions and also all communications between his Director-General and other stake holders including unions, TAFE managers and staff?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98):

- (1) These materials do not exist. The decision allows for staff to be placed in TAFE Institutes to reduce the level of overheads and to enhance the delivery of services.
- (2) Attached for you information is a copy of the communication.

460. Burnett River

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (4/8/98)—

With reference to the investigations and studies being undertaken on the Burnett River for additional water storage—

- (1) When will these studies be completed?
- (2) If the investigations and studies are favourable, when can we expect to see the commencement of construction of a major storage on the Burnett River?
- (3) When can we expect it to be completed?
- (4) How will the storage be financed?

Mr WELFORD (1/9/98):

(1) My Department of Natural Resources is progressing a number of investigations in the Burnett Region to assess both shorter and longer term options for provision of additional water supplies. As part of its commitment to integrated sustainable use of our resources, the Department of Natural Resources is considering if best and most efficient use is being made of present water resources.

Preliminary studies on many of these proposals will be completed by December this year. As a longer term option the Burnett River Catchment Study will report on a range of storage proposals including a possible storage on the Lower Burnett River. A report on this Study should be available by July next year.

(2) Preliminary appraisal of sites should be completed this year, however they must then be considered in the context of the other options in the catchment as part of the Burnett River Catchment Study. Any recommended options for major storages would then be subjected to more detailed planning and impact assessment prior to submission to Government for approval to construct. For any major storage, it will be necessary to await the outcomes of a Water Allocation and Management Plan (WAMP) process which is presently scheduled for completion in the year 2000. If approved by Government, design and commencement of construction could follow i.e. in the year 2001.

(3) A major storage on the Burnett River, if feasible, would take a minimum of two years to construct.

(4) If such a storage were part of the preferred strategy for the catchment, a range of funding arrangements could be considered by Government. Those considerations cannot properly commence until a preferred water supply strategy including likely costs and beneficiaries is adopted.

461. Inglewood, Agronomist

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Primary Industries (4/8/98)—

With reference to the Goss Labor Government's failure to replace the Department of Primary Industries' agronomist located at Inglewood until 1990, leaving the area's farmers without this service until replaced by the Borbidge Government in 1998—

How can he guarantee this position will be maintained in Inglewood by the Beattie Government?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/98): The DPI Farming Systems Institute transferred Mr Phillip Burrill, Extension Agronomist, to Inglewood in July 1998.

Prior to this, the Director, Farming Systems Institute met with the local community and reached agreement that the position would be reviewed in 6 months and 12 months to ensure local needs were being met and the wider needs of field crop agriculture were also being met.

The DPI Farming Systems Institute is committed to meeting the needs of all Queensland broadside crop producers and relies on the Farming Systems Board for advice.

462. Mudgeeraba Police Station; Nerang Police Station

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (4/8/98)—

What is the current level at 1 June 1998, at Mudgeeraba and Nerang Police Stations of (a) authorised strength and ranks, (b) current vacancies, (c) total number of vehicles and type allocated and (d) monthly overtime available and used?

Mr BARTON (3/9/98):

Mudgeeraba Police Station

(a) The current authorised staffing levels at 1 June 1998, for the Mudgeeraba Police Station were:

1 Senior Sergeant

2 Sergeants

20 Constables/Senior Constables

(b) Current Vacancies:

Vacancies 5—offset by first year constables and 1 surplus sergeant

(c) Total number of vehicles and type allocated:

2 sedans and 1 station wagon detailed in the Gold Coast District Education and Training Office based at Mudgeeraba

(d) Monthly overtime available and used:

Overtime in the South Eastern Region is allocated on a yearly basis.

Average allocated per month: 33.30 hours

Average used per month: 36.08 hours

Nerang Police Station

(a) The current authorised staffing levels at 1 June 1998, for the Nerang Police Station were:

1 Senior Sergeant

3 Sergeants

18 Constables/Senior Constables

(b) Current Vacancies:

Vacancies 2—offset by the first year constables.

(c) Total number of vehicles and type allocated:

3 vehicles—2 sedans and 1 4WD (additional supplied on 20 March 1998)

(d) Monthly overtime available and used:

Overtime in the South Eastern Region is allocated on a yearly basis.

Average allocated per month: 38 hours

Average used per month: 37.5 hours

463. Nursing Home Personnel

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Health (4/8/98)—

With reference to concerns expressed by personnel working in nursing homes regarding the requirement for a Certificate 3 by the year 2000 and proposed Carers Course—

Will she explain (a) the ramifications of Certificate 3, (b) what pre-requisite training will be required, (c) what qualifications will be achieved and (d) what will be the cost of these courses to individual personnel?

Mrs EDMOND (1/9/98):

(a) The Certificate III in Aged Care is a nationally accredited course that is offered in flexible delivery mode and is fully funded. There is no legislative requirement that all staff be qualified by the year 2000. There is a Federal Legislative requirement that all Residential Aged Care facilities, be accredited by 1 January 2001, including State Government Nursing Homes.

(b) There are generally no prerequisites. However, some training providers require participants in their courses to have attained a First Aid Certificate. In

some instances assistance is provided with numeracy and literacy skills to those participants who require such assistance.

(c) A Certificate III in Aged Care. Courses comprise 10 modules and address theoretical and practical aspects in the delivery of care to residents in aged care facilities.

(d) There is no cost to participants. Course costs are fully met and backfilling funds have been provided where required in State Government Nursing Homes. Some staff have volunteered to undertake a portion of the course in their own time to minimise the effect on residents in State Government Nursing Homes. This demonstrates the commitment of staff towards self improvement and to gaining skills necessary to meet the Commonwealth's Care Standards.

464. Primary Industries Department, Staffing

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (4/8/98)—

With reference to staffing levels within the Department of Primary Industries at 29 June 1998—

- (1) What is the total number of staff employed by the Department of Primary Industries?
- (2) What are the staff numbers employed in each of the department's five regions—south east, south, central, north and west?
- (3) What are the staff numbers employed in each of the department's seven divisions—Policy and Legal Services, Animal and Plant Health Services, Corporate Performance, Rural industry Business Services, Agriculture Industry Development, Forestry and Fisheries?
- (4) What is the breakdown of staff numbers from each of the seven divisions across each of the five regions?
- (5) What staffing changes have been made since 29 June 1998?
- (6) What changes are anticipated to staffing numbers across each of the regions and each of the divisions?
- (7) Will he give a commitment that staffing numbers will not decrease during this Government's term of office?
- (8) Will he give a commitment that staffing numbers will be at least maintained in rural and regional centres?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/98):

(1) The total number of staff employed by the Department of Primary Industries as at 29 June 1998 was 4272.

(2) The number of staff employed in each of the Department's five regions and the Brisbane Central Office are: Brisbane Central Office—1137; Central region—256; South East region—1497; North region—769; South region—504; and West region—109.

(3) The number of staff employed in each of the Department's seven divisions is shown in the table below.

(4) The breakdown of staff numbers from each division across each of the five regions and the Brisbane Central Office are detailed in the table below.

NUMBERS OF STAFF as at 29 JUNE 1998

WORK DIVISIONS (includes Institutes)	BCO	Central	South East	North
Policy And Legal Services	43	0	0	0
Corporate Performance	113	6	21	14
Rural Industries Business Services	171	23	30	26
Agriculture Industry Development	180	141	557	209
Animal And Plant Health Service	57	26	173	249
Fisheries	60	21	140	133
DPI Forestry	191	30	568	128

WORK DIVISIONS (includes Institutes)	South	West	Total
Policy And Legal Services	0	0	43
Corporate Performance	9	6	169
Rural Industries Business Services	45	11	306
Agriculture Industry Development	322	57	1466
Animal And Plant Health Service	60	30	595
Fisheries	2	2	358
DPI Forestry	57	1	975

(does not include staff in Corporate Services Agency, Office of the Director-General, Rural Service Coordination, Rural Industries Export Development and Rural Economic Policy)

(5) Since 29 June 1998 minimal staffing changes have been made.

(6) It is anticipated that there will be minimal changes to staffing numbers across Regions and Business Groups.

(7) This Government is committed to maximising rural employment. The staffing of DPI is a part of this commitment.

(8) This Department intends to maintain its emphasis on staffing in rural and regional centres.

465. Buderim, Police Station

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (4/8/98)—

- (1) When will a police station be constructed in the Buderim area in the north coast region?
- (2) What is its probable location and anticipated cost?

Mr BARTON (3/9/98):

(1) Population growth and other relevant statistics in the North Coast Region area have indicated a future need for a police station at Buderim. The Assistant Commissioner North Coast Region has identified this need and placed it on the capital works program for consideration some time at a date yet to be determined within the context of policing needs throughout the state.

(2) A location for a new police station at Buderim has not been determined. It is anticipated that the new

facility would be similar to the recently completed Palm Beach station and could cost between \$1.5m and \$2m (based on 1998 costs).

466. Ms P. Hanson and One Nation, Police Protection

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (4/8/98)—

- (1) What is the total cost to date of supplying Queensland police to protect Pauline Hanson and One Nation?
- (2) How many police from the Logan area have been diverted from other duties to protect Pauline Hanson and One Nation?
- (3) Has any One Nation member of the Queensland Parliament sought similar privileges?

Mr BARTON (3/9/98):

- (1) Total Indicative Cost: \$110,476.30 (refer to Schedule A).

Due to the short time frame given to obtain this information, it should only be used as an indication of the resources utilised by the Queensland Police Service to police Pauline Hanson and One Nation rallies.

From the information available the Honourable the Member should note that the Queensland Police Service does not normally collate specific information of this nature, however, searches of records reveal the above information which should be considered as indicative costs only.

- (2) There has been one instance where staff have been specifically rostered to provide a public order function. This occurred on the 21 March 1998 at Beenleigh when Ms Pauline Hanson attended the launch of a One Nation branch which also involved the nomination of candidates for the State election.

An Operation Order was prepared and involved 36 staff from Logan District and 6 members of the Public Safety Response Team. All staff attended a briefing at Beenleigh at 4.30pm. An initial threat assessment was made of the venue at 5.30pm. Subsequently 28 district staff were returned to normal duties with 8 members remaining. Six PSRT officers left early to attend to a demonstration outside Police Headquarters and returned about 6pm. These officers remained for about 2 hours before standing down and returning to Brisbane.

There were no serious incidents.

On the 25 July 1998, two general duties parole crews were called to assist with a group of suspect persons at a function attended by Ms Pauline Hanson. The crews attended for approximately 15 to 20 minutes and then returned to normal duties. One District Inspector who had been rostered supervisory duties in the district during the evening conducted and initial threat assessment at 6pm and noted that no police response was required.

- (3) There is no record of any One Nation member or candidate seeking any similar privileges.

467. Global Classrooms Program

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (4/8/98)—

With reference to the Coalition's Global Classrooms Program, involving the Connect-Ed project, Schooling 2001 and Local Area Networks—

Does he intend to implement the program in full and on schedule?

Mr WELLS (13/8/98): The Global Classroom Program was originally funded for internet access for schools, which was subsequently incorporated into the Connect-Ed project. This project is continuing to be implemented in full and on schedule. Targets and total funding associated with the Schooling 2001 project are also unaltered. The Local Area Networks project is a departmentally funded initiative and will continue to proceed according to the availability of funds.

468. Tilt Train

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (4/8/98)—

- (1) Will he confirm the Government's intention to progress the \$122m diesel tilt train proposal operating 20 hour schedules between Brisbane and Cairns?
- (2) What advice has he received from Queensland Rail regarding the cost estimates of such a proposal and, in particular, regarding the mandatory safety requirements of such a proposal?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/9/98):

- (1) This Government is firmly committed to proceeding with the promised diesel tilt train project to Cairns and funding is being allocated in the 1998/99 State Budget to allow a commencement on this project.

(2) The currently proposed project will involve the acquisition of 2 x 10 car tilt trains to operate between Brisbane and Cairns. The allocated budget is \$122m in 1998\$. These trains will partially replace existing Sunlander services. The existing infrastructure, particularly north of Rockhampton is part of Queensland Rail's business in rail freight and is expected to be progressively upgraded. The proposed new tilt trains will be in a position to take advantage of this, with higher speeds and reduced trip times.

469. Hospital Rebuilding Program, Capital Charge

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health

As Labor promised to drop the capital charge from the hospital rebuilding program—

How much is this going to cost, where is the money coming from and will she guarantee that this money is not coming from new initiative money?

Mrs EDMOND (1/9/98): The cost of abolishing the capital charge, based on Queensland Health's scheduled drawdown of funds which are subject to the capital charge is \$165.216M up to 2001-02.

The cost of abolishing the capital charge will be met from the total resources available to the Government. Labor's abolition of the capital charge means that hospitals do not have to pay a tax that would have resulted in direct budget cuts and cuts to service delivery.

The Coalition government's capital charge would have exhausted almost all growth funds for as long as the charge was in place. This would have meant that there could be no funding for new initiatives, no recurrent funding for services at Noosa and Robina Hospitals, and no provision of increased services to meet increased demand, all of which are currently funded from the growth funds.

All Queensland residents will benefit significantly by the removal of this unfair tax on health services.

470. Landsborough Police Station

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (4/8/98)—

With reference to reports that he is to proceed with the building and staffing of a police station at Beerwah and due to the fact that there is considerable concern in the Landsborough community that their police station will be closed or downgraded—

Will he guarantee that (a) the Landsborough Police Station will not be closed either now or at a future date, (b) staff numbers of police officers will not be reduced either now or in the future and (c) the new increased allocation by the former Coalition Government of two extra police officers for Landsborough Police Station will continue?

Mr BARTON (3/9/98):

(a) Following the opening of the new 24-hour Police Station at Beerwah, this Government guarantees that an appropriate police presence will be maintained in Landsborough that will include police officers and support staff.

(b) & (c) It is anticipated that the Beerwah Police Station will commence operation no later than July 2000. The Queensland Police Service is not due to consider the issue of exact staffing levels until closer to that date.

471. TAFE

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (4/8/98)—

(1) What are the details of the precise financial status of (a) each TAFE Institute, (b) each TAFE College and each TAFE Campus and (c) TAFE Queensland as a whole?

(2) Why did he give an unconditional commitment to bail out any college/institute that was overspent before he ascertained the reasons for such expenditure?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98):

(1) The financial status of TAFE Queensland as a whole and of each TAFE Institute is part of the TAFE Review currently under way. Precise financial figures are not available because reports on TAFE's budget position include prepayments against user choice

and competitive funded contracts, and special supplementation and budget transfers considered to be 'bail outs'. These prepayments and 'bail outs' mask the fact that a number of Institutes and TAFE Queensland completed the 1997/98 financial year with an unadjusted 'expenditure'.

The details at a TAFE College and Campus level are not available.

(2) There is no unconditional commitment to provide additional funding.

472. Directors-General

Dr WATSON asked the Premier (4/8/98)—

Will he provide, for each Director-General (or Acting Director-General) or equivalent, a list identifying the business and other organisations with which each has had significant dealings or association during the past five years?

Mr BEATTIE (31/8/98): The Public Service Act 1996 prescribes that all chief executives provide a declaration of interests to their departmental Ministers, setting out the information required under a directive of the Public Service Commissioner.

Directive 1/96 lists items such as investments, shares, bonds (all in excess of \$5,000), liabilities, real estate, directorships of a public or private company or any employment by a public or private company.

There has never been a retrospective requirement for chief executive officers to provide information with respect to dealings or associations during years preceding any public service employment.

I do not propose to survey chief executive officers seeking information, beyond that which is legislatively required.

473. Primary Industries Department, Budget and Staffing

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (4/8/98)—

(1) Will the budget for the department be maintained at its current level?

(2) Will there be changes within the department's expenditure; if so, can those changes be identified?

(3) Will there be changes with staffing levels; if so, where will these changes occur?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/98):

(1) Details will be provided when the Budget is brought down in September.

(2) Full details of expenditure will be provided as part of the Budget Papers.

(3) It is anticipated that there will be minimal changes to staffing numbers across Regions and Business Groups.

474. State Development Centres

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (4/8/98)—

With reference to the establishment of regional offices as part of the Department of State Development and Trade—

- (1) What is the role of these regional offices?
- (2) What are the boundaries for each of these regional offices?
- (3) In what cities will each regional office be located?
- (4) What budget will be provided to each regional office?
- (5) How many staff will be provided for each regional office?

Mr ELDER (3/9/98):

(1) The State Development Centres will provide effective delivery of departmental services to enhance the growth and sustainability of Queensland business and industry.

The Department's State Development Centres will provide business advice, business information, business development and project facilitation services to clients across the state. These services will include:

provision of basic business advice/information ie brochures, inquiries, general information and referral to other professionals or agencies who can assist;

promotion of regional development policies and goals;

sale of business publications;

delivery of seminars and workshops to intenders and established business operators;

introduction of investors to local companies, networking local companies, assisting business through government processes;

provision of investment advice and identification and promotion of trade opportunities;

assist and encourage relocation of businesses from other states;

provision of incentives to stimulate business development, business growth and economic development through schemes such as Regional Business Development Scheme, Enterprise Development, Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme;

management of industrial estates;

participation in local forums/development issues.

sponsorship of local events.

(2-5) No final decisions have been made on issues relating to State Development Centres. While the Government finalises those arrangements the offices of the former departments are operating within the framework of the new Department.

Budgets and staffing levels will only be finalised in the context of the State Budget.

475. Northwatch

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (5/8/98)—

Will he ensure the \$3.1m allocated over the next four years for Northwatch is preserved and increased, if necessary, to detect incursions of exotic plant and animal diseases should they occur?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/98): The Government has allocated funds for the Northwatch project to continue as proposed and be enhanced as needed. The Government recognises the importance of detecting incursions of exotic plant and animal diseases at an early stage.

476. Sugar Industry

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (5/8/98)—

With reference to the sugar industry review and the new sugar industry bill which organisations within the sugar industry are anticipating to be in place from 1 January 1999—

- (1) Have all the sugar industry working group reports been finalised; if not, which ones remain outstanding, for what reasons do they remain outstanding and when are they likely to be finalised?
- (2) What is the progress of the Sugar Industry Review Implementation Committee and the legislation committee?
- (3) Which issues remain to be resolved prior to the final drafting of the new bill?
- (4) What impediments exist for the introduction of the bill?
- (5) Will he give an indication of when he will introduce the new bill to this Parliament?
- (6) What action will he take in the event of any impediments or unresolved issues to ensure the bill reaches Parliament this year in order to take effect from 1 January 1999?
- (7) Will he provide an assurance the bill will be brought before Parliament this year to meet the 1 January 1999 deadline?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/98):

(1) No. Most working group reports have now been finalised but two remain outstanding. Industry stakeholders have not been able to reach agreement on cane supply and processing issues and so the report of the Cane Supply and Processing Working Group will remain inconclusive. A draft position on Export Parity Pricing and Innovation was tabled at the meeting of the Implementation Committee on 21 August 1998 and will be distributed for comment to industry stakeholders in the near future.

(2) The Implementation Committee and the Legislation Committee continue to meet and to oversee development of new legislation, which, it is anticipated, will be available in draft form for consultation as soon as practicable. Progress remains contingent on industry support for resolution of outstanding issues.

(3) Outstanding issues, which are currently being resolved, relate primarily to cane supply and processing arrangements, specifically transferability of cane production area and individual agreements.

There is also a number of marketing issues that require industry resolution.

(4) The main impediment to progress at this stage is lack of industry consensus on outstanding issues. Additional impediments may arise if changes to the legislation, required to address industry concerns, are at variance with original report recommendations. The recommendations as a whole were given in principle support by the Queensland Government in late 1996 and by the Federal Government early in 1997.

(5) Provided issues referred to in the answers to questions one to four can be resolved, I am still hopeful of introducing the new bill to Parliament before the end of the year.

(6) I have made my Department aware that I consider the Sugar Bill to have high priority. The Department of Primary Industries continues to devote the necessary resources to the Sugar Industry Legislation project to meet drafting timeframes.

I have instructed departmental officers to liaise closely with the sugar industry organisations and with other Government agencies, so that issues can be addressed with a view to all deadlines being met in order for the new legislation to take effect from 1 January 1999.

(7) It is inappropriate, at this stage, to be giving assurances about introduction of the bill. A number of key provisions in the proposed bill remain contentious and industry support has not yet been secured.

I do give my assurance that I will be making every effort to affect closure on some of these issues, which have continued, unresolved for the past 18 months.

477. Millers Timber Yard

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (5/8/98)—

- (1) Will he immediately give a clear go ahead for Millers Timber Yard at Cooktown in view of the fact that all issues relating to environmental and Native Title issues, I am led to believe, have been resolved to the agreement of all concerned?
- (2) Is he aware that there are six jobs at stake and that the frustration is not justified?
- (3) On what evidence did he initially ask Millers Timber Yard to stop logging based on the fact that logging could be a threat to endangered species?
- (4) How does he know this?

Mr WELFORD (1/9/98):

(1) Millers Timber Yard was operating on Timber Reserve 165 under revised interim sale conditions while the results of an environmental were analysed. A proper environmental assessment had not been adequately investigated and resolved prior to the sale. This highlights the previous Coalition Government's complete failure to comply with the basic assessments necessary to improve

environmental management processes in this State. The decision to properly review the environmental values of the area and the likely impact of logging is a responsible and necessary part of sound environmental management, which unfortunately was not insisted upon by the previous Government prior to initiating the timber sale process. I have now recommended to the Minister for Primary Industries further conditions, to be placed upon the sale.

(2) I am aware that the employment provided by Millers Timber Yard is important to the local economy, and with this in mind put in place arrangements to ensure that the company has been able to continue to access timber while the assessment was completed and considered. Jobs will be destroyed in the long term if our forest resources are not wisely managed.

(3) & (4) Advice from both my Departments confirmed that although the timber sale and harvesting plan had been determined after negotiation with some interested parties, there had not been an adequate in-field pre-harvesting inspection in respect of nature conservation values. This was despite (1) advice provided by the Department of Environment and Heritage to the Department of Natural Resources in November 1997 of the possible presence of several significant rare or threatened wildlife species, including Bennetts Tree Kangaroo, Northern Quoll, and several stream dwelling frogs; and (2) the Department of Environment and Heritage's recorded interest in the site due to the proximity of the adjacent Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

In view of these issues, it was essential that there be some further assessment before the harvesting operation progressed further. The assessment, has confirmed my concern about the need to moderate harvesting pending the further examination. I have been most appreciative of Mr Miller's cooperation in this regard.

478. Chevron Gas Pipeline

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (5/8/98)—

With reference to an article in The Courier Mail of 28 July in which he was quoted as saying the Chevron gas pipeline was the Beattie Government's highest development priority and to support that stance he said: "It's not just a gas pipeline. It is probably the lifeblood for all these communities that have been struggling with very high unemployment rates between the far north and Gladstone"—

- (1) Is he oblivious to the population drift and need for new economic activity in the northern Darling Downs area and does he not realise that area of Queensland probably has suffered more than the coastal strip of North Queensland?
- (2) Will he assure this House that the cost of electricity to be generated by generators using Chevron gas will not be significantly dearer than electricity generated by coal fired power stations in the Surat Basin area?

Mr ELDER (4/9/98):

(1) The Government is committed to the PNG Gas Pipeline project as it is a strategically important infrastructure development for the State. Not only will it deliver new competitive electricity generation in the north, it will also provide industry with other energy options and competitively priced industrial feedstock. These are vital for further industrial development in both north and central Queensland.

The Government is committed to providing jobs for all Queenslanders, not just those in certain regions. The pipeline will provide benefits over a large area of the State and all Queenslanders will benefit.

(2) The price of electricity to Queensland will not be affected by the cost of generation of any particular power station whether it uses gas, coal or some other source of energy as all power stations will sell their electricity into the same market.

The PNG gas fired power stations will therefore have to compete with other power sources to sell their electricity into this market. This is the same market that coal fired power stations throughout the State will be selling into. High cost producers either have to reduce sales of lower priced energy or accept a lower rate of return.

Consumers can expect competition to drive prices down, not up, and these reduced prices will benefit the whole State.

479. Palm Beach, Noise Barriers

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/8/98)—

What further measures are being taken (or planned) for better noise amelioration measures along the Pacific Highway at Palm Beach between Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creeks?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/9/98): Noise barriers constructed in conjunction with the recent duplication of the Pacific Highway at Palm Beach between Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creeks generally have been effective in reducing highway traffic noise to below the Department of Main Roads' guidelines for controlling road traffic noise.

Most of the public complaints about the effectiveness of these noise barriers appear to have stemmed from somewhat unrealistic expectations by the public in respect of the improvement in noise environment resulting from installation of such road traffic noise barriers.

Current highway traffic noise monitoring at complaint locations shows further noise barrier measures are required for a few dwellings along the north-eastern side of the highway between Tallebudgera Creek and Palm Beach Avenue.

These additional works are currently under design and are programmed for construction before the end of this year.

480. Health Portfolio, Election Commitments

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health—

Will she outline every written and verbal commitment that she and her party gave prior to coming to Government, to Unions representing Health Department personnel as well as to non-Government organisations in the health arena?

Mrs EDMOND (1/9/98): Prior to coming to Government, the Labor Party's commitments in relation to health were set out in the policy document entitled "New Directions Statement—Queensland Labor—Better Health". This document was tabled in Parliament on 19 May 1998.

481. Callide Power Station; Tarong Power Station

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (5/8/98)—

With reference to his recent media comments that the proposed upgrades of Callide and Tarong Power Stations threaten the viability of the Chevron gas pipeline project—

How do the upgrades of Callide and Tarong Power Stations, which will create 1,400 jobs for people living on the Northern Downs and South Burnett, threaten a gas pipeline from Papua New Guinea?

Mr ELDER (4/9/98): As the Honourable Member is well aware, there is already a signed deal for expansion of the Callide power station. This Government supports that expansion. I have never criticised that expansion. I have criticised the timing of the announcement of that deal for base political motives, by the former Government, and I have also expressed concern about the sequencing of various power projects.

The Honourable Member also knows well that there is no firm proposal for a Tarong expansion, merely an agreement to look at developing a proposal. There are no guarantees on this project and it is wrong and offensive to pretend, as the Honourable Member and some of his colleagues have, that the Tarong expansion is a done deal. It is your constituents who are being misled by you on this project. Many of the 1,400 jobs the Honourable Member refers to exist nowhere other than in his own press releases. Let me assure the Honourable Member that, if the Tarong expansion stacks up, it will have this Government's support.

482. Sunshine Coast, Police Resources

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (5/8/98)—

What is the current level at 1 June at Cooroy, Eumundi, Noosa and Coolum Police Stations of (a) authorised strength and ranks including civilians, (b) current vacancies, (c) total numbers of vehicles and (d) monthly overtime available and used?

Mr BARTON (4/9/98):

Cooroy Police Station

(a) The current authorised staffing levels at 1 June 1998, for the Cooroy Police Station were:

- 1 Sergeant
- 3 Constables/Senior Constables
- 1 Civilian (part-time)

(b) Current Vacancies:

Vacancies—nil.

(c) Total number of vehicles allocated:

1 vehicle

(d) Overtime—available and used:

Allocation for 1997/98 year: 200 hours

Usage for 1997/98 year: 222 hours

On that basis—

Average allocated per month: 16.67 hours

Average used per month: 18.5 hours

Eumundi Police Station

(a) The current authorised staffing levels at 1 June 1998, for the Eumundi Police Station were:

- 1 Constable/Senior Constable

(b) Current Vacancies:

Vacancies—nil—additional Sergeant position has been approved

(c) Total number of vehicles allocated:

1 vehicle

(d) Overtime—available and used:

Allocation for 1997/98 year: 0 hours

Usage for 1997/98 year: 0 hours

On that basis—

Average allocated per month: 0 hours

Average used per month: 0 hours

Noosa Police Station

(a) The current authorised staffing levels at 1 June 1998, for the Noosa Police Station were:

- 1 Senior Sergeant
- 4 Sergeants
- 22 Constables/Senior Constables
- 4 Civilians

(b) Current Vacancies:

Vacancies—2, (filled with surplus officers within district)

(c) Total number of vehicles allocated:

3 vehicles—2 sedans and 1 4WD

(d) Overtime—available and used:

Allocation for 1997/98 year—280 hours

Usage for 1997/98 year—589.5 hours

On that basis—

Average allocated per month: 23.34 hours

Average used per month: 49.13 hours

Coolum Police Station

(a) The current authorised staffing levels at 1 June 1998, for the Coolum Police Station were:

- 1 Sergeant
- 5 Constables/Senior Constables
- 1 Civilian

(b) Current Vacancies:

Vacancies—nil

(c) Total number of vehicles allocated:

1 vehicle

(d) Overtime—available and used:

Allocation for 1997/98 year: 140 hours

Usage for 1997/98 year: 202.75 hours

On that basis—

Average allocated per month: 11.67 hours

Average used per month: 16.9 hours

483. Cairns/Townsville, Boarding House Units

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (5/8/98)—

What is the (a) number of boarding house units proposed for Townsville and Cairns, (b) expected timing of construction and (c) anticipated costs of both programs?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/9/98):

(a) Construction has commenced on 14 units of boarding house accommodation in Townsville and on 40 units of boarding house accommodation in Cairns. There are no plans at this time for further boarding house developments in Townsville or Cairns.

(b) The completion date for construction of the 14 units in Townsville is November 1998, and the completion date for construction of the 40 units in Cairns is January 1999.

(c) The total construction cost of the project in Townsville inclusive of land, is \$1,241,256. The total construction cost of the project in Cairns inclusive of land, is \$3,591,940.

484. Queensland Construction Industry Skills Centre

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (5/8/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Construction Industry Skills Centre—

(1) Will he table the report by independent management consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, in relation to the Queensland Construction Industry Skills Centre at Salisbury?

(2) Will he implement the recommendations of these independent and highly reputable management consultants?

(3) In addition to implementing the recommendations will he commission an independent skills audit of training currently being provided through the centre?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98):

(1) The report has been submitted to the Board of Queensland Construction Industry Skills Centre and is under consideration.

(2) The report is under consideration.

(3) No.

485. TAFE; Mr K. Bannikoff

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (5/8/98)—

- (1) What are the financial arrangements under which his department has engaged Kim Bannikoff as an "independent" consultant including total cost of the consultancy, the tender process engaged in and the details of other unsuccessful tenderers?
- (2) Does the tendering process used comply fully with the State Purchasing Policy?
- (3) What formal financial management qualifications does the consultant have (eg, in accounting, financial auditing, commerce or economics)?
- (4) What is Mr Bannikoff's former work history in the department (eg, title of position, classification level, dates)?

Mr BRADY (4/9/98):

(1) The consultant has been engaged at a rate of \$900 per day, for a period of 12 weeks (54 days) totalling \$48,600 plus \$3,000 for travel and "out of pocket" expenses. The tender process engaged followed the guidelines of the State Purchasing Policy. Details of unsuccessful tenderers are commercial-in-confidence.

(2) Yes.

(3) The consultant's qualifications met the tender requirements.

(4) General Manager, Office of Vocational Education, Training and Employment Commission, SES 2, 17 May 1993 to 13 June 1994.

486. TAFE; Mr K. Bannikoff

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (5/8/98)—

With reference to the inquiry into the financial viability of the TAFE system that he recently announced to the Queensland Teachers Union—

- (1) What time frame has been established for the inquiry and for independent consultant Kim Bannikoff?
- (2) What are the terms of reference for Mr Bannikoff's inquiry?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98):

(1) 12 weeks.

(2) Attached for your information are the terms of reference of Mr Bannikoff's inquiry.

487. Robina and Helensvale Ambulance/Fire Stations

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Emergency Services (5/8/98)—

- (1) What is the current level (at 1 June) at Robina and Helensvale Ambulance/Fire Stations of (a) authorised strength and ranks and (b) current vacancies?

- (2) What is the total number of vehicles and type allocated at the stations?
- (3) What are the response times to the areas within their jurisdiction?

Mrs ROSE (3/9/98):

(1) There are no ambulance stations located at Robina or Helensvale on the Gold Coast. Helensvale Fire Station has eight Officers and sixteen Firefighters with no vacancies. Robina Fire Station has four Officers and 24 Firefighters with no vacancies.

(2) Helensvale Fire Station has 1 Firepac 9 series—3500 litre, 1 Emergency Tender—Mazda 1300. Robina Fire Station has 1 Firepac 3 series—3500 litre Urban Pumper—9 Type Composite Rescue Vehicle, 1 Scania/Simon ST400 Telescopic Ladder Platform (40 metre length of sections).

(3) Helensvale Fire Station response times: Average Response Time—five minutes, Response to furthest location—fifteen minutes (Pimpama River), Response to Nerang—five minutes. Robina Fire Station response times: Average Response Time—five minutes, Response to furthest location—fifteen minutes (Austinville), Response to Nerang—seven minutes.

488. Los Angeles Trade Office

Mr MICKEL asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (5/8/98)—

- (1) What was the total set-up costs of the Los Angeles trade office?
- (2) How many full-time and part-time staff are attached to the office?
- (3) What is the value of trade to Queensland in each year since the office reopened?
- (4) How does this amount compare with other overseas trade offices?

Mr ELDER (4/9/98):

(1) The total set up costs for the Los Angeles office, which reopened in August 1996 were A\$238,358.

(2) There are three full-time staff and one part-time staff member in the Los Angeles office.

(3)

1996/7 Exports to US (A\$)—\$711 m (increase of 16.2% over previous year)

Imports from US—\$1,616m

Total Trade—\$2,327 m

1997/8 Exports to US (A\$)—\$997 m (increase of 40.17% over previous year)

Imports from US—Not available till Sept/Oct 1998

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (1997/8 data is preliminary figures)

(4) In 1997/8 the US had the highest percentage increase in exports (40.17%) over the previous year, of any of the other overseas offices.

489. Ambulance Service, Pensioners/Seniors Card Holders

Mrs E. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services (5/8/98)—

With reference to free ambulance services for pensioners and seniors card holders—

What coverage will be available for eligible persons when they travel interstate and how will people be assured of this continued, cross border coverage?

Mrs ROSE (3/9/98): The reciprocal rights that apply to subscribers will also apply to those on a pension, seniors card holders and their dependants in accordance with the current agreement among Australia's Ambulance authorities. This ensures that those who qualify for free service in Queensland and travel or holiday interstate will have reciprocal cover in any other state or territory in Australia. Ensuring that those eligible for free ambulance services retain reciprocal rights will require a simple regulatory change to deem them subscribers under the relevant Act.

490. Teacher Numbers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (5/8/98)—

With reference to the staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 July 1998 (a) what was the total number of teachers employed by Education Queensland, (b) how many were full-time teachers, (c) how many were part-time teachers, (d) how many were contract teachers, (e) how many were employed in each subprogram, by subprogram and (f) how many of these were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?
- (2) At 1 August 1998 (a) what was the total number of teachers employed by Education Queensland, (b) how many were full-time teachers, (c) how many were part-time teachers (d) how many were contract teachers, (e) how many were employed in each subprogram, by subprogram and (f) how many of these were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?

Mr WELLS (19/8/98): The information is provided as Attachment A with appropriate footnotes.

491. Prisoners, Drugs

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (5/8/98)—

Will he detail all drug related arrests and charges laid against prisoners since he came to office?

Mr BARTON (4/9/98): Statistics from 26 June 1998 to 25 August 1998 inclusive—

Possession of prohibited article—

- 1 person arrested on 1 charge (June 1998)
- 3 persons arrested on 3 charges (August 1998)

Possess Dangerous Drug—

- 4 persons arrested on 4 charges (June 1998)
- 10 persons arrested on 10 charges (July 1998)
- 10 persons arrested on 10 charges (August 1998)

Possess Utensil—

- 1 person arrested on 1 charge (July 1998)
- 1 person arrested on 1 charge (August 1998)

Supply Dangerous Drug—

- 2 persons arrested on 2 charges (June 1998)
- 3 persons arrested on 3 charges (July 1998)
- 1 person arrested on 1 charge (August 1998)

TOTAL

36 persons arrested on 36 drug related charges.

In addition to these matters a number of other drug related investigations have commenced during this period which may lead to charges and arrests in the future.

492. Stafford Heights, Public Works and Housing Department Land

Mr SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (5/8/98)—

- (1) What is the current status of the land known as 818 Rode Road, Stafford Heights?
- (2) What options for the land are favoured by the Department of Public Works and Housing and when might a decision be made about the development of this site?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/9/98):

(1) An application was submitted by the Department of Housing for "consideration in principle" for a preliminary plan of layout with the Brisbane City Council on 22 December 1997 and approved on 23 February 1998. The plan submitted sets aside approximately 26% (about 1.5ha) of the site for park and open space (the usual requirement being 10% of the total site area). The Department of Housing is yet to lodge a formal application for development approval with the Brisbane City Council.

(2) The Department favours selling the land on the open market for a residential subdivision which retains 1.5ha for park and open space as outlined above. But because of the change of government these plans are being reviewed. I'm aware of the Honourable Member's interest in this proposal and would welcome any submissions from him in relation to the future of this parcel of land.

493. Teacher Salaries

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Education (5/8/98)—

With reference to Education Queensland's payroll bill—

- (1) At 1 July 1998 (a) what was the total amount paid to teachers employed by Education Queensland, (b) what was the amount paid to

full-time teachers, (c) what was the amount paid to part-time teachers, (d) what was the amount paid to contract teachers, (e) what was the payroll bill for teachers in each subprogram, by subprogram and (f) what was the payroll bill for teachers on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?

- (2) At 1 August 1998 (a) what was the amount paid to teachers employed by Education Queensland, (b) what was the amount paid to full-time teachers, (c) what was the amount paid to part-time teachers (d) what was the amount paid to contract teachers, (e) what was the payroll bill for teachers in each subprogram, by subprogram and (f) what was the payroll bill for teachers on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the portfolio?

Mr WELLS (19/8/98): The information is provided as Attachment A with appropriate footnotes.

494. State Government Contracts; Road Funding

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (5/8/98)—

With reference to the Coalition commitment on gaining Government on 26 February 1996, to honour all the contracts put in place by the Labor Government—

Will he give the same commitment that contracts currently in place will be honoured by his Government and will he also ensure that the needs of Local Government will continue to be addressed in the area of road funding?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/9/98): All roadworks contracts put in place by the previous Government are being honoured and will continue to be honoured.

Employment is a key initiative of the Beattie Government. The Government will ensure that Local Government is fully consulted in the preparation of the Roads Implementation Program and the strategies which underpin it.

Main Roads will continue to give prime consideration to the needs of local employment in vulnerable rural areas in determining the basis upon which roadworks are delivered.

495. TAFE

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (6/8/98)—

With reference to his claim in Parliament on 5 August, that industry-funded training in the State's 16 institutes in 1997-98 declined from \$24.5 to \$16.3m—

- (1) What was the amount of industry funded training in the State's 16 TAFE institutes for 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?
- (2) What is the break-up of the above mentioned decline by campus, college and institute?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98): (1) & (2) Over the period 1992-93 to 1997-98, the amount of industry-funded training with each Institute of TAFE is listed at Attachment 1. Prior to 1992/93, it was not possible to discriminate industry funding from other receipts. This reporting requirement was introduced in 1992/93. The financial details at college and campus level are not available.

496. TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (6/8/98)—

With reference to his claim in the Parliament on 5 August, that a preliminary analysis has revealed a cost over-run of the TAFE Queensland budget of at least \$27.3m in 1997-98—

- (1) Will he detail to the House the specific areas within Queensland TAFE where the components of the above alleged deficit are to be found including the specific campuses, colleges, institutes and specific program areas?
- (2) Will he also detail to the House the budget over-runs for TAFE Queensland for 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?
- (3) Will he include specific break-ups as specified in (1) in relation to the requests for information contained in (2)?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98):

- (1) The deficit of \$27.3M comprised a special supplement of \$18.8M from Treasury for the payment of staff accepting Voluntary Early Retirements (see Attachment 1 for individual allocations) and an unadjusted cumulative deficit of \$8.5M (see details below). The financial details at college and campus level are not available.

Details are—

INSTITUTE OF TAFE—DEFICIT (\$M)

Southbank—1.6
Brisbane—2.7
Moreton—1.3
Barrier Reef—0.5
Tropical North—2.1
Southern Queensland—0.3

- (2) & (3) There were no budget overruns for TAFE Queensland for the period 1989-90 to 1995-96.

497. Prisoners, Sentences

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (6/8/98)—

With reference to current prisoner numbers—

- (1) How many people are currently incarcerated in Queensland prisons?
- (2) How many of these are serving terms of ten years or more who are not serving life sentences?
- (3) How many people are serving life sentences?
- (4) How many prisoners are serving time for committing a serious violent offence and how

many of these are serving a term of less than ten years?

Mr BARTON (7/9/98): With reference to current prisoner numbers as at 31 July 1998:

- (1) There are 4485 prisoners currently incarcerated in Queensland prisons.
- (2) 462 prisoners are serving terms of ten years or more but not life imprisonment.
- (3) 264 prisoners are serving life/indeterminate sentences.
- (4) A total of 2194 sentenced prisoners are serving time for committing the following violent offences against the person:

Homicide—409

Assault—511

Sexual Assault—645

Other against person—21

Robbery and extortion—608

TOTAL—2194

1495 prisoners, or 68 percent, are serving terms of less than ten years.

Under the "Serious Violent Offences" Amendment Act 1997, there are two (2) prisoners serving terms of imprisonment, who committed offence(s) and were sentenced after 1/7/1997.

498. Animal Health Research

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (6/8/98)—

With reference to the feasibility study examining the co-location of the animal health research, teaching and industry services of the Department of Primary Industries, CSIRO and the University of Queensland to a new, world class institute which the previous Coalition Government approved—

- (1) Is this study still under way; if so, when is the expected completion date?
- (2) Will he undertake to complete the examination of this concept with CSIRO and the University of Queensland?
- (3) Will he affirm his commitment to the concept, or otherwise?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/98):

(1) A steering group has been set up and a consultant engaged to undertake this study. It is anticipated the final report of the feasibility study will be completed within the next few weeks.

(2) I support the completion of the process outlined in 1 above.

(3) The proposal offers substantial potential benefits to Queensland's animal industries and to urban animal owners.

499. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (6/8/98)—

With reference to the Government's commitment to the 6,000 additional traineeships and 500 additional apprenticeships he plans to employ within the Queensland public sector—

- (1) How many of these trainees and apprentices will the Government train during the remainder of 1998?
- (2) How many will he train in 1999?
- (3) How many will he train in 2000?
- (4) How many (a) trainees and (b) apprentices will be allocated to each individual department?
- (5) What specific criteria has been developed to measure the actual training needs of each Government department or agency?
- (6) Will departments or agencies be advised that they are to continue employing their trainees or apprentices at the conclusion of the training program?

Mr BRADDY (3/9/98):

(1) The Jobs Policy Council has endorsed the allocation of 1400 additional trainees to State Government Departments and 600 trainees to Local Government and State Statutory Authorities for the 1998/99 financial year. A major recruitment drive will begin in October 1998.

(2) There will be 2000 trainees and 500 apprentices in training during 1999.

(3) There will be 2000 trained in 2000 and a further 2,000 trained in 2001. This would ensure the total figure of 6,000 additional trainees would be achieved. In terms of apprentices no additional apprentices would be engaged during 2000 as the full complement of 500 would have already been employed. As the nominal duration of an apprenticeship extends over a period of some years it is expected that the additional 500 apprentices would still be undertaking training during 2000.

(4) Quotas are in the process of being negotiated with each individual department.

(5) It will be up to each department to determine its specific training needs and to ensure adequate supervision and training is provided to trainees and apprentices. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed that will clearly define the department or agency's responsibilities.

(6) The Memorandum of Understanding will compel the particular department or agency to use its best endeavours to secure a favourable employment outcome for the apprentice/trainee on the completion of the training.

500. Dalby and Chinchilla, TAFE Facilities

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (6/8/98)—

With reference to a study carried out by Mr Dennis Long for the previous Minister which identified Dalby and district had the highest unmet TAFE needs in Queensland and as a result the last Borbidge Government, in June 1998, had allocated funding to construct a TAFE facility at Dalby and an annexe to

the Darling Downs Institute of TAFE at the Chinchilla State High School—a facility planned since 1988—

Will he give an assurance that these two projects will be provided in the 1998-99 Budget as planned, to ensure these districts are afforded equity in access to TAFE training?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98): It would be presumptuous of me to pre-empt the outcomes of the State budget with negotiations not yet finalised.

501. Giant Rat-tail Grass

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (6/8/98)—

With reference to the continuing threat of giant rat-tail grass in many parts of Queensland—

- (1) Will he continue the program started by previous Governments to control this threat to large areas of grassland?
- (2) What program does he consider will best achieve this goal?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/98):

- (1) The coordinated "Giant Rats Tail Grass Project" of my Department and the Department of Natural Resources will continue.

Currently the Giant Rats Tail Grass project is an integrated and coordinated effort between my Department's Queensland Beef Industry Institute, the Department of Natural Resources and University of Queensland.

- (2) I believe that the current integrated and coordinated Giant Rats Tail Grass Project is an excellent way to control the threat of this weed in Queensland. The current project is very broad, drawing on the skills of people in the community and several organisations. A coordinated and integrated approach such as this is critical to combating its threat.

502. Chevron Gas Pipeline

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (6/8/98)—

What level of financial assistance and other support is being provided by the State Government to the private companies involved in a bid to build a gas pipeline from Papua New Guinea?

Mr ELDER (4/9/98): No financial assistance or support is currently being provided to those companies involved in the PNG gas pipeline project.

As with other major projects the project is receiving facilitation and coordination assistance by officers of my Department and other relevant State Government Departments. These officers work closely with the companies involved to ensure that there are no unnecessary impediments to the project arising from the approvals and actions needed for a project of this size. Facilitation assistance has included the following:

Management of the State's requirements in a joint Commonwealth—Queensland Impact

Assessment Process scheduled for completion in September this year;

The recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Papua New Guinea, Australia and Queensland;

Establishing the necessary legislative regime to ensure that the proposed pipeline tariffs meet the requirements of competition policy;

Regulatory review of the proposed pipeline tariffs.

503. Sugarcane Smut

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (6/8/98)—

With reference to the serious situation with sugar cane smut now being found on the Australian continent at the Ord River in Western Australia and as one of the most effective methods of combating the fungal disease is to breed resistant varieties and the cost of the breeding program has been estimated by the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES) to require \$2m for 5 years and should sugar cane smut fungus be found in the Queensland crop, conservative estimates have indicated 30 per cent of the \$2 billion industry could be decimated and as substantial costs are now being incurred by the industry with BSES contingency plan—

With world prices for sugar in a precarious situation and in light of this pending disaster, is the Government prepared to fund a breeding program to reduce the impact of the disease should it be found in Queensland?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/98): The State Government supports BSES with an annual grant in aid amounting to \$3.8 million. Approximately \$1 million of this contribution goes towards the BSES breeding program, which costs \$2 million annually overall.

The varieties selected by the BSES are used all over Australia, so it is important that the costs of breeding are shared nationally. The State Government will support initiatives to strengthen the national breeding program.

504. Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast, Boarding House Units

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (6/8/98)—

What is (a) the number of boarding house units proposed for the Sunshine Coast and for the Gold Coast, (b) the expected timing of construction and (c) the anticipated costs of both programs?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/9/98):

(a) Land has been acquired in Nambour for the construction of up to 25 units of boarding house accommodation, and an 18 unit property has been acquired at Miami on the Gold Coast.

(b) It is anticipated that the construction of the units in Nambour will be completed by the end of the 1999/2000 financial year, and that the Miami property will be fully operational in September 1998.

(c) The land in Nambour was purchased for \$360,000, and the cost of construction has not yet been determined. The acquisition of the Miami property, inclusive of departmental costs and subsequent modifications, totalled \$1,675,710.

505. Toowoomba State High School

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Education (6/8/98)—

Will he outline what capital works funding has been allocated for future development of the Wilsonton Campus of the Toowoomba State High School particularly in relation to year 9 students in 1999 and year 10 students in 2000?

Mr WELLS (19/8/98): Wilsonton Campus of Toowoomba State High School will be provided with a Commerce Block, at an estimated cost of \$800,000, to accommodate the year 9 enrolments in 1999. This block includes a computer room, classrooms, as well as staffroom accommodation.

Planning is now under way to determine what additional facilities will be required to accommodate the year 10 enrolments in 2000. Sufficient facilities will be provided to cater for the increased enrolments at the school.

506. Millers Timber Yard

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (6/8/98)—

With reference to concerns of Millers Timber Yard, Timber Reserve 165—

- (1) On what information did he base his statement that there are "rare and threatened species known to exist on the site" (from his press release 30 July 1998) as, if such information existed formally, it would have been disclosed by the Department of Environment officers who were consulted during the initial investigations pertaining to the permit application (and is he aware that the area in question has been mined and used as a grazing lease in the past and therefore is not by any definition a pristine or untouched area)?
- (2) If he is so concerned about the area, its conservation values and the purported rare and endangered species, how can he justify a very short term and not at all conclusive appraisal as a basis for remaking a decision (that is, a comprehensive and authoritative species audit could not possibly be completed in a few days)?
- (3) As many people in the community who are operating on State Government permits and licenses are now wondering about the future security of their operations, does he also intend to reappraise the other timber reserve in Shiptons Flat (also close to Cooktown. The particular permit in question was investigated over a period of fourteen months)?
- (4) Why did he allow the permit to be issued by his department (late in July—approx 21st) and then attempt to rescind it only a few days later?

- (5) If he is so concerned about the conservation value of the area, will he be taking any action to stem the illegal extraction of water from the area by residents of the area surrounding the timber reserve?
- (6) What is the real boundary of Wet Tropics World Heritage as he has expressed concern that logging may occur within twenty metres of the boundary?
- (7) Does this mean that the boundary extends past the delineated boundary (ie is there an unofficial boundary which is only discovered when lease holders, freehold landowners or permit holders are told to cease their activities)?

Mr WELFORD (1/9/98):

(1) A large section of the Timber Reserve 165 site is already on the World Heritage List due to its outstanding natural and cultural values, including the presence of rare and threatened species. My concern arose not from any hidden information about those values, but the fact that at no time over the long period leading to this timber sale was any appraisal conducted of the environmental values of this specific sale area. In particular:

The Goss Government was committed to actively examining national park status for the entire Timber Reserve due to the general conservation value of the area as well as the specific values known to exist on specific sites

The previous Borbidge Government discontinued a number of plans to investigate state forests and timber reserves for their suitability as national park—including this one—and embarked on the current timber sale

Information regarding the possible existence of rare and threatened species on the sale area was referred to in a letter to me in early November 1997 from the previous Minister for Natural Resources, who also advised that this issue would be referred to the Department of Environment and Heritage and considered in the preparation of the sale

However, at the time of the sale approval, the previous government had neglected to properly assess the environmental values of the site.

(I am aware that part of the area has been strip mined in the past, and that part is subject to a grazing lease. However, the assessment has confirmed that the area also (1) takes in significant undisturbed coastal frontage onto the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, (2) includes significant undisturbed moist forest with wilderness value on the slopes of Mt Amos, and (3) provides a significant link between different surviving natural areas along the coast.)

(2) I requested another look at the environmental values of the sale area because it was inadequate that there had been no previous appraisal conducted by the Coalition Government which you were part of. Your suggestion that this assessment work would be somehow inadequate is a slight on the many dedicated departmental staff involved and issues at stake in this matter.

I am very grateful to the operator, Mr Miller, for his cooperation in being prepared to slow and amend his

harvesting operation, which has been fundamental to avoiding any irreversible impacts during this period.

(3) I am committed to improving the quality and transparency of all environmental assessment processes that impact on natural areas. I am concerned that processes such as were followed for this sale are increasingly going to be recognised as inadequate. The Government intends to review the approval processes in an open and accountable way, to provide greater certainty to both the general public and individual operators about the way in which public natural resources such as these are to be managed. If processes for maintaining environmental qualities can be improved in relation to existing operations, with the cooperation of those involved, then the whole community will benefit.

(4) The Department of Natural Resources approved the timber sale at a regional level on 21 July 1998. Under previously operating guidelines neither DNR senior management nor my office were notified of the decision. If I had been aware the sale was imminent, I would naturally have ensured the necessary appraisal was conducted prior to any decision. New procedures are under development to ensure that appropriate appraisals are conducted early in the decision-making process, especially for any areas with a history of being considered for possible World Heritage inclusion.

(5) Anyone with evidence of illegal activities on State land should naturally contact the Police Service and/or my Department or other responsible government agency, to enable the matter to be investigated in a manner appropriate to the particular circumstances.

(6) & (7) The boundary of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is as declared and identified on the relevant maps that are publicly available. However, it has long been known that public lands should be managed in a way that takes account of the management needs of bordering areas (public or private). Buffer zones are standard practice in timber production areas that border on areas such as national park or World Heritage. In this case the Harvesting Plan stipulated a 20-metre buffer. Mr Miller has agreed to implement a 100-metre buffer as an interim measure, along with other measures, to help minimise any potential adverse impacts pending a final decision. This has been an example of productive cooperation between government agencies and a private commercial operator, in attempting to resolve a difficult situation and make the best possible decision for the community as a whole.

507. Drummond Range, Rail Alignment

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (6/8/98)—

- (1) Will he confirm his commitment to the continuation of the Drummond Range rail alignment, which is essential for both safety and efficiency?
- (2) Will he confirm that funding for upgrading 14 kilometres of track over the range is required to

complete the project and that the necessary funds will be made available?

Mr BREDHAUER (2/9/98):

(1) Queensland Rail is currently undertaking a \$14 million realignment of 7.2km of trackwork along the eastern side of the Drummond Range. The civil works, including construction of a new concrete bridge over Medway Creek, are well advanced and are expected to be completed in October 1998. After completion of the civil formation and the Medway Creek bridge, trackwork will be laid on the new alignment by QR day labour forces, with completion of current works expected to be in February 1999. This work is committed and will be completed within the originally approved \$14 million budget.

(2) The original proposal was to realign approximately 14km of the existing substandard track between Bogantungan and Hannams Gap, with a budget estimated at \$14 million. When detailed design, planning and cost estimates were undertaken it became apparent that substantial additional funds would be required to upgrade all 14km of track.

The former Minister for Transport and Main Roads was aware of the Budget blow out for the project but made no funds available for its completion. In February 1998 Queensland Rail sought additional funding from Queensland Transport to complete the original proposal. The former Minister for Transport and Main Roads was advised of the request on 26 March 1998. No additional funds were allocated to this project during the former Minister's period of office.

Works remaining to complete the original proposal are a 3.3km section at the top of the range to Hannams Gap and 1.1km section at the Bogantungan end, including replacing the timber bridge over Grasstree Creek.

The estimated extra cost to complete the original scope is \$14 million and this is being considered in the context of overall transport priorities and budget limitations statewide. Train operations meantime will continue to operate under Queensland Rail's high safety standards on the track sections involved.

508. Boulia and Barcoo Shires, Electricity Supply

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (6/8/98)—

With reference to a Coalition Government commitment to extend grid power to properties in the Shires of Boulia and Barcoo—

Will he confirm his support for the provision of reticulated power to these property owners and that the Government will proceed with this project in this term of office?

Mr McGRADY (7/9/98): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Mitchell, I can advise as follows:

This Government is committed to assisting remote area households in meeting their energy costs. In particular, the Government's election policy platform included a commitment to reintroduce the Household

Remote Area Power System (HRAPS) Scheme to provide financial assistance to householders in remote areas who choose to install renewable components for their power systems.

Since taking office, I have asked the Department of Mines and Energy to review the previous Government's remote area power policy, particularly in the light of the Government's intention to implement the HRAPS Scheme. I have also asked that the requirements of remote rural working properties be considered as a priority. These issues will be addressed within the framework of an overall Government policy on electricity delivery to remote areas.

Finally, I would like to point out that the Labor Government has a history of assisting remote area households in meeting their energy costs. It was the previous Labor Government which first initiated the HRAPS policy in the mid 1990s. Assistance totalling \$3.6 million was provided under this policy to 490 remote households. Moreover, support of more than \$900,000 has been expended on four major stand alone remote area power supply systems on four properties in the Boulia shire in trials which were initiated when the Labor Government was previously in office.

509. Sunshine Coast, Police Resources

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (6/8/98)—

- (1) Will he confirm that eleven of the fifteen police trainees who were stationed on the Sunshine Coast have, since the election, been urgently either sent or are to be sent to Labor electorates, especially those incorporating the police stations of Cairns, Ipswich, Goodna and Acacia Ridge?
- (2) Will he guarantee that for every police trainee transferred he or she will be replaced?
- (3) Will he state the number of police officers allocated and in position on the Sunshine Coast at 1 June 1998 and at 1 August 1998?
- (4) How many police in total are to be transferred, when, dates of transfer and stations that they will be transferred to?
- (5) How many are to be replaced and when will they be replaced?

Mr BARTON (7/9/98):

(1) No. On 7 August 1998 a number of the state's first year constables became eligible for confirmation and permanent allocation to a station. Three (3) officers were relocated from the Sunshine Coast. Two (2) were reallocated to the Caboolture Police Station and one (1) was relocated to the Ipswich Police District. No officers from the Sunshine Coast District were sent to Acacia Ridge. A small number of officers were transferred from Labor and non-Labor electorates throughout the state; the bulk (11 officers) being drawn from the Logan Police District which covers my own electorate of Waterford. Officers were allocated to the Ipswich and Cairns Districts to urgently correct drastic shortages of

police in these districts which developed during the term of the previous Government.

(2) The Commissioner of Police 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 equitable distribution across all police districts. On 14 August 1998 ten (10) first year constables were allocated to the Sunshine Coast District.

(3) The actual police strength for the Sunshine Coast District at 1 June 1998 and 1 August 1998 was as follows:

	1/6/98	1/8/98
Sunshine Coast District	294	291

(4 & 5) It is not possible to answer these questions when one takes into account transfers in and out of the region as a result of promotions and lateral transfers. However, the end result is that there is a compensating effect which maintains the actual police strength at a relatively static number in the short term.

510. Gold Coast/Broadwater Area, Dredging Operations

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (6/8/98)—

With reference to the Gold Coast Harbours Authority and the dredging operations for the Broadwater area—

- (1) Will he list all dredging operations approved for the Gold Coast/Broadwater area?
- (2) Will he confirm his intention to retain the Gold Coast Harbours Authority and the board members as appointed?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/9/98):

(1) The Government is aware of the long term dredging programs recommended to the previous Government by the Gold Coast Harbours Authority and I have made appropriate recommendations for inclusion of dredging projects in the Government's Capital Works Program, which forms part of the State Budget yet to be brought down.

(2) The Government is aware that the Gold Coast Harbours Authority has been investigating issues relating to management of waterways on the Gold Coast. I have recently met with representatives of the Authority and discussed their recommendations for the Gold Coast area.

511. TAFE

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (6/8/98)—

With reference to his statement in the Parliament on 5 August that: "we were concerned that the introduction of user choice training and competitive funding—which was introduced at a faster and higher rate in Queensland than in any other State—would reduce the quality and future viability of TAFE"—

- (1) What are the statistics and calculations upon which he based this statement?
- (2) What is the source upon which he relied for those statistics mentioned above?
- (3) What was the corresponding rate of implementation of user choice and competitive tendering policies by the Goss Labor Government in 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?

Mr BRADY (3/9/98):

(1) & (3) In Queensland the level of VET funds under the Labor Government subject to competition were introduced in 1993/94 at \$2M, increased to \$8M in 1994/95 and reached \$21.846M in 1995/96.

Under the Coalition Government this increased to \$125.4M in 1997/98.

The Goss Labor Government commenced a trial of User Choice in South East Queensland in 1996 restricted to 4 apprenticeship trade areas. By 1997/98, under a Coalition Government, this was expanded to full User Choice in all apprenticeship trade areas whilst other States have implemented User Choice at a much slower rate as shown below.

Qld—All apprentices and trainees from 1/1/98

NSW—Trainees only; decision reserved on the implementation of User Choice for apprentices

Vic—1st year apprentices only and all trainees

WA—1st year apprentices; 178 2nd and 14 3rd year only; all trainees

SA—1st year apprentices only and all trainees from 1998

Tas—1st year apprentices and 2nd year apprentices from 1997 pilot and all trainees

(2) The statistics and calculations are based on the available budget figures for the State of Queensland for competitive funding and user choice. This information is available in the ANTA Ministerial Council documents.

512. Burleigh Heads National Park

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (6/8/98)—

What progress is being made on re-opening Ocean View Track in Burleigh Heads National Park and what measures will be taken to prevent further boulder falls?

Mr WELFORD (1/9/98): A series of rockfalls over the last year has forced the closure of the popular Ocean View Track in Burleigh Heads National Park. Boulders ranging in weight from hundreds of kilograms to several tonnes have fallen onto the track.

A geotechnical survey, conducted last year by an engineering geologist, showed that the boulder area is very unstable and highlighted the need for a comprehensive investigation of boulder containment options to provide for safe pedestrian thoroughfare along the lower section of the Ocean View Track.

As the Member would be aware, a new section of track was constructed last December to provide safe, permanent access from the Park's northern entrance at the end of Goodwin Terrace away from the rockfall area to ensure continuing use of the Park by approximately 200 walkers per day.

My Department, through the South Coast District Office, is currently examining a range of measures to prevent further boulder falls to provide a standard of public safety appropriate for the reopening of the Ocean View Track to pedestrians. This work is progressing well.

In the interests of park users, the Ocean View Track must remain closed until a decision has been made about its long-term safety and accessibility. Any works will only begin when the area can be safely stabilised. I am anxious to address this as promptly as I can, not least of all because I am a regular user of these tracks myself. Together with the famous Burleigh point break, they represent one of the best gymnasiums in the world.

513. Ambulance Service, Pensioners/Seniors Card Holders

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (6/8/98)—

With reference to the Labor Party's State Election promise to provide free ambulance services to the State's elderly—

- (1) What guidelines have been developed for eligibility and will a copy of these guidelines be provided?
- (2) Will all Senior Card Holders be eligible?
- (3) Will all Pension Card Holders be eligible?
- (4) Will the dependents of Senior and Pension Card Holders be eligible?
- (5) When will this election commitment be implemented?
- (6) Will rebates be given to those eligible persons?
- (7) Who had to pay subscriptions after Labor's election promises were broken?

Mrs ROSE (3/9/98):

- (1) The guidelines are currently being prepared and will be made available as soon as possible.
- (2) All those issued with a Queensland Seniors Card will be eligible.
- (3) Permanent Queensland residents issued with a Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card will be eligible.
- (4) The dependants of holders of the Queensland Seniors Card and dependants listed on a Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card will be eligible.
- (5) The implementation date is 1 January 1999.
- (6) Holders of the Queensland Seniors Card and the Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card who have paid their subscription to a date after 31 December 1998 will be eligible for a refund of the subscription for the period 1 January 1999 to the date paid to.

(7) No promise has been broken. Labor promised to introduce the free ambulance for all Queensland Pensioners and Seniors Card Holders and their dependants and will honour this commitment from 1 January 1999. It is a move which has been roundly hailed by seniors and pensioner groups and shows that this Government is a compassionate government which recognises the contribution our seniors have made and a government which looks after the most needy Queenslanders. It is a government for all of Queensland.

514. Health Minister, Funding Commitments

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health—

Will she outline the funding commitments she has made prior to the Labor Government's Budget being brought down and will she explain where this money has come from?

Mrs EDMOND (1/9/98): The Government is bringing down a new State budget on 15 September 1998. The budget will outline the Government's commitments in health.

Funding for Government commitments in health like other Government initiatives will be primarily sourced from the Consolidated Fund. The total amount of funding for new initiatives in health will be shown in the State budget papers when they are released in September. Unlike the previous Minister for Health, all of my commitments are fully documented and funded.

515. Logan City, Effect on Schools of User-pays Water Policy

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Education (6/8/98)—

- (1) What discussions were held between his department and Logan City Council prior to the council's implementation of the council's user-pays water policy?
- (2) What is the projected cost implication of this policy change for each school in the Logan electorate?
- (3) Will he provide extra funds for schools in Logan to help implement water-wise strategies?

Mr WELLS (25/8/98):

1. The Logan City Council's introduction of a user-pays water policy stems from the National Competition Policy reforms and the Council of Australian Government Water reforms. It is anticipated that all Local Government Authorities will introduce user-pays water pricing, in accordance with these reforms, by the year 2000.

There have been no discussions initiated between Education Queensland and the Logan City Council, or other Local Government Authorities, at this stage.

2. In June 1998 Education Queensland commissioned the Department of Natural Resources to undertake a preliminary study of the likely effect of the water pricing reforms for education facilities in some twenty Local Government areas. Logan City Council is one of the nominated areas.

The study will incorporate a comparison of pre-reform water prices with likely costs under the new water pricing systems and an indication of any further price structure changes over the next five years.

Until this study is completed and a report prepared, the cost implication of the water pricing reforms is unknown. The report should be available by the beginning of October 1998.

3. On 2 September 1998 there will be a launch of a WaterWise School Booklet which will be distributed to all schools. The booklet outlines various water wise strategies which were implemented at the Merrimac State High School on the Gold Coast and the manner in which these strategies can be applied in schools generally.

Water wise strategies are a combination of both the provision of water saving devices and the management of water usage. The extent to which strategies can be applied successfully will differ between schools, depending on such factors as size and age.

Schools will be provided with assistance, where required, in identifying and implementing appropriate water wise strategies to suit their particular circumstance. Funding considerations will be part of this process.

All schools are provided with annual funding for discretionary expenditure on facilities type activities under the School Based Routine Works Scheme. Schools may elect to direct this funding towards any adopted water wise strategies.

Although there is no specific funding program for the introduction of water wise strategies proposed at this time, school requirements, which cannot be met from resources available to them, will be considered on their merits for supplementary funding.

516. Education Portfolio, Election Commitments

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Education (6/8/98)—

What are the full details and costings of every written and verbal commitment, relating to the education portfolio, given by members of the Beattie Government, its representatives and the Labor Party, prior to coming to Government?

Mr WELLS (9/9/98): The Australian Labor Party's commitments in relation to the education portfolio are contained in a number of documents. They are:

- (a) New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Education
- (b) New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Education in North Queensland
- (c) New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Supporting non-Government Schools
- (d) New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Labor's Plan for Cooler Schools
- (e) Labor's Campaign Launch '98: Speech by Opposition Leader Peter Beattie
- (f) Let's Get Queensland Moving Again Campaign Launch: Education Initiatives

(g) Let's Get Queensland Moving Again Campaign
Launch: Health Initiatives

(h) Let's Get Queensland Moving Again Campaign
Launch: Supporting School Leavers in Transition

(i) Let's Get Queensland Moving Again Campaign
Launch: North Queensland Economic Strategy

Copies of these documents are attached.

In addition, a table of commitments made by
Opposition spokespersons on matters relating to the
education portfolio in separate press releases, radio
and press interviews is also attached.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

517. Public Works and Housing Departments, Staffing

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (25/8/98)—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed as liaison, or liaison like, officers between his department and the office of the Minister?
- (2) How many other departmental staff are employed to work in his office?
- (3) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers?
- (4) What is the job description of each of these officers?
- (5) When were each of these job descriptions prepared and approved and by whom?
- (6) What are the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers?
- (7) To whom in the office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report?
- (8) Were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not, why not?
- (9) If these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication?
- (10) If any of these positions have been filled in an acting capacity, when is it expected that the appointment of full-time officers will be finalised?
- (11) What arrangements, budgetary and otherwise, have been put in place to fund these officers and/or their replacements within the positions they previously held within the department?

Mr SCHWARTEN (24/9/98):

- (1) Four—a Principal Communication/Liaison Officer attached to the Department of Public Works; a Departmental Liaison Officer attached to the Department of Public Works; a Departmental Liaison Officer attached to the Department of Housing; and a Ministerial Liaison Officer attached to the Department of Housing.
- (2) None.
- (3) The Principal Communication/Liaison Officer position is classified at the AO7 level, with the appointee being remunerated at paypoint 1, represented by the amount of \$2,153.90 per fortnight. The Departmental Liaison Officer positions are classified at the AO8 level, with the appointees being remunerated at paypoint 2 (seconded officer) of \$2,432.40 per fortnight (Housing) and paypoint 1 of \$2,386.40 per fortnight (Public Works). The Ministerial Liaison Officer position is classified at the AO6 level, with the present officer performing this role in a relieving capacity being remunerated at paypoint 2 of \$1931.20 per fortnight. No additional remunerative benefits are provided to these officers.
- (4) The position description of the Principal Communication/Liaison Officer is: to provide expert advice to the Director-General and senior officers on

public and media relations to promote a positive corporate image of the department; and to develop media strategies that optimise recognition of the achievements and services of the department.

The position description of the Departmental Liaison Officer is: to act as a liaison between the Office of the Minister and the department; to develop strategies to proactively address sensitive issues that may have an impact on some sectors of the community, so that complaints and or disputation is minimised; to coordinate the investigation and resolution of complaints from Members of Parliament and their staff and members of the public to the Office of the Minister, and ensure that a comprehensive and timely response is provided; to provide strategic support and advice to Ministerial staff on matters relating to the department, and review departmental submissions to ensure that they comply with departmental policy, guidelines and procedures, and to provide an appropriate level of information and detail about activities of the department.

The position description of the Ministerial Liaison Officer is: to act as a liaison between the Office of the Minister with responsibility for coordinating the investigation and resolution of complaints from local Members of Parliament and their staff, and members of the public to the Minister's Office, provide support and advice to Ministerial staff on matters relating to Housing, and review Departmental submissions to ensure that they comply with departmental policy, guidelines and procedures.

(5) The position of Ministerial Liaison Officer (Housing) has been established for a number of years and the position description was reviewed in April 1998 and endorsed by Mr Eric Carfoot, then Executive Director, Housing. The position descriptions for the remaining positions were approved on 7 July 1998 by Mr Mal Grierson, the Acting Director-General of the Department of Public Works, following preparation by Ms Jan Phillips, the Director of the Planning and Human Resources Directorate of the Department of Public Works.

The selection criteria for the Principal Communication/Liaison position are: demonstrated work history in the development of successful media/public relations strategies to promote business activities of an organisation, along with evidence of the ability to manage substantial projects within defined time parameters; high level of communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to negotiate, advocate and establish and maintain effective communications and working relationships with a range of internal and external clients and stakeholders; demonstrated strategic, conceptual, analytical and innovative skills with a record of success in strategic and operational planning and delivery of outcomes within a service delivery organisation; demonstrated ability in the analysis, design and implementation of information systems and procedures to assist the management and delivery of public relations activities; and demonstrated understanding, or the ability to rapidly acquire an understanding, of the Government's policy direction and the implications for the department's activities.

The selection criteria for the Departmental Liaison Officer position are: high level of communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to negotiate, advocate and establish and maintain effective communications and working relationships with a range of internal and external clients and stakeholders; demonstrated strategic, conceptual, analytical and innovative skills with a record of success in the development of solutions and the effective delivery of outcomes within a service delivery organisation; demonstrated ability in the analysis, design and implementation of information systems and procedures to ensure management of the department's activities in addressing, and responding to, a range of sensitive issues; demonstrated understanding, or the ability to rapidly acquire an understanding, of the Government's policy direction and the implications for the department's activities; and demonstrated high level of written communication skills and capacity to prepare complex reports, submissions and Ministerial and other correspondence within limited time frames.

The selection criteria for the Ministerial Liaison Officer position are: demonstrated high level of interpersonal communication, liaison and negotiation in both face-to-face and telephone communication with senior management, staff and customers; demonstrated high level of conflict resolution skills; demonstrated ability to negotiate with management to achieve successful resolution of complaints; a high level of analytical and problem solving ability with the demonstrated capacity to develop practical and achievable solutions to resolve complex issues; demonstrated high level of written communication skills and capacity to prepare complex reports, submissions, ministerial and other correspondence within tight timeframes; high level of knowledge regarding the structure, functions, services and procedures of all Housing Programs; and demonstrated ability to develop and maintain a computerised database to support and provide detailed information on the type, nature, location and status of communication received through telephone calls, correspondence and other internal processes.

(7) The Ministerial Liaison Officer position reports to the Director-General, Housing, along with the respective Departmental Liaison Officer. The Principal Communication/Liaison Officer position reports to the Director-General, Public Works, along with the respective Departmental Liaison Officer.

(8) The new positions have been filled in a temporary capacity (i.e. less than 12 months), in accordance with Office of the Public Service Directives 7/98 and 8/98. There is no requirement to advertise temporary positions where the appointment period is less than 12 months. Action to advertise the positions was not necessary as persons with the required skills were available to fulfil the urgent requirements of these roles. The position of Ministerial Liaison Officer was advertised in accordance with Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98, but a permanent appointment has not been made to this point of time.

(9) The position of Ministerial Liaison Officer was advertised in the Queensland Government Gazette in May 1998.

(10) Action to fill the positions in a permanent or longer-term temporary arrangement will be taken before the expiration of the 12 month period of engagement.

(11) The funding for the Principal Communication/Liaison Officer and Departmental Liaison Officer positions forms part of the budget of the Executive Services Unit, which is funded jointly by the corporate areas of both departments. The funding for the Ministerial Liaison Officer position is held by the Director-General's Office, Housing. The funding for the replacement officer seconded to the Department of Housing's Departmental Liaison Officer position is derived from the allocated budget in the area to which the officer was formerly allocated. The appointees to the Principal Communication/Liaison Officer and Department of Public Works Departmental Liaison Officer positions were not employed within the department before their appointments. The role previously performed by the officer occupying the Ministerial Liaison Officer position has not been filled.

518.Rural Science Organisation

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (25/8/98)—

With reference to the Labor Party's policy document entitled "Labor's Commitment to Primary Industries" and specifically to references that the Beattie Labor Government will establish a Rural Science Organisation—

- (1) When does he plan to establish this body?
- (2) What role will the Rural Science Organisation have?
- (3) How will this body relate to the industry institutes?
- (4) Will he give an assurance that this body will not duplicate the role of the industry institutes?
- (5) Will he give an assurance that this body will not dilute the role of the institutes and their boards?
- (6) What role and powers will the Chief State Scientist have?
- (7) Will the Rural Science Organisation and/or the Chief State Scientist have the power to override decisions made by an institute board?
- (8) Will the Rural Science Organisation set budgets for each of the institutes or will he and/or the Director-General have this role?
- (9) What will be the structure and membership of the advisory councils to the Rural Science Organisation?
- (10) What will be the relationship between the institute boards and the advisory councils?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/98):

1. The initiative will be implemented later this year.
2. The role will be to maximise the benefits generated for Queensland's regional and State economies through investments in RD&E.
3. The industry Institutes will be represented.

4. There will be no duplication of the role of the industry Institutes but will add value to their existing roles and influence by facilitating State and national strategic alliances across Institutes and other research providers.

5. The Institutes at Board and Director level will be directly involved in having a both a strategic and operational influence. This will strengthen rather than dilute the role of the Institutes and their Boards.

6. The Chief Scientist will:

provide an oversight of research and extension policy, including quality of RD&E;

monitor DPI's participation in RD&E strategic alliances and asset sharing opportunities with other RD&E providers including CRCs;

monitor and advise the Minister on RD&E input into primary industries within the State, but particularly that sponsored by the State Government;

monitor RD&E workforce planning and career development processes and paths for scientists;

enhance DPI's interactions with Research & Development Corporations and other State Departments;

assist identification of areas of RD&E that should be more strongly commercialised and the strategies that should be used to achieve this;

analyse the composition of DPI's RD&E portfolios, particularly the balance between applied, strategic and pure research.

7. No.

8. The Director General is responsible for financial accountability and budget allocations for each Institute.

9. There will not be advisory councils to the Rural Science Organisation.

10. The Institute Boards will be represented.

519. Wharps Pastoral Holding, Mahogany Glider Habitat

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/8/98)—

With reference to Wharps Holding near Ingham and the adjoining Mt Poverty block which are currently being investigated to have sections resumed as mahogany glider habitat and for other reasons and as fair compensation is being requested by each of the landholders involved in recognition of the asset—

- (1) Has there been any change in assessing the value of the property, from the time freeholding of Wharps Holding was first requested, that would now disadvantage the lessees?
- (2) If natural justice is to prevail, has fair and equitable compensation been offered to the lessee and will a comparable area of mahogany glider free habitat to that provided for a Lands Department sub-division of mahogany glider

habitat on part of the Wharps Holding lease in 1994 be made available to lessees for freehold title?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/98): There has never been any intention to resume any part of Wharps Pastoral Holding or the adjoining Mt Poverty block. All negotiations have occurred on the basis of a voluntary acquisition.

The valuation approach sought by the lessees and favoured by the former Government was to ignore established tree clearing guidelines that apply to the land due to its critical habitat significance.

The present offer to the lessees of \$1.75 million for approximately 10,585 hectares of land is fair and reasonable, fully reflecting the market value of the land. The assessment of value recognises the critical habitat status of this land and the constraint on the use of the land this causes. The offer is supported by advice from a private sector firm of valuers.

It is inappropriate to draw comparisons between the land made available to the cane industry in 1994 which had a considerable history of prior commitment and the situation that now applies to Wharps Pastoral Holding, such as recognition of the importance of the mahogany glider habitat and native title issues.

520. Bayview Country Club Estate

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/8/98)—

With reference to the development called Bayview Country Club Estate at Mt Cotton in the Redland Shire which has been progressing for the past couple of decades in one form or another and in recent times was identified as threatening some environmentally significant land and that steps should be taken to minimise that impact and in 1995 the Goss Labor Government committed to purchasing just under 200 hectares of land, predominantly east of German Church Road, as part of the South East Tollway proposal, which commitment was continued under the Borbidge Government, and following valuations conducted by the Department of Natural Resources and other private valuers a commitment of \$2.4m was allocated for the land acquisition by his department as its contribution based on a \$2 for \$1 share in conjunction with the Redland Shire Council—

- (1) As it is understood the Department of Natural Resources, acting on behalf of the Redland Shire Council, issued an intention to resume notice following the refusal by the Bayview developer of the purchase price offered based on the valuations undertaken, what is the present situation regarding the notice and has a hearing date been set down in the Land Court to determine the land valuation?
- (2) What control and reporting measures has his department put in place to ensure the State Government's contribution ensures that the whole area identified for purchase will be achieved and be consistent with the valuations obtained?

- (3) Following the initial breakdown of negotiation for acquisition, is it true that the Redland Shire Council has acted separately by offering to pay approximately \$2m for part of the total area identified for purchase and will the remaining State Government contribution ensure the purchase of the remaining 160-200 hectares; if not, is the portion proposed to be purchased by RSC consistent with the valuation determined by DNR and other valuers?
- (4) If the area originally designated for purchase cannot be acquired at the recommended valuation, is his department supportive of the purchase price being determined by the land court as a consequence of the intention to resume notice?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/98):

1. No notice of Intention to Resume has been issued by my Department of Natural Resources in respect of the subject land owned by Bayview Country Club Pty Ltd.

The Redland Shire Council issued a Notice of Intention to Resume for Parks (Environmental Reserve and Open Space) purposes, on 25 August 1997, in respect of land owned by Bayview Country Club Pty Ltd, described as Lot 263 (64.2439ha) and part of Lots 266 and 267 (approx. 140ha), parish of Redland. But, as no application to the Minister in terms of Section 9 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1967 has been made within the allowable 12 months, the Notice of Intention to Resume is deemed discontinued.

2. As a result of Redland Shire issuing the Notice of Intention to Resume, the State has allowed Redland Shire to take the lead role in direct negotiations with Bayview. A commitment was given by the State to Redland Shire that up to \$2.4 million would be contributed to the acquisition of land acquired by the Shire from Bayview. Provision of this contribution will be dependent upon the Department of Natural Resources confirming that any settlement figure ultimately agreed by Redland Shire represents fair market value.

3. Officers of the Redland Shire Council are working in partnership with my department to ensure the best possible outcome that can be achieved with the funds that have been committed by both the State and the Shire. The Shire is aware that the optimum outcome can only be achieved by working in partnership with the State.

4. The State would always reserve its option for acquisition matters to be referred to the Land Court as the independent arbiter and to ensure a fair and equitable outcome.

521. Racecourses, Freehold Ownership

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (25/8/98)—

With reference to the previous Coalition Government which gained Cabinet approval to grant freehold ownership of racecourses to clubs at Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Bundamba and Toowoomba and to the ability for the Sunshine Coast Turf Club to

purchase Corbould Park from Caloundra City Council—

Will he outline what steps have now been taken to proceed with the process?

Mr GIBBS (17/9/98): The grant of freehold ownership of racecourses to clubs is a matter for the Minister for Natural Resources and I am continuing talks with him.

522. Registration Fee Concessions, Pensioners/Seniors Card Holders

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/8/98)—

With reference to concessions for pensioners and holders of Seniors Cards in respect of registration concessions for motor vehicles and recreational boats—

- (1) Will the Government continue with the Coalition commitment to fund the reintroduction of the motor vehicle registration concession for Seniors Card holders and thereby remove the anomaly whereby people who were in receipt of this concession prior to its removal in July 1994 retained their right to receive concession, while new card holders after July 1994 were not eligible?
- (2) As holders of a Seniors Card are entitled to discount off the registration fee for one recreational boat, will he consider extending this to caravan owners (pensioners and Seniors Card holders) as more older people enjoy the use of caravans than of boats?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/9/98):

(1) The Governments budget has funded the continuation of the motor vehicle registration concession for Seniors Card holders.

(2) Boat registration concessions are granted under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) legislation administered by Queensland Transport and in a similar way to vehicle owners only one vessel concession is available per family.

Caravans and indeed other forms of trailers such as boat trailers are considered to be vehicles and therefore fall under the category of one concession per family for a vehicle.

It is pointed out that as the family motor car attracts the highest registration fees, a concession on this vehicle provides the greatest financial relief.

523. Sunshine Coast, Police Resources

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (25/8/98)—

- (1) At 1 August 1998, how many police officers were assigned to (a) Noosa Heads, (b) Coolum, (c) Eumundi and (d) Cooroy police stations?
- (2) How many civilian staff were assigned to the above police stations at 1 August 1998?
- (3) How many vehicles were allocated to the above police stations at 1 August 1998?

Mr BARTON (24/9/98):

(1)(a) The current police officers assigned at 1 August 1998, for the Noosa Heads Police Station were: 27 Authorised Staff, 5 CIB Detectives, 2 JAB Detectives

(b) The current police officers assigned at 1 August 1998, for the Coolum Police Station were: 6 Authorised Staff

(c) The current police officers assigned at 1 August 1998, for the Eumundi Police Station were: 2 Authorised Staff

(d) The current police officers assigned at 1 August 1998, for the Cooroy Police Station were: 4 Authorised Staff

(2)(a) The number of civilian staff assigned at 1 August 1998, for the Noosa Heads Police Station were: 4 Civilians

(b) The number of civilian staff assigned at 1 August 1998, for the Coolum Police Station was: 1 Civilian

(c) The number of civilian staff assigned at 1 August 1998, for the Eumundi Police Station was: Nil Civilians

(d) The number of civilian staff assigned at 1 August 1998, for the Cooroy Police Station was: 1 Civilian

(3)(a) The total number of vehicles allocated at 1 August 1998, to Noosa Heads were: Noosa Heads—3 vehicles (1 4X4 dual cab, 2 marked sedans, unmarked sedan), Noosa Heads CIB—1 unmarked sedan

(b) The total number of vehicles allocated at 1 August 1998, to Coolum Police Station was: 1 marked sedan

(c) The total number of vehicles allocated at 1 August 1998, to Eumundi Police Station was: 1 marked sedan

(d) The total number of vehicles allocated at 1 August 1998, to Cooroy Police Station was: 1 marked sedan

524. Sunshine Coast, CAMCOS Public Transit Corridor

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (25/8/98)—

With reference to the State Government's continued delay in finalising the CAMCOS public transit corridor on the Sunshine Coast which is causing financial hardship to affected property owners—

When is the Government going to finalise this study?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/9/98): This State Government has clearly not delayed CAMCOS and has quickly taken steps to put the study back on track. Significant delays in process did occur however in the lead up to the State election and I accept no responsibility for those delays.

Considerable work has been done in narrowing down the corridor widths to remove many properties from any risk of planning blight associated with the project. This work is documented in a Corridor Assessment Report which has recently been released.

An Impact Assessment Study will begin in the near future and finalise the route. The Government is committed to finalising CAMCOS and finding ways to improve public transport on the Sunshine Coast.

525. Families, Youth and Community Care Portfolio, Election Commitments

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (25/8/98)—

What are the full details and costings of every written and verbal commitment, relating to her portfolio, given by members of the Beattie Government, its representatives and the Labor Party, prior to coming to Government?

Ms BLIGH (24/9/98): The Australian Labor Party's commitments in relation to the families, youth, community care and disability services portfolio are contained in a number of statements. They are:

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Child Care

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Crime Prevention that works

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Disability Services

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Better Health

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Juvenile Justice Balance

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Strengthening Family Life

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Women

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Youth Culture and Arts

New Directions Statement Queensland Labor: Youth

These documents are public documents, copies of which are attached.

In addition, a table of commitments made by Opposition spokespersons on matters relating to my portfolio in separate press releases, radio and press interviews is also attached.

526. Queensland Police Credit Union; Criminal Justice Commission

Mr GRICE asked the Premier (25/8/98)—

With reference to the Appeals Court which has recently refused an appeal by the Criminal Justice Commission against a Supreme Court decision in favour of the Queensland Police Credit Union—

(1) When can the Credit Union expect payment of the \$25,000?

(2) What were the total legal costs that the Criminal Justice Commission has incurred and also must pay to other parties?

Mr BEATTIE (23/9/98): These are operational matters to do with the Criminal Justice Commission. It would not be appropriate for the Premier to

become involved with operational matters at the CJC. Operational matters are the province of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee (PCJC). The Member is therefore advised to direct this question to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee.

527. Logan Electorate, Fire Service

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Emergency Services (25/8/98)—

With reference to the fire service team based at Logan West in my electorate—

- (1) How many house fires was the unit called out to attend in 1997-98?
- (2) How many grass fires was the unit called out to attend in 1997-98?
- (3) How many motor vehicle accidents was the unit called out to attend in 1997-98?
- (4) Is the incidence of fire service teams attending motor vehicle accidents on the increase in Queensland and what recompense does the fire service receive for attending such accidents?

Mrs ROSE (24/9/98): During the 1997-1998 financial year the West Logan Fire Station responded to a total of 571 various types of calls, specifically, these included:

1. Twenty Seven (27) building fires, Twenty (20) of which were in residential buildings.
2. Two Hundred and Forty (240) grass fires, and
3. Sixty (60) motor vehicle accidents.

It should be noted that these statistics relate to fires and incidents at which the West Logan Crew was the first Fire Service team to attend. The West Logan station, which is equipped with road accident rescue equipment, also regularly provides support to adjoining stations from both the Urban and Rural Fire divisions.

4. The QFRA attended 5,497 vehicle accidents in 1996/97. Of these, 800 involved extrication and in the process more than 1,000 persons were rescued. In 1997/98 the QFRA attended at least 5,804 vehicle accidents of which 554 involved extrication and 855 persons were rescued. (1997/98 Australian Incident Reporting System data is still being collected from some Regions)

In the period 1996/97 the total number of accidents attended by the QFRA included 85 On Road chemical spillage incidents. The period 1997/98 is revealing similar trends.

The current cost of providing the QFRA Urban response for Road Accidents including rescue, support, suppression and recovery of spillage of hazardous materials is estimated conservatively at: \$18.2 Million per annum.

The current funding for these services includes approximately \$350,000 from the Motor Accident Insurance Commission and approximately \$191,000 recovered from all chargeable incidents (not just Road Accident Rescue). These activities are having a significant impact on the QFRA Trust Fund and it is the very reason why my Government is serious about

addressing the funding needs of Fire Services in this State.

528. Gurulmundi Landfill

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (25/8/98)—

With reference to a \$2.9m payment to the Brisbane City Council the Department of Environment had negotiated prior to the recent General Election, in accordance with the Gurulmundi Secure Landfill Act and the proposal that this payment be made to the Brisbane City Council on 1 July and thereafter the Gurulmundi facility would be managed by the department and assisted by a taskforce made up of the Department of Environment, the Murilla Shire Council and some other members with special expertise or community interest—

Has he, the new responsible Minister (a) complied with the agreement struck between the department and the Brisbane City Council and made the agreed payment and (b) continued with the taskforce to advise him on continuing monitoring of the Gurulmundi facility and its eventual rehabilitation of the site?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/98):

(a) An agreement in principle was reached with Brisbane City Council prior to the recent General Election for the payment of \$2.9m in accordance with the provisions of the Gurulmundi Secure Landfill Agreement Act 1992. A formal agreement is currently being prepared to enable the payment to occur.

(b) No. I am advised that the industry which formerly disposed of its waste at the landfill has greatly reduced its waste and is using alternative licensed facilities for the management of the residual. It is considered essential that the long term viability of the alternative waste management facilities be clearly established prior to a decision being made on the future of the landfill, and the need for rehabilitation.

As the timing of any rehabilitation works is subject to the outcome of a waste monitoring program, it is inappropriate to continue the arrangements regarding the Gurulmundi Rehabilitation Task Force.

With regard to the monitoring of the landfill, I can advise that an international firm of environmental consultants has been engaged by the Department of Environment and Heritage to conduct an independent monitoring program.

529. Mackay Base Hospital; Sarina Hospital

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Health (25/8/98)—

With reference to recent media reports in the Mackay Daily Mercury of 14 August which indicate that she has made changes to the planned development of Mackay Base Hospital, in particular, in the areas of aged care and mental health—

- (1) What is the type of structure that will be used for aged care at Mackay Base Hospital?
- (2) What will be the cost of the new building?

- (3) How can the cost be included in the budgeted rebuilding costs without taking from other major initiatives?
- (4) Will the budgeted amount be increased to cover this cost?
- (5) What changes have been made to the mental health block and what are the costs involved?
- (6) Do these changes meet all the demands of the user group?
- (7) Will the changes to the aged care unit cause the downgrading of Sarina Hospital?
- (8) Will the rehabilitation unit at Sarina Hospital continue and will she guarantee continued funding for the staffing needs of the hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/98):

- (1) Aged care patients will be accommodated within a specifically allocated and refurbished part of the medical ward of the Mackay Hospital.
- (2) There will be no new building, therefore there will be no additional cost.
- (3) This is not applicable as the proposal for aged care at Mackay Hospital will not incur additional cost and therefore will not require redistribution of the redevelopment budget.
- (4) The redevelopment budget remains unchanged.
- (5) The key issue for the Mental Health Unit centres on improvements to the external courtyard attached to the high dependency unit. Costs for this area are yet to be finalised but would be unlikely to exceed \$15,000.
- (6) If the changes proposed by the District Health Service can be achieved they will meet the expectations of the Consumer Advisory Group.
- (7) There will be no "downgrading" of Sarina Hospital.
- (8) Significant funds have been made available to increase the level of services available at Sarina Hospital. Services currently provided at Sarina will continue to be funded.

530. Queensland Arts Council, State School Performances

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Education (25/8/98)—

With reference to his view, in Opposition, that the imposition of a fee to performances by the Queensland Arts Council made some children feel marginalised and humiliated and that the education system should be free—

- (1) Does he still hold these views; if not, why not?
- (2) What arrangements has he made to provide full funding to the Queensland Arts Council for its performances in State schools and on what date were these arrangements made?
- (3) If he has made no arrangements to date, has he decided that this issue is not as important as he previously believed?
- (4) If he has made no arrangements to date and he still believes this issue is important, why have

no arrangements been made to date and when does he expect to make an announcement on his position?

- (5) How much does Education Queensland estimate it would cost to fully fund Queensland Arts Council performances in State schools?
- (6) What is his definition of a free education system?
- (7) Will he guarantee that throughout his term as Minister for Education that Queensland will have a free education system?

Mr WELLS (21/9/98): The Queensland Arts Council's mission is to provide access to the arts to all Queenslanders. The partnership which exists between Education Queensland and Queensland Arts Council guarantees significant benefits for all Queensland students and teachers. This coordinated service ensures that every school in Queensland, no matter how small or how geographically isolated, can have access, at low cost, to a range of touring programs.

The equity of access policy which is the cornerstone on which the school touring program runs, asks students in primary and secondary schools for \$3.00 to attend a performance. Therefore, a student on Sabai Island, three kilometres from the coast of Papua New Guinea pays for and receives the same standard of performance that is received by a student in a metropolitan school. For most of the tours in remote areas of Queensland, the Arts Council underwrites a loss to ensure that all students have access to arts experiences.

In 1989 Queensland Arts Council costed the program to schools at one and half million dollars. To offer a similar program in 1998 this figure will have increased considerably.

Arts-based programs are valuable resources for a wide range of Key Learning Areas. However, Principals in consultation with Parents and Citizens Associations are free to choose if their school will participate in the program. Principals also have the right to allow any student to view a performance free of charge if in their opinion, they cannot afford to pay admission.

In 1997, the audience participation figures for Arts Programs show that 630, 545 young people in Queensland took advantage of performances which toured through the Queensland Arts Council School Touring Program. The magnitude of such a program is unequalled anywhere else in Australia.

Section 24 of the Education (General Provisions) Act 1989 provides that "In State Schools, the cost of instruction of children whose parents are domiciled in the State shall be defrayed by the State". This means that the State will meet the costs of providing a basic but adequate level of schooling for children enrolled in State schools. Education Queensland provides teaching and other staff, facilities and classroom materials and equipment through staffing, facility and grant provisions. Parents are responsible for providing textbooks and stationery, as well as any additional costs incurred for more elaborate items which might be made in practical classes such as art or manual arts.

There is no intention to alter the legislation relating to the costs of education during the term of the current parliament.

531. Education Department, Staffing

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (25/8/98)—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed as liaison, or liaison like, officers between his department and the office of the Minister?
- (2) How many other departmental staff are employed to work in his office?
- (3) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers?
- (4) What is the job description of each of these officers?
- (5) When were each of these job descriptions prepared and approved and by whom?
- (6) What are the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers?
- (7) To whom in the office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report?
- (8) Were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not, why not?
- (9) If these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication?
- (10) If any of these positions have been filled in an acting capacity, when is it expected that the appointment of full-time officers will be finalised?
- (11) What arrangements, budgetary and otherwise, have been put in place to fund these officers, and/or their replacements within the positions they previously held within the department?

Mr WELLS (21/9/98):

1. Three. However, there will only be nine Ministerial staff on the establishment of the current Minister compared with eleven Ministerial staff on the establishment of the previous Minister.
2. None
3. AO7, AO6, AO4. There are no other benefits associated with these positions.
4. To assist with liaising between the Minister's office and the department.
5. The job descriptions were prepared in the same manner as those used by previous governments.
6. The appointments occurred in the same way as those used by previous governments.
7. The AO7 reports to a senior officer in the department and the other two officers report to the AO7.
8. See Q5 and 6.
9. See Q8.
10. As required.
11. The department will fund the salary of these officers and any replacements.

532. Electrical Safety Switches, Installation Rebate

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (26/8/98)—

With reference to safety switches on power circuit switchboards in new domestic dwellings which have been compulsory since 1992 and as a scheme to allow a \$50 rebate on the installation of electrical safety switches in domestic dwellings built before 1992 has been in operation for some time, with the offer available to the first 18,000 eligible applicants and as this offer will close soon and there are still many owners of older residences who would like to take advantage of the offer—

Will he extend the scheme for additional residences and for a further period of time?

Mr McGRADY (17/9/98): In response to the specific question made by Mrs Gamin, I can advise as follows: I fully support the safety switch rebate scheme which commenced in April 1998. More than 11,000 rebates have been made to date. It is expected that the scheme will continue to the end of 1998 when the one million dollar funding for the initiative will be expended and the scheme's target of 18,000 older residences which will then have the benefit of this proven safety device to protect householders and their families will have been achieved. Hence there is ample time for the owners of older residences to take advantage of the scheme and I encourage them to do so.

533. Diesel Fuel Excise

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/98)—

With reference to the diesel fuel excise for heavy transport which will be reduced by some 25 cents a litre under the Federal Government's tax package—

What measures will he take to ensure that these savings are passed on to users of public transport in Queensland?

Mr BREDHAUER (24/9/98): It is anticipated that public transport fares will increase as a result of the introduction of a Goods and Services Tax, potentially undermining years of work by State and Local governments to increase public transport patronage. Queensland Transport will endeavour to keep such fare rises to a minimum.

534. Mary River, Weir

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (26/8/98)—

With reference to the proposal to construct a weir on the Mary River for that city's water supply—

- (1) When is it planned for this project to commence?
- (2) How long is the construction period?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/98):

- (1) The timing of commencement of this proposal is subject to satisfactory outcome of engineering and

impact assessment studies and there being support for the proposal from key stakeholders a construction timetable during the 1999 dry season would be achievable.

(2) Given reasonable dry season flow conditions, construction of the weir would take around four to six months.

535. Yaralla Road

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (26/8/98)—

With reference to the Federal Government which has already allocated funding for design work on the Yaralla Road—a proposed re-routing of the Warrego Highway immediately west of Dalby and as this new alignment will take this national highway away from the flood prone Rangers Gully and overcome frequent traffic dislocation to western central and north western Queensland and as this particular project has been identified of strategic importance by both the Federal and State Government—

Will he give an assurance that it will be funded and constructed within the next three years?

Mr BREDHAUER (24/9/98): Main Roads would be able to construct the above works within the next three years if adequate Federal funding were provided.

536. Brisbane City Council; State Land Sites

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (26/8/98)—

Will he provide a list of all unallocated State land sites within the boundaries of the Brisbane City Council together with a notation on which sites, if any, will be handed over to the Brisbane City Council, the value placed on each site and the price the Brisbane City Council will pay for the acquisition of each site?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/98): In 1997, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) undertook an assessment of all Unallocated State Lands (USL) within Brisbane City with a view of determining the most appropriate use for each parcel. The findings of the study, recommended that individual properties be either disposed of, transferred to Brisbane City Council (BCC) as reserves for community purposes or retained for strategic government purposes.

Ninety-three parcels of land ranging in area from 35 square metres to about 50 hectares and having a total area of some 200 hectares, were approved by delegation for transfer under trusteeship of BCC as Reserves in June 1997. DNR and Council surveyors are currently preparing surveys of the properties to enable the transfers to be affected.

As it has been determined that the above lands be transferred to the BCC in Trust for community purposes, no formal valuations have been carried out as it was anticipated that there would be no monetary exchange. Only nominal valuations were established during the study in 1997.

The transfer of these lands for environmental protection and open space purposes presents an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the City's greenspace system. It should be noted that this proposed action will ensure the ongoing stewardship of the subject parcels by the Brisbane City Council in line with Council planning processes.

537. Yeppoon Hospital; Gertrude Moore Nursing Home

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health (26/8/98)—

With reference to advice I have received by leading health professionals that the birthing area at the Yeppoon Hospital is out of date, there is not sufficient room for the dentistry complex and X-ray facilities are of a by-gone era and as the hospital is 22 years old and not compatible to modern day medicine—

- (1) What moves are in hand to build a new hospital at Yeppoon located in a different position to the present hospital?
- (2) Will she commit to commence initial planning for the project and, when the new hospital is completed, can the old location be used as an extension for the Gertrude Moore Nursing Home which is absolutely over-taxed with huge and increasing daily waiting lists?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/98):

- (1) There are no plans to build a new hospital at Yeppoon.
- (2) No provision is being made for extending the size of the Gertrude E Moore Nursing Home as all the available licensed places, as allocated by the Commonwealth Government in this area, have been fully utilised.

538. Sugarcane Smut

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (26/8/98)—

With reference to sugar cane smut now found in the Ord River which is a devastating fungal disease that could place in jeopardy Queensland's \$2 billion industry—

- (1) Is he satisfied that all quarantine measures have been adopted to prevent this disease reaching Queensland?
- (2) What collaborative arrangements have been made with the Western Australian Government for a range of transportation that has a Queensland destination to circumvent the likelihood of the disease reaching the State sugar industry?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/98):

1. Yes.
2. The Western Australian government is cooperating with Queensland's regulation by providing inspection services and certification that appliances have been properly cleaned. It is also providing Queensland with details of all transportation events from sugarcane farms.

The cane industries in Western Australia, Queensland and New South Wales are providing additional vigilance by reporting all risky events to BSES.

It is not possible to apply the regulation to all transportation, such as trucks carrying rockmelons and other vegetable produce, unless it has been in contact with cane land.

539. TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Premier (26/8/98)—

With reference to his pre-election policy statement to public servants where in relation to TAFE he stated "Nor does it need the chaos associated with the introduction of competition into the TAFE sector at 3 to 4 times the speed of any other State or Territory"—

- (1) Will he table (a) the statistics and calculations upon which this statement was based and (b) the source upon which he relied for those statistics mentioned above?
- (2) What was the corresponding rate of implementation of user choice and competitive tendering policies by the Goss Labor Government in 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96?

Mr BEATTIE (23/9/98):

1(a) Qld—All apprentices and trainees from 1/1/98; NSW—Trainees only; decision reserved on the implementation of User Choice for apprentices; Vic—1st year apprentices only and all trainees; WA—1st year apprentices; 178 2nd and 14 3rd year only; all trainees; SA—1st year apprentices only and all trainees from 1998; Tas—1st year apprentices and 2nd year apprentices from 1997 pilot and all trainees

1(b) The statistics and calculations are based on the available budget figures for the State of Queensland for competitive funding and user choice. This information is available in the ANTA Ministerial Council documents.

(2) In Queensland the level of VET funds under the Labor Government subject to competition were introduced in 1993-94 at \$2m, increased to \$8m in 1994-95 and reached \$21.846m in 1995-96.

Under the Coalition Government this increased to \$125.4m in 1997-98.

The Goss Labor Government commenced a trial of User Choice in South East Queensland in 1996 restricted to 4 apprenticeship trade areas. By 1997-98, under a Coalition Government, this was expanded to full User Choice in all apprenticeship trade areas whilst other States have implemented User Choice at a much slower rate as shown above at (1)(a).

540. Oxford Park TAFE Campus

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (26/8/98)—

What does he intend to do to reassure people living adjacent to the TAFE Campus at Oxford Park that the property contains no toxic residues from

agricultural chemicals used at the site over the years?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/98): The site has been used for Rural Training Purposes and has been operated in a similar fashion to many farms throughout the State, with the standard of operations to 'best practice' standard. The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) consider it unlikely that toxic levels of chemical residues would be found on site, given that the TAFE facility has guidelines for application of these substances and has advised that all statutory requirements are complied with.

Should a change of land use be proposed for the site in the future, the Local Government would naturally consider the previous use of the site in any assessment. Investigations into residual chemical levels may be required to be conducted as part of this assessment.

The site is not on the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) Environmental Management Register (EMR) or Contaminated Land Register (CLR) and the advice to date indicates that activities on site are not considered to be a 'Notifiable Activity' under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. My department would, however, investigate any specific information about significant chemical usage which may have impacted on the site.

Any member of the public is welcome to examine the above Registers.

541. Oxford Park TAFE Campus

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/98)—

Has the Honourable Member for Everton sought an assurance from him that the TAFE facility at Oxford Park will be maintained for rural training activities; if so, will he table the relevant communication from the Member for Everton and his response?

Mr BRADY (23/9/98): Rural courses will continue at Oxford Park until the end of this year.

The Brisbane Institute and Grovely College Councils have considered the future use of the site and will maintain a training presence in 1999 and beyond. They are currently developing joint partnership ventures with private industry to support a range of training options at Oxford Park.

542. Mr P. Forster

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (26/8/98)—

With reference to the appointment of management consultant Mr Peter Forster to advise the Government on issues relating to the Queensland Police Service disciplinary system—

How much is Mr Forster being paid, what is the term of his consultancy, what is Mr Forster's experience in police matters and was this consultancy advertised appropriately and awarded in accordance with correct procedures?

Mr BARTON (25/9/98): With respect to my portfolio, Mr Peter Forster has not been appointed by the Queensland Police Service or myself to advise the Government on the disciplinary system of the Queensland Police Service.

However, during a review of the roles and responsibilities of Headquarters, and Regional and District Offices, aspects of the operation of the service's disciplinary system were raised with the review team by members of the service. This review was commenced by the former Coalition Government (in November 1997) and was completed shortly after the Coalition left office (in July 1998).

543. Timber Industry

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries (26/8/98)—

With reference to recognition by the Coalition in Government of the value of the timber industry in Queensland for import replacement and carbon credits in the future and with jobs and these factors in mind, a forecast additional expenditure of \$20m for the next four years was envisaged to benefit the State—

- (1) Will the new Government at least match this commitment for the long term planning of this important industry?
- (2) What will Labor do to improve on this initiative?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/98):

1. The Government is well aware of the importance of the timber industry to rural Queensland, providing as it does, direct employment for about 17,000 people and injecting in excess of \$1.7 billion into the economy each year.

For this reason, the Government intends to develop detailed and considered plans for the future of this industry which best positions it to meet the array of challenges ahead – challenges such as the Plantation 2020 Vision, the Regional Forest Agreement process and the Greenhouse Response Strategy.

2. To this end, the Government:

Has committed \$800,000 during 1998/99 to expand hardwood plantations on Crown land by at least 250 hectares

Is developing a comprehensive Queensland Plantations Strategy, setting out the Governments' long term vision for plantations in Queensland, including its role in responding to the above policy issues and how it intends to seek greater private sector involvement in plantation expansion.

544. Land Use

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (26/8/98)—

If land suited for primary industry use is to be retained for food and fibre production, what criteria is used by him to support the retention of land that has limited environmental value as against the acquisition of land that is being locked up for conservation purposes?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/98): The decision as to whether land should be retained for primary industry use or retained for conservation purposes is dealt with under the State Planning Policy Number 1/92.

State Planning Policy 1/92 "Development and the Conservation of Agricultural Land" provides a planning framework for the protection of good quality agricultural land through local government planning schemes.

The Policy is subordinate legislation, requiring the Minister for Communication, Information, Local Government and Planning and local governments, to "have regard" to its principles in making planning decisions.

545. Coorparoo TAFE Campus; Queen Alexandra Home

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/98)—

Has the Honourable Member for Greenslopes sought an assurance from him that the TAFE Campus at Coorparoo, together with the Queen Alexandra Home will be maintained by TAFE for full student and community use; if so, will he table the communications from the Member for Greenslopes and his response to him?

Mr BRADY (23/9/98): The Government is currently considering the maintenance of the Queen Alexandra Home for student and community use.

546. Mackay TAFE Campus

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (26/8/98)—

How will he support the Member for Mackay in his avowed efforts to have TAFE provide an off-street parking facility for students of the Mackay College of TAFE?

Mr BRADY (23/9/98): The Member for Mackay was instrumental in raising this matter with the Department following representations from Mackay City Council, local business interests and the Mackay College Council.

Successive Ministers since 1995 have been of the view that car parking external to the Mackay Campus is a Mackay City Council responsibility and that TAFE Queensland had no requirement to purchase land for parking requirements.

The matter was last raised officially with the former Minister, the Member for Clayfield who, in September 1996 claimed there was capacity exceeding forecast demand until at least 2003 and TAFE Queensland would not consider acquiring property at that time.

Instead, the former Minister asked Mr Mulherin to act as facilitator to coordinate cooperative proposals to solve the care parking issues.

In May 1997 Mr Mulherin advised the former Minister that a reference group comprising business proprietors, Mackay City Council and the Mackay

College Council had identified a suitable parcel of land available through Queensland Rail. A commitment to purchase was sought from Mr Santoro.

The Member for Clayfield did not respond to this specific proposal and Departmental records show that no further action resulted.

The Minister has asked the Department to investigate the matter.

547. Primary Producers Organisation and Marketing Act; Fruit Marketing Organisation Act

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (26/8/98)—

With reference to the review of the Primary Producers Organisation and Marketing Act and the Fruit Marketing Organisation Act—

- (1) Will he provide an update on the progress of this review?
- (2) When does he expect this review to be completed?
- (3) If the major review cannot be completed in the short term, will he pursue a review of the Fruit Marketing Organisation Act?
- (4) Does he and the Government have a policy position on this issue or a preferred outcome?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/98):

1. The review of the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act has been delayed because of a legal challenge to one of the key provisions of the legislation, namely the compulsory levy funding arrangements for the statutory producer bodies that operate under this Act and a similar statute, the Fruit Marketing Organisation Act.

This matter is of course, sub judice, and it is not appropriate to comment on the circumstances or to speculate on the possible outcome.

2. The report is to be completed as far as possible by DPI and completed by the end of 1998.

3. No.

4. It would be inappropriate to pre-empt the outcome of this review exercise and its associated legal issues.

548. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Staffing

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (26/8/98)—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed as liaison, or liaison like, officers between her department and the office of the Minister?
- (2) How many other departmental staff are employed to work in her office?
- (3) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers?

- (4) What is the job description of each of these officers?
- (5) When were each of these job descriptions prepared and approved and by whom?
- (6) What are the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers?
- (7) To whom in the office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report?
- (8) Were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not, why not?
- (9) If these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication?
- (10) If any of these positions have been filled in an acting capacity, when is it expected that the appointment of full-time officers will be finalised?
- (11) What arrangements, budgetary and otherwise, have been put in place to fund these officers, and/or their replacements within the positions they previously held within the department?

Ms BLIGH (25/9/98):

1. There is one departmental officer employed as a Departmental Liaison Officer within my Office.

2. No other departmental officers are employed within my Office.

3. The remuneration level for the Departmental Liaison Officer is at an AO6 level. There are no other remunerative benefits.

4. The purpose of the position is to act as a liaison between my Office and the department ensuring that inquiries are responded to in a timely manner. The position coordinates the investigation and resolution of complaints from Members of Parliament and their staff, and members of the public to my Office and develops proactive strategies to address sensitive issues that impact on the department.

5. The job description was prepared in August 1998 by the Human Resource Consultancy Section within the department. The position description was approved by the Acting Manager, Cabinet, Policy and Co-ordination Unit.

6. The selection criteria are as follows:

- (a) High level of communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to negotiate, advocate, and to establish and maintain effective communications and working relationships with a range of internal and external clients and stakeholders.
- (b) Demonstrated high level of written communication skills and capacity to prepare complex reports, submissions, ministerial and other correspondence within limited timeframes.
- (c) Demonstrated analytical and research skills to investigate complex and sensitive issues.
- (d) Demonstrated understanding, or the ability to rapidly acquire an understanding of the Government's policy direction and the implications for the Department's activities.

(e) Demonstrated knowledge of the structure, roles, policies and legislative requirements of the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care.

7. The Departmental Liaison Officer reports to the Senior Policy Adviser on matters relating to my Office and to the Manager, Cabinet, Policy and Co-ordination Unit in the Office of the Director-General for matters relating to the department.

8. This position was not advertised because the Premier has stated that departmental staff will only fulfil these duties for a period not in excess of 12 months. Under Public Service Guidelines, there is no requirement to advertise temporary positions which do not exceed a 12 month timeframe. The position was filled in accordance with Public Service guidelines as the officer who is in the position is a deployee as a result of the review which reduced the size of the Office of the Director-General. The officer's skills and experience matched the selection criteria for the position and the person was placed into the position for 12 months, after which the officer will return to the department.

9. The position was not advertised for reasons stated in (8).

10. The position has not been filled in an acting capacity. An officer has been temporarily appointed to the position for a 12 month period as outlined in (8) above.

11. The Departmental Liaison Officer position is funded by the Office of the Director-General. As stated previously, the officer filling the position is a deployee and there is no requirement for backfilling.

549. Mosman Hall Institution

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health (26/8/98)—

With reference to the proposed upgrade and restructure of Mosman Hall Institution in Charters Towers—

- (1) Is the money allocated in the 1998-99 Budget to remain for this project?
- (2) At what stage are current plans for this project?
- (3) When will this project commence?

Mrs EDMOND (24/9/98):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The project is in the very early planning stage. Fee proposals will be invited from consultants in the near future.
- (3) Until the engagement of consultants is finalised and opportunity provided to review the full scope of works, I am not in a position to commit to a date. It is this Government's intention to initiate action at the earliest possible opportunity.

550. Education Department, Capital Works Projects

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (26/8/98)—

With reference to the capital works projects listed for his department in the 1997-98 and 1998-99 Budgets introduced into the Parliament by the former Coalition Government—

- (1) In the order and format listed in Budget Paper 3, what is the expenditure to date for each project (including sub-totals for each sub-program)?
- (2) In the order and format listed in Budget Paper 3, what is the amount that has been expended on planning for each project (including sub-totals for each sub-program)?
- (3) In the order and format listed in Budget Paper 3, what is the scheduled completion date for each project?
- (4) Are all projects listed expected to be completed on schedule; if not, what specific projects are not expected to be completed on schedule and why?
- (5) Will he guarantee that all of the schools scheduled to open in 1999 will be completed, as per contractual arrangements, by the commencement of the new school year and that no students enrolled in any of these schools will be accommodated in temporary or alternative accommodation?
- (6) Will he provide a commitment that all capital works projects for Education Queensland, approved by the previous Government and funded in its 1998-99 Budget, will proceed as planned; if not, which specific projects are likely to lose funding and on what basis?
- (7) If he cannot answer the above questions in full, does that mean the capital works program of Education Queensland for 1998-99 is in disarray as a result of the budget revision process; if not, what is his explanation?

Mr WELLS (21/9/98): A capital works program is essentially a rolling program which operates across financial years and budget processes. This program is subject to continuous refinement which may result in addition and withdrawal of projects and in adjustments to project budgets and the like. This government has not overturned any projects that were the result of proper planning processes and justified on scales and standard of provisions. As would be expected, there is a high degree of consistency between reports of the program that are separated by some four months. However, the questions relating to Budget Paper 3, which was formulated by the previous government, refer to an uncomplicated budget process. My colleague, the Honourable the Treasurer, tabled the government's 1998-99 Appropriation Bills on 15 September, including Budget Paper 3. The Honourable Member can accordingly gain access to comparable information by referring to the superseded and current versions of Budget Paper 3. Variations in projects between these versions generally relate to changes in project costs or reporting descriptions in the intervening period and the further refinement of capital planning. Government initiatives in fulfilment of election commitments are included in the current Budget Paper 3. A project that had been introduced

at Mount Gravatt East State School in the superseded Budget Paper 3 on the basis of special funding has been withdrawn as special funding is no longer available. This response applies to questions 1,2,3,4 and 6 specifically.

In answer to question 5, of the ten new or replacement schools planned for opening in 1999 seven are scheduled to open for the start of the school year while the remaining three schools, which are relocations of existing schools were not scheduled to start at the beginning of the 1999 school year, and are scheduled for opening during the school year. These schools are Laidley (end of term 2), Wonga Beach and Cooktown (end of term 1).

All new school projects are currently on time as per agreed schedules. Whilst no delays are anticipated at this point in the delivery process, no guarantee can be given that delays will not occur due to unforeseen events beyond the control of Education Queensland such as contractor failure or excessive wet weather. Only in these cases would temporary or alternative accommodation be required.

In answer to question 7, the capital works program in Education Queensland is not in disarray.

551. Racing Industry, Impact of GST

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (26/8/98)—

With reference to his claim that he had a preliminary study from Queensland Treasury in relation to the impact of the Federal Government's tax reform package on the racing industry—

- (1) On what date was the study completed?
- (2) What were the terms of reference for the study, who was responsible for issuing them and when were they issued?
- (3) On what basis did the report arrive at a preliminary conclusion that punters could be forced to pay up to \$25m to subsidise the impact of a GST?
- (4) In its calculations, what did Treasury estimate would be the total turnover and total profits from the TAB and over what time frame were these calculated?
- (5) Was it also Treasury's advice that GST would apply to feed for animals, new harnesses and saddles for racing animals, horseshoes and training fees as claimed by him in Parliament?
- (6) Will he make available a copy of Treasury's preliminary advice?

Mr GIBBS (17/9/98):

- (1) August 16 1998.
- (2) The preliminary study was undertaken by Treasury. The preliminary study was done assuming the GST is levied on the difference between bets received and bets paid out.
- (3) The preliminary study found a GST imposed on Racing wagering would add an extra \$22.3 million in taxation on 1996-97 figures but this is estimated to grow by 2000-01.

(4) Total turnover and total profits were not estimated in Treasury's preliminary study.

(5) Preliminary advice provided by the Australian Racing Board states: "Industry participants will pay a GST component on all goods and services they consume, including such items as vehicles, fuel, feed, race course fees etc". By implication this would also include new harness' and saddles for racing animals, horses and training fees.

(6) As the report was compiled by Treasury, the responsible Minister must make such a determination.

552. Public Works Portfolio, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/8/98)—

With reference to the Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in July?
- (2) What was the value of the inventory on hand as at 31 July?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for July?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/9/98):

Senior officers of SDS advise that the figures sought by the Member for Nerang are:

- (1) \$3,670,000.
- (2) \$5,361,000.
- (3) The net profit achieved by SDS for July was \$31,000.

553. Public Housing, Waiting List

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/8/98)—

With reference to public housing at 31 July 1998—

- (1) How many applicants were on the public housing waitlist in total and by area office?
- (2) What is the composition of the public housing waitlist by the family types (a) couple (without children), (b) couple (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) single (without children), (e) pensioner (couple), (f) pensioner (single) and (g) domestic violence (single) in total and percentage terms by area office?
- (3) What is the number of applicants on the public housing waitlist by wait time months (a) up to 11 months, (b) 1 to 2 years, (c) 2 to 3 years, (d) 3 to 4 years and (e) greater than 4 years in total and by area office?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 August 1997 and 31 July 1998 in total and by area office?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/9/98):

(1) As at 31 July 1998, there were a total of 23,827 applicants on the public housing waiting list. The breakdown of the waiting list by Area Office is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained

from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The composition of the public housing waiting list by family type as at 31 July 1998 is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) The number of applicants on the waiting list by waiting time in months, and by Area Office as at 31 July 1998, is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(4) The number of applicants allocated housing between 1 August 1997 and 31 July 1998 in total and by Area Office is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

554. Public Housing, Rental Arrears

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (26/8/98)—

With reference to public housing at 31 July 1998—

- (1) How many public housing rental accounts were in arrears in total and percentage terms of the total number of rental accounts by area office?
- (2) How many of these accounts were in arrears (a) for less than 4 weeks, (b) for 4 to less than 8 weeks, (c) for 8 to less than 12 weeks and (d) for 12 weeks and greater in total and by area office and what is the total monetary value of each of the above categories?
- (3) How many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (25/9/98):

(1) The number of public housing rental accounts in arrears in total and as a percentage of the number of accounts at 31 July 1998, is provided in the following table. Tenants are not deemed to be "in arrears" until they are 4 or more weeks in arrears with their rent. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The number of accounts in arrears for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) for 4 to less than 8 weeks, (c) for 8 to less than 12 weeks and (d) for 12 weeks and greater in total and by Area Office is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The monetary value of these arrears by category and by Area Office at 31 July 1998, is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) The number of public households paying full market rent is 2,725. This represents 5.65% of the total public rental households in Queensland.

555. Electricity Supply

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (27/8/98)—

With reference to the concerns he has raised in State Parliament about Queensland's generating capacity and given the Goss Government's failure to increase power capacity in Queensland during six years—

- (1) Will he now support the fast tracking of power plant upgrades at Callide C and Tarong?
- (2) Will he also support other privately funded power projects across Queensland that are currently developing start-up proposals?

Mr McGRADY (28/9/98):

(1) Mr Horan should very much be aware that the Goss Labor Government's Energy Policy

Statement released in April 1995 outlined a series of key initiatives to increase Queensland's electricity supply capacity by up to 2910 MW in the period 1998-2006.

During the term of the Goss Government, 3x350 MW units at Stanwell power station were commissioned at yearly intervals between March 1993 and March 1995— the first coming on stream in March 1993 and the third in March 1995.

The Goss Government set in train the recommissioning of refurbished Collinsville (180 MW) and Callide A (120 MW) power stations. These refurbishments have now been completed and the two power stations are in operation. The Goss Government also planned to conduct a competitive bidding process in 1996 for the addition of new peaking capacity. The previous Coalition Government took up this Labor initiative which will result in the commissioning of two Townsville peaking plants at Yabulu and Mt Stuart and the Oakey peaking plant.

The present Government is concerned about the long term economic future for Queensland. In the interest of State development, the Government believes in a strategic focus to ensure an appropriate mix of energy infrastructure development.

The development of new energy infrastructure is vital to foster Queensland's continued economic development. The State needs new base load power generation capacity in the period 2001/2002. The CS Energy/Shell Coal Joint Venture have signed contracts for the construction of a 2X430 MW power station. The first unit is expected to be commissioned by April 2001 and the second unit approximately one year later. The Government has announced that the Callide expansion will proceed.

The Government is aware of Tarong Energy's proposal to extend Tarong power station although the Shareholding Ministers have not yet received any formal requests for approval of the project.

(2) In order to promote private sector participation and an appropriate mix of energy infrastructure development, the Government will provide support and facilitation to the private sector interested in developing new power projects.

556. Meat Industry

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/8/98)—

With reference to the Coalition Government's establishment of the Meat Processing Consultative Committee to identify problems in the meat industry and ways that the State Government could assist the meat industry to become profitable while retaining competition in the industry—

- (1) Will he indicate whether the Government supports the findings of this report; if not, why not?
- (2) Will the Government implement the recommendations of this report including the meat processing development initiative?
- (3) What is the Beattie Government's intentions with regard to the Queensland Abattoir Corporation?
- (4) What private meat processing companies have sought Government assistance for upgrading their plants or for the construction of new plants?
- (5) At what stage of consideration by Government are these at?
- (6) Has the Government provided any support to any private meat processing companies since taking office?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/98):

1. This Government recognises the importance of the findings of the industry-based Meat Processing Consultative Committee's February 1998 report.

2. The report's recommendations included measures to generate industry confidence, to grow the industry, and to facilitate amalgamations and mergers. The Department, in conjunction with other relevant Government departments, is currently developing an initiative to address the report's key recommendations.

3. The previous Coalition Government made a number of decisions relating to the Queensland Abattoir Corporation, the most notable being the announcement of a target closure date of 31 December 1999 for the QAC's Cannon Hill and Ipswich abattoirs. This was done without consultation with QAC, QAC's clients or workers, nor did it give consideration to existing QAC client contracts.

4. Support for the construction of new plants has been sought by Danpork and Darling Downs Bacon, and support for a leading edge value-adding project has been sought by Australian Meat Holdings.

5. These applications are currently being considered

6. Support for the meat-processing sector is available through a range of Government programs administered by various Departments. These programs include the Queensland Investment Incentives Scheme, Queensland Trade Assistance Scheme, Regional Business Development Scheme, Agribusiness Exporters Quality Assurance Scheme and a number of industry training schemes. In addition to financial assistance, Government provides business advisory assistance through the Department of State Development's regional office network.

557. Correctional Facilities, Rural Areas

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/8/98)—

With reference to a recent ABC radio program in which he assured the people of Queensland that he would ensure any funds spent on a new correctional facility would be expended on the basis of "best value for money"—

- (1) Is he not aware that the Borbidge Government was prepared to use this project as a boost to severely depressed rural areas to ease the high levels of unemployment and to inject new cashflows into districts overly dependent upon rural production?
- (2) How does this personal policy of his of "best value for money" rest with the promises of the Premier to create jobs, jobs, jobs, and to be a Government for all Queenslanders?
- (3) Does he accept that some rural areas need a deliberate decision by State Government to inject new economic activity into their local economies?

Mr BARTON (28/9/98):

(1) I am aware that the former National/Liberal Government announced that it would construct three 200-bed correctional facilities as a "boost to severely depressed rural areas". However the Coalition did not provide funding for the construction of these facilities in the 1998-99 budget, clearly indicating that the announcement was simply an electoral strategy designed to limit the number of seats lost to One Nation in the June election.

(2) As the Minister responsible for tackling the ongoing challenge of a rising prison population, I have a responsibility to fulfil the expectation of all Queenslanders that prison facilities are provided in a cost effective and timely way so as to achieve the best value for money.

(3) Yes. That is why the Beattie Labor Government has created the Department of State Development, responsible to the Deputy Premier, to ensure that State development issues throughout all of Queensland are managed in a coordinated and responsible manner.

558. Police Resources

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/8/98)—

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 907 (21 August 1997) to Mr Cooper?

Mr BARTON (28/9/98):

- (1) The national police to population ratio average remains relative static and is estimated to be 1:455.
- (2) The current Queensland police to population ratio is 1:498.
- (3 & 4) The police to population ratios in all police regions and districts/divisions are as follows:
Far Northern Region, 1:457; Cairns, 1:500; Innisfail, 1:536; Mareeba, 1:468; Northern Region, 1:472; Mount Isa, 1:244; Townsville, 1:574; Central Region, 1:563; Gladstone, 1:602; Longreach, 1:228; Mackay, 1:661; Rockhampton, 1:572; North Coast Region, 1:746; Bundaberg, 1:823; Gympie, 1:618; Maryborough, 1:695; Redcliffe, 1:851; Sunshine Coast, 1:750; Southern Region, 1:626; Charleville, 1:216; Dalby, 1:621; Ipswich, 1:682; Roma, 1:392; Toowoomba, 1:794; Warwick, 1:561; South Eastern, 1:648; Gold Coast, 1:624; Logan, 1:723; Metropolitan South Region, 1:722; Oxley, 1:746; South Brisbane, 1:664; Wynnum, 1:978; Metropolitan North Region, 1:566; Boondall, 1:1073; Brisbane City, 1:64; Clayfield, 1:829; Fortitude Valley, 1:198; Ferny Grove, 1:1097; Petrie, 1:804; Sandgate, 1:783; Indooroopilly, 1:1282.

559. Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources Departments, Staffing

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (27/8/98)—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed as liaison, or liaison like, officers between his department and the office of the Minister?
- (2) How many other departmental staff are employed to work in his office?
- (3) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers?
- (4) What is the job description of each of these officers?
- (5) When were each of these job descriptions prepared and approved and by whom?
- (6) What are the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers?
- (7) To whom in the office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report?
- (8) Were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not, why not?
- (9) If these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication?
- (10) If any of these positions have been filled in an acting capacity, when is it expected that the appointment of full-time officers will be finalised?
- (11) What arrangements, budgetary and otherwise, have been put in place to fund these officers, and/or their replacements within the positions they previously held within the department?

Mr WELFORD (23/9/98):

- (1) The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employs three departmental staff who have a dedicated liaison role between the Department and my office.

The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) has a Ministerial Liaison Unit headed by an Executive Manager.

- (2) A DNR officer and a DEH officer are seconded to my office.
- (3) The remuneration level of the dedicated DNR liaison officers is as follows:

Administrative Officer (Reception), AO1/AO2—\$629.50-\$1144.60 per fortnight

Administrative Officer (Liaison), AO1/AO2—\$629.50-\$1144.60 per fortnight

Administration Officer (Liaison), AO3—\$1224.30-\$1365.40 per fortnight.

The seconded DNR and DEH officers are employed at SO1, Level 1 in the positions of Principal Advisor (Natural Resources) and Principal Advisor (Environment and Heritage) with a fortnightly remuneration of \$2863.20, with access to a car and payment of business telephone expenses. However, only one of these officers has a vehicle assigned to them.

The remuneration level of the Executive Manager, Ministerial Liaison Unit, DEH is AO7, \$2153.90-\$2309.50 per fortnight.

- (4) Current job descriptions for all positions referred to in (3) are attached.

(5) Job descriptions for the Administrative Officer (Liaison) AO1/AO2 and Administration Officer (Liaison) AO3 were prepared on 30 July 1998 and approved by the Director, Executive and Legal Services. The Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2 was an existing position, and its job description was also updated and approved on that date.

I understand that the job description for the positions of Principal Advisor was approved by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet under the previous administration.

The job description for the Executive Manager, Ministerial Liaison Unit DEH was prepared in August 1998 by the Acting Director (Office of the Director-General), DEH.

- (6) The selection criteria are outlined in the respective job description.

(7) The Administrative Officer (Liaison) AO1/AO2, Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2, and Administration Officer (Liaison) AO3 will be managed by the Manager (Executive Correspondence and Projects), Executive Services and Administrative Review, DNR but will report operationally on a day to day basis to the Principal Advisor (Natural Resources), Minister's Office.

The Principal Advisor (Natural Resources) and Principal Advisor (Environment and Heritage) report directly to me.

The position of Executive Manager, Ministerial Liaison Unit reports to the A/Director (Office of the Director-General), DEH.

(8) Expressions of Interest were sought for the DNR liaison positions in accord with Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98.

The Principal Advisor positions in my office were not advertised as is permitted by Office of the Public Service Directive 8/98.

The Executive Manager (DEH) position has not yet been advertised but it is anticipated that this will happen shortly.

(9) Expressions of Interest via DNR electronic mail were called on 7 August 1998 for Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2 and on 13 August 1998 for Administrative Officer (Liaison) AO1/AO2 and Administration Officer (Liaison) AO3.

The Principal Advisor positions in my office were not advertised because there is an exemption from doing so under OPS Directive 8/98.

(10) The following positions were filled permanently from the 14 September 1998:

Administrative Officer (Liaison) AO1/AO2; and
Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2.

The position of Administration Officer (Liaison) AO3 will be advertised in the Government Gazette and filled permanently within 12 months.

The appointment of the Principal Advisors to my office is by way of secondment.

In relation to the position, Executive Manager, Ministerial Liaison Unit, DEH, refer to the answer in (8).

(11) The following DNR positions are funded from the existing departmental allocation:

Administrative Officer (Liaison) AO1/AO2;
Administrative Officer (Reception) AO1/AO2;
and
Administration Officer (Liaison) AO3.

The positions of Principal Advisor are funded from Ministerial Office funds. The departmental positions vacated by the secondees have budget provision which allows backfilling.

In DEH, no special budgetary arrangements are necessary as the Executive Manager position is a normal Departmental position funded within existing budget provision.

560. Justice and Attorney-General Department, Staffing

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (27/8/98)—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed as liaison, or liaison like, officers between his department and the office of the Minister?
- (2) How many other departmental staff are employed to work in his office?

- (3) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers?
- (4) What is the job description of each of these officers?
- (5) When were each of these job descriptions prepared and approved and by whom?
- (6) What are the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers?
- (7) To whom in the office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report?
- (8) Were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not, why not?
- (9) If these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication?
- (10) If any of these positions have been filled in an acting capacity, when is it expected that the appointment of full-time officers will be finalised?
- (11) What arrangements, budgetary and otherwise, have been put in place to fund these officers, and/or their replacements within the positions they previously held within the department?

Mr FOLEY (28/9/98):

- (1) Currently no departmental staff are employed as liaison, or like officers between the Justice Department and the Office of the Minister.
- (2) Three other departmental staff are currently employed in the Ministerial Office.
- (3) The remuneration level is AO2 and no other remunerative benefits are paid.
- (4) Formal job descriptions have not been prepared, but the officers are engaged in basic administrative duties such as answering general telephone inquiries and are not engaged in policy work.
- (5) Formal job descriptions have not been prepared.
- (6) The Officers were selected by the Department at the commencement of the Government.
- (7) The Officers report on a formal basis to the Director-General but, on a day to day basis to the Senior Policy Adviser in Justice.
- (8) Positions were not advertised as the officers have been seconded from the Department.
- (9) Not applicable
- (10) It is unknown when full-time appointments will be made.
- (11) Arrangements which have been put in place in regard to these officers have been made by the Department. One of the officers was previously employed on a temporary part-time basis.

561. Public Housing, Vacancies

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (27/8/98)—

With reference to public housing at 31 July—

- (1) What is the composition of public housing stock by dwelling type?

- (2) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to less than 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office?
- (3) What was the vacant turnaround time for maintenance and for allocations of public housing premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (1/10/98):

- (1) The composition of public housing stock by dwelling type as at 30 June 1998 is provided in Table 1. (This data is only generated half-yearly and it is not possible to provide these statistics for 31 July 1998.)
- (2) The number of dwellings vacant by dwelling type and bedroom number at 31 July 1998 are provided in Table 2. (Note: these are total vacant statistics and include both tenatable and untenatable public housing stock.)
- (3) The vacant turnaround time for maintenance and allocations of public housing premises at 31 July 1998 was 10 days for maintenance and 10 days for allocations, excluding properties in areas for which there is no waiting list and properties undergoing upgrading, redevelopment and sale processes.

562. Nerang Electorate, Roadworks

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/8/98)—

- (1) At 1 June what was the total projected expenditure on roads within the Nerang electorate for 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?
- (2) On what and where were the major expenditure items to be spent?

Mr BREDHAUER (28/9/98): The Roads Implementation Plan (RIP) was an initiative of the Goss Labor Government.

As the Member for Nerang would be aware, consistent with legislative requirements of the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the RIP is developed on an annual basis by the Department of Main Roads for approval of the responsible Minister, following which it is made publicly available.

It reflects a five-year program of works which is approved on the basis that project commitments in years one and two are firm; with three to five indicative only.

The 1997-98 to 2001-02 RIP was approved by my predecessor, The Honourable Vaughan Johnson MLA, Member for Gregory, on 27 August 1997 and tabled in Parliament on 3 September 1997, following which copies were provided to all State Members of Parliament, local governments and other key stakeholders in the roads and supporting industries. It was also made available on the internet.

Consequently, details of projected expenditure on roads and related projected details within the Nerang Electorate are readily accessible to the Member for Nerang over this five-year period.

On May 18 1998, a 1998 Budget Issue RIP was approved by the former Minister for Transport and

Main Roads, which he chose not to publish at the time. This document reflected details of the former Coalition Government's May Budget outcome for Main Roads and a program of works the then Minister proposed to undertake over the five years from 1998-99, details of which would be revised at the end of the financial year and incorporated in the 1998-99 to 2002-03 RIP scheduled to be published in September 1998.

Main Roads is currently developing the 1998-99 to 2002-03 RIP to reflect the policy initiatives of the Beattie Labor Government and the 1998 September Budget outcome, following which it will be submitted for my consideration and ultimate approval.

In accordance with my legislative obligations, this RIP will also incorporate roads policies and performance targets, as well as a report on Main Roads' overall performance in the delivery of the 1997-98 roads program.

I will table this RIP in Parliament in the near future and, along with other State Government Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Member for Nerang will be provided with a copy to determine the projects and projected expenditure forecasts proposed within his electorate over the five years to 2002-03.

In the meantime, in keeping with this Government's strong "jobs" focus, works approved in year 2 of the published 1997-98 to 2002-03 RIP are proceeding as planned.

563.State Election, Preference Distribution

Mr MICKEL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (27/8/98)—

- (1) When will the Queensland Electoral Commission have a total preference distribution with an electorate by electorate, booth by booth analysis for the 1998 Queensland State Election?
- (2) If the commission is not doing this, why is it not doing so?

Mr FOLEY (28/9/98):

(1) The Electoral Commissioner provided his total preference distribution with an electorate by electorate, booth by booth analysis for the 1998 Queensland State Election on 21 September 1998 and will be tabled in accordance with the act.

(2) Not applicable.

564.Local Governments, Waste Disposal

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (27/8/98)—

With reference to the commitment by the former Coalition Government to provide \$200m to Local Governments in Queensland to assist with new waste disposal methods and due to the fact the cost to Local Governments will be approximately \$600m—

Will the Government give a similar financial commitment to Local Governments?

Mr MACKENROTH (28/9/98): In response to the question made by Mr Hobbs, I can advise as follows:

The Government gave an undertaking to the Local Government Association of Queensland it would consider the Association's request to provide a subsidy to assist councils in rehabilitation of waste dumps.

The recent Budget implements a new \$7.5M program (\$2.5M in 1998/99 and \$5M in 1999/2000) over two years to provide assistance to councils for identification, assessment and costing of necessary rehabilitation work to council owned or controlled contaminated landfill sites.

The benefit of this approach will be a clearer understanding of which sites need rehabilitation, and a common understanding of the magnitude of the costs involved. This will enable the State and local government to make informed decisions on appropriate future arrangements.

I note that the Coalition made its \$200M commitment to local government during the election campaign subsequent to publishing its proposed 1998/99 Budget which included no allocation for such a Program.

565. Construction Industry, Cement Packaging Costs

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/8/98)—

With reference to his pre-election promise to the Builders Labourers Federation to abolish 40kg bags of cement which was not costed in Labor's list of election promises—

- (1) Was this policy costed in Labor's list of election promises; if so, will he provide the House with details?
- (2) What is the estimated cost to manufacturers for the necessary redesign or adjustment of packaging and other machinery and changes to work practices?
- (3) If his promise is implemented and as it will significantly increase the ratio of packaging cost to contents cost, what is the additional annual cost of this factor to the construction industry?

Mr BRADY (23/9/98):

(1) No. The matter is to be referred to the Workplace Health and Safety Board for investigation and consideration.

(2 & 3) This is a matter to be referred to the Workplace Health and Safety Board for investigation and consideration. Consultation would be undertaken with the relevant industry and affected stakeholders.

566. Speed Limits

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/8/98)—

- (1) What is the current position regarding the introduction of a 50kph speed limit in South East Queensland?

(2) What is the program for the introduction of this reduced urban limit in the remaining areas of the State?

(3) What process will be utilised with local authorities to implement these limits?

(4) Will speed cameras be extended to local authority roads to enforce these and other speed limits?

Mr BREDHAUER (28/9/98):

(1) Matters are well advanced for the introduction of a 50km/h local speed limit in the local government areas of Noosa, Maroochy, Caloundra, Caboolture, Redcliffe, Pine Rivers, Brisbane, Ipswich, Redlands, Logan and the Gold Coast.

(2) If the scheme is successfully implemented in the above local government areas it will be extended to other areas of the State.

(3) The implementation process for the introduction of the 50km/h speed limit in local streets in south east Queensland is contained in an Implementation Plan which has been developed and has already been endorsed by 10 of the 11 participating local governments.

(4) The use of speed cameras on local government—controlled roads where the speed exceeds 50km/h will be addressed later this year. However the Honourable Mr Johnson, Member for Gregory, would be aware that speed cameras are not the appropriate enforcement tool with which to enforce speed limits on local streets and that the Queensland Police Service had recently placed in service a number of hand—held laser speed detection devices which will provide the necessary mobility for police officers to effectively enforce speed limits on these streets.

567. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Portfolio, Election Commitments

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/8/98)—

What are the full details and costings of every written and verbal commitment relating to his portfolio, given by members of the Beattie Government, its representatives and the Labor party, prior to coming to Government?

Mr BRADY (23/9/98): The Australian Labor Party's commitments in relation to the employment, training and industrial relations portfolio are contained in publicly available documents.

568. TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (27/8/98)—

Will he table the documentation upon which he relied when making the following allegation on Page 4 of his Ministerial Statement of 5 August 1998 "the then Government sought advice and was told that if it did nothing, TAFE Queensland would face a black hole of between \$59.6m and \$90.6m by the year 2000"?

Mr BRADY (23/9/98): This document was a report commissioned as a Commercial-in-Confidence paper, by the Department of Training and Industrial Relations under the former Coalition Government in January 1998. It remains Commercial-in-Confidence.

569. Sugar Industry

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/8/98)—

With reference to declining CCS which has been a major impediment for sugar growing areas north of Tully in recent times and as an amount of \$300,000 over three years was allocated in the Department of Primary Industries Budget for 1998-99 and as it was envisaged that the sugar growing community and research organisation would use the funds to address the losses—

Will he give an undertaking that at least the \$300,000 will be provided for this important program?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/98): The State Government is well aware of declining commercial cane sugar (CCS) levels in cane grown in North Queensland and is working cooperatively with a range of organisations, including industry and research organisations, to ensure that this issue is effectively addressed.

Industry has been most successful, recently, in drawing attention to the issue and attracting funds for priority research and extension.

In May this year the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES) announced funding of \$1.1 million to target CCS decline and, more recently, the Commonwealth has provided additional funding of \$13.45 million nationally with CCS decline as an identified priority.

The State Government has also endorsed new initiative funding to support yield decline research.

570. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Education (27/8/98)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 July (a) What was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers employed in his portfolio, (b) how many were FTE full-time teachers, (c) how many were FTE part-time teachers, (d) how many were FTE contract teachers, (e) What was the FTE number of teachers employed in each sub-program, by sub-program, (f) how many FTE teachers were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the education portfolio and (g) What is the name of each organisation inside and outside the education portfolio that had teachers on secondment, at this date, (including the number of FTE teachers and the percentage of salary recouped from each organisation).
- (2) At 1 August (a) What was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers employed in his portfolio, (b) how many were FTE full-time

teachers, (c) how many were FTE part-time teachers, (d) how many were FTE contract teachers, (e) What was the FTE number of teachers employed in each sub-program, by sub-program, (f) how many FTE teachers were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the education portfolio and (g) What is the name of each organisation inside and outside the education portfolio that had teachers on secondment, at this date, (including the number of FTE teachers and the percentage of salary recouped from each organisation).

- (3) At 1 July (a) What was the total number of public servants employed in his portfolio, (b) What was the total number of wages employees employed in his portfolio, (c) how many of each category (a) and (b) were FTE, (d) as for (c) how many were FTE full-time, (e) as for (c) how many were FTE part-time, (f) as for (c) how many were FTE contract employees, (g) What was the number of (i) public servants and (ii) wages employees, employed in each sub-program, by sub-program and (h) What was the number of (i) FTE public servants and (ii) FTE wages employees, employed in each sub-program, by sub-program?
- (4) At 1 August (a) What was the total number of public servants employed in his portfolio, (b) What was the total number of wages employees employed in his portfolio, (c) how many of each category (a) and (b) were FTE, (d) as for (c) how many were FTE full-time, (e) as for (c) how many were FTE part-time, (f) as for (c) how many were FTE contract employees, (g) What was the number of (i) public servants and (ii) wages employees, employed in each sub-program, by sub-program and (h) What was the number of (i) FTE public servants and (ii) FTE wages employees, employed in each sub-program, by sub-program?

Mr WELLS (23/9/98): The information is provided in the attachments. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Attachment A—FTE for Teachers, refers to questions 1, items a,b,c,d & e

Attachment B—Locations of Teacher Secondees, refers to question 1, items f & g

Attachment C—Non-Teaching Workforce, Public Service July 1998, refers to question 3. Based on data from pay file for fortnight ending 03-07-98

Attachment D—Non-Teaching Workforce, Public Service August 1998, refers to question 3. Based on data from pay file for fortnight ending 31-07-98.

Attachment E—Non-Teaching Workforce, Cleaners July & August 1998, refers to question 4. Based on data from pay files for fortnights ending 03-07-98 & 31-07-98.

In lieu of wages staff, profiles have been prepared for the broader workforce groups of—

teachers

public servants (including janitor groundscre),
and cleaners.

Teacher aides, casual administrative officers and supply teachers are not included at this time as the data is not held centrally. This information should be able to be provided when the new human resources information payroll system is commissioned later this year. The budget for teacher aides for 1997/8 was \$94.8m. Expenditure exceeded this amount by \$9.8m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**571. Drugs in Prisons**

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (27/8/98)—

- (1) How many prisoners have (a) died from drug over-dose in Queensland correctional facilities this year, (b) been medically treated for drug over-dose in Queensland correctional facilities this year and (c) been charged with drug offences this year?
- (2) How many prisoners have been tested positive to drug use in urine tests?
- (3) How many prison visitors have been found to be carrying drugs during searches and how many have been charged with an offence?
- (4) How many correctional facility employees have been suspended for drug related offences?
- (5) How many correctional facility employees have been charged for drug related offences?

Mr BARTON (5/11/98): The Queensland Corrective Services Commission (QCSC), the Corrective Services Investigation Unit (CSIU) of the Queensland Police Service, and local police have provided the following data. Statistics relating to some of the information requested are recorded by financial year only. It would appear, however, that your request relates to the calendar year. Where calendar year statistics are available these have been provided. Other data has been provided for the 1997/98 financial year.

- (1)(a) One prisoner has died from a drug overdose in Queensland correctional facilities in 1998.
- (b) 71 prisoners were medically treated for drug overdoses in Queensland correctional facilities in the 1997/98 financial year.
- (c) For the period 1 January 1998 to 15 September 1998, 130 prisoners were charged with drug related offences.
- (2) 868 prisoners tested positive to drug use in urine tests in 1997/98.
- (3) 73 prison visitors were found to be carrying drugs in 1997/98. All matters are referred to police for prosecution.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) Nil.

572. Bowen, Sunshine Rail Experience

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (27/8/98)—

With reference to the decision by the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation to drop Bowen from the QTTC's Sunshine Rail Experience—

- (1) Does he support this decision of the QTTC?
- (2) Was he aware of the QTTC's decision before he visited Bowen earlier this month?
- (3) Will he immediately take action to direct the QTTC to re-instate Bowen on the Sunshine Rail Experience?
- (4) What impact does he believe this decision will have on the local tourist industry in Bowen?

- (5) If the QTTC does not reinstate Bowen on the Sunshine Rail Experience, what additional support is he looking at giving the Bowen tourist industry?

Mr GIBBS (28/9/98):

- (1) The decision to amend the Sunshine Rail Experience (SRE) was taken by the former Board of the QTTC on 27 May this year. The former Board of the QTTC was appointed by, and under the control of, the former Minister for Tourism. I am informed the decision was taken in response to steadily declining passenger numbers over recent years. In 1994, 3427 passengers joined a SRE tour. In 1997, this figure had dropped to 2170. Currently bookings are down 29.5 percent on the same time last year.
- (2) As stated above, the decision was taken by the former Board almost a month prior to the change of Government. Further, since taking office I have not yet been able to visit Bowen.
- (3) The Government recognises the importance of rail touring to regional Queensland and through the QTTC, has developed a series of rail tours to replace the SRE.
- (4) The declining visitor numbers on the SRE tour indicate that any impact is likely to be minimal.
- (5) Bowen is on the cusp of the Whitsundays and Townsville regions and the QTTC already provides considerable support to both of these regions.

573. Tourism, Sport and Racing Department, Staffing

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (27/8/98)—

- (1) How many departmental staff are employed as liaison, or liaison like, officers between his department and the office of the Minister?
- (2) How many other departmental staff are employed to work in his office?
- (3) What is the remuneration level, as well as the type and cost of other remunerative benefits, of each of these officers?
- (4) What is the job description of each of these officers?
- (5) When were each of these job descriptions prepared and approved and by whom?
- (6) What are the full details of the criteria used for appointment of each of these officers?
- (7) To whom in the office of the Minister, or the department, do these officers report?
- (8) Were these positions advertised in accordance with established public service recruitment and selection procedures; if not, why not?
- (9) If these positions were advertised, what is the date and place of publication?
- (10) If any of these positions have been filled in an acting capacity, when is it expected that the appointment of full-time officers will be finalised?
- (11) What arrangements, budgetary and otherwise, have been put in place to fund these officers,

and/or their replacements within the positions they previously held within the department?

Mr GIBBS (17/9/98): There are currently no departmental staff employed either in my office or as liaison officers between my office and the department.

574. Special Schools, Touch-screen Computers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (27/8/98)—

With reference to his various statements, both inside and outside Parliament, concerning touch-screen computers in special schools—

- (1) How many special schools are operated by his department?
- (2) How many of them have touch-screen computers?
- (3) How many have associated software featuring a teddy bear, golliwog and frog?
- (4) How many touch-screen computers do these schools have in total?
- (5) When were they acquired? (month and year would be preferred, but year will suffice)
- (6) How much did they cost? (approximates will suffice)
- (7) How was their purchase funded?
- (8) Will he also advise the following information on an individual school basis ie. school name, number of touch-screen computers, approximate cost of each, approximate date of purchase for each and source of funding for each?

Mr WELLS (21/9/98):

1. There are 51 Special Schools currently operated by Education Queensland.
2. SAP R/3 indicates that eleven special schools currently have touch screens.
3. There is no way of knowing, at a systemic level, how many schools own a particular software title as schools are responsible for selecting and purchasing software that meets their students educational needs. The software described is likely to be one of the series of software called "Touch On". The Queensland distributor for this software, reports that this range of software is among their most popular titles and it is likely that the majority of special schools with a touch screen would have a copy of this software.
Software featuring a teddy bear, golliwog and a frog could also be the result of a teacher developing their own software resource using one of the multimedia development packages, such as hyperstudio, that many schools would own and use to create individualised software for students.
4. Twenty computers with touch screens were located in Special Schools
5. The dates of purchase range from 1991-1998.

Name of School: No of screens—Purchase date

Calamvale Special School: 2—approx 1997

Claremont Special School: 1—March 1992

Darling Point Special School: 1—March 1991

Geebung Special School: 5—approx 1996 approx 1992

Logan City Special School: 5—approx 1997

Maryborough Special School: 1—December 1994

Mount Gravatt Special School: 1—approx 1992

Mount Ommaney Special School: 1—approx 1996

Red Hill Special School: 1—April 1992

Redland District Special School: 1—January 1998

Woody Point Special School: 1—approx 1996

6. There are a number of different touch screen technologies used by special schools. These range in cost between \$600 and \$2000.

7. The funding source was not always able to be identified.

Name of School—Funding source

Calamvale Special School—unknown

Claremont Special School—General Account

Darling Point Special School—General Account

Geebung Special School—unknown P&C

Logan City Special School—unknown

Maryborough Special School—Donation

Mount Gravatt Special School—unknown

Mount Ommaney Special School—unknown

Red Hill Special School—Q Gov Funds

Redland District Special School—General Account

Woody Point Special School—unknown

8. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

575. Motorists, Physical Coordination Tests

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/8/98)—

Has Queensland Transport commenced the planned road testing trial (first used in California) to administer physical coordination tests to detect motorists who may be drug impaired, to target legal prescription drugs as well as illicit drugs such as cannabis and amphetamines and, if the motorist cannot pass the test, then to be required to undertake a blood test?

Mr BREDHAUER (28/9/98): The trial to which the Honourable Member refers was approved by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in the previous government. Research into the most appropriate trial arrangements is being progressed by Queensland Transport and the Queensland Police Service.

The system will include the use of a simple checklist to test behaviours which can then be presented as evidence in court.

The trial will commence in November 1998. I have asked Queensland Transport to provide me with details of the progress of this activity as planning proceeds, including a timetable for the trial, its evaluation and possible full-scale implementation.

576. Aquaculture

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (27/8/98)—

With reference to Aquaculture which is destined to become a significant industry in Queensland and as there are a number of issues important to this fledgling industry which has the potential to provide export and domestic income while providing a wide range of job opportunities and it has the ability to reduce the impact on the catch from the wild and produce high return per hectare—

- (1) Is the Government prepared to advance this industry and respond to the following needs (a) recognise the major contribution the industry can make to the economy, (b) ensure adequate land is made available where leasehold tenure prevails and will be back responsible investors with a range of requirements and difficulties they will face with the Department of Environment and Department of Natural Resources and (c) provide a breeding program for crustaceans, fresh water, salt water and reef species?
- (2) What funding will be provided for these projects in (c) above including equipment and personnel?
- (3) Will the Government provide extension staff to assist current and prospective producers with a plethora of requirements and advice relating to disease etc.?
- (4) What level of expertise would the Government be prepared to engage to ensure the best outcome?
- (5) Where would the distribution of effort by Department of Primary Industries (DPI) be located throughout Queensland?
- (6) What backup would be given to the marketing of the processed product and the live industry with both domestic and export sales?
- (7) Will Labor's DPI aquaculture program at least match the contribution made by the previous Government?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/9/98):

- 1(a) This Government strongly supports the sustainable development of aquaculture in Queensland and recognises the significant contribution aquaculture makes to the economy. Aquaculture provides employment opportunities particularly in rural areas, with more than 460 people presently employed. Aquaculture produces quality seafood products for import replacement and export earning more than \$14.3 million from overseas in 1996/97.
- (b) Diversification of rural industries into aquaculture particularly in Western and Far North Queensland is strongly supported. My

Department will work closely with the Departments of Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources to ensure the actions of those Departments do not unnecessarily deter investors in aquaculture, whilst ensuring aquaculture develops in a planned and ecologically sustainable manner.

- (c) The Department has a focused research and development program across a range of aquaculture species including freshwater and marine crustaceans such as redclaw and mud crabs; and freshwater and marine finfish such as sleepy cod and golden perch and sand whiting and barramundi cod.

2. Of a total aquaculture budget of \$5.3 million in 1998/99, in excess of \$3 million is directed towards aquaculture research and development.

3. The four additional positions allocated as part of the 1996/97 and 1997/98 fish health new initiative project will continue to be funded in 1998/99.

In addition, in the recent 1998/99 budget, further new initiative funding of \$160,000 per annum for three years was allocated to the Aquaculture and Industry Development Division for fish health planning and seafood safety.

Efforts to further rationalise aquaculture licensing processes will continue in 1998/99.

4. Consistent with the Government's policy on providing responsive extension services for primary industries, it is pleasing to note that the Fisheries Group of the Department is to enhance its extension services.

5. With aquaculture development occurring in all areas of the State, the Government has no plans to make significant changes to the current distribution of Department of Primary Industries aquaculture staff. Walkamin, Cairns, Townsville, Bribie Island and Brisbane will continue as major departmental aquaculture centres. Officers will also continue to provide aquaculture services from Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Kingaroy.

6. In January 1998 one Fisheries Economist and two Marketing Officers funded from consolidated revenue were relocated within the Department to work in the Aquaculture and Industry Development Division.

7. In 1998/99 the Department of Primary Industries Aquaculture and Industry Development subprogram will be funded from consolidated revenue/base at the same level as 1997/98, some \$5.3 million. A further \$500,000 is budgeted for infrastructure at the Cairns Northern Fisheries Centre as part of the Reef Fish Aquaculture project and an additional \$160,000 mentioned above for Fish Health Planning and Food Safety.

577. Youth and Family Support/Development Workers, Funding

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (15/9/98)—

With reference to the various programs funded within her portfolio—

- (1) Where are the youth support/development workers or coordinators located and area serviced when employed by her department or funded by her department through community organisations?
- (2) By whom are they employed and what is the amount of the funding in each case?
- (3) Where are the family support/development workers or coordinators located and area serviced when employed by her department or funded by her department through community organisations?
- (4) By whom are they employed and what is the amount of the funding in each case?

Ms BLIGH (15/10/98):

(1 & 2) Youth Support Coordinators work with schools and community organisations to identify and refer young people who would benefit from being linked to personal and family support services and to work with young people and their families to ensure that they are able to access support.

Location, employing organisation and funding details for 1998/99 are as follows:

Location: Employing organisation—Level of Funding

Townsville: Queensland Youth Services Inc.—\$60,000

Ipswich: Helping All Parents and Youth Inc.—\$60,000

Nundah: Community Living Association Inc.—\$60,000

Inala: Inala Youth Care Community Inc.—\$30,000

Deception Bay: Deception Bay Community Youth Programs Association Inc.—\$60,000

Rockhampton: Darumbal Community Youth Service Inc.—\$60,000

Bundaberg: Bundaberg Area Youth Service Inc.—\$60,000

Capalaba: Bayside Adolescent Boarding Inc.—\$60,000

Mackay: Mackay Youth Connections Inc.—\$60,000

Mooloolaba: Youth Action Inc.—\$60,000

Tewantin: Noosa Youth Service Association Inc.—\$60,000

Cairns: Lifeline Far North Queensland—\$60,000

Logan: Youth and Family Service (Logan City) Inc.—\$60,000

TOTAL—\$750,000

Youth Development Workers work within a community or region to plan, coordinate and develop services for young people. Funding is provided on a decreasing subsidy basis over four years, with the sponsoring organisation required to guarantee an increasing contribution to salary costs over this period. Location, employing organisation and funding details for 1998/99 is as follows:

Location: Employing Organisation—Level of Funding

Atherton: Atherton Shire Council—\$9,000

Cairns: Cairns City Council—\$9,000

Cardwell: Cardwell Shire Council—\$9,000

Yarrabah: Yarrabah Aboriginal Council—\$18,750

Cloncurry: Cloncurry Shire Council—\$12,250

Richmond: Richmond Shire Council—\$16,000

Gladstone: Gladstone Shire Council—\$9,000

Dysart : Dysart Community Support Group Inc.—\$4,375

Middlemount: Middlemount Youth Employment Inc.—\$4,375

Clermont: Belyando Shire Council—\$8,000

Blackall: Blackall Shire Council—\$9,875

Hervey Bay: Hervey Bay City Council—\$9,000

Dalby: Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association of Queensland, Dalby Branch—\$18,750

Toowoomba: Toowoomba City Council—\$18,750

Gatton: Gatton Shire Council—\$18,750

Gympie: Cooloola Shire Council—\$18,750

Caboolture: Caboolture Shire Council—\$16,000

Surfers Paradise: Gold Coast City Council—\$18,750

Brisbane: Drug ARM—\$18,750

Brisbane, Central Queensland: Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association of Qld (two positions)—\$39,250

Tambo: Tambo Shire Council—\$9,875

TOTAL—\$296,250

A number of organisations received their last payment under the Youth Development Worker program in 1997/98, but will continue to operate in 1998/99. These are listed below.

Location: Employing Organisation—Level of Funding 1997/98

Bamaga: Bamaga Shire Council—\$8,750

Townsville: Townsville City Council—\$8,750

Ipswich: Ipswich City Council—\$8,750

Logan: Logan City Council—\$8,750

Redland: Redland Shire Council—\$9,000

Maroochydore: Maroochy Shire Council—\$24,500

Brisbane: Scout Association of Qld—\$11,750 (carried over)

Barcaldine: Barcaldine Shire Council—\$9,875 (carried over)

Redcliffe: Redcliffe City Council—\$9,000 (carried over)

Normanton: Shire of Carpentaria—\$15,750 (carried over)

(3) and (4) The Family Care and Support Program incorporates the Family Support Program, the Family Support Worker Program, and the Rural Family Support Program.

The Family Support Program provides support to families and their children in crisis. This support can include counselling, parent/adolescent mediation, small group work, information, referral, family aide services and brokerage services. The services

support people in crisis and often serve as preventive measures that preclude more intrusive and intensive interventions.

Family Support Workers offer support, information and resources to family members, skilled counselling, practical assistance and referral to specialised services. Each service is operated by one worker and auspiced by a larger organisation.

The Rural Family Support Program provides practical, short term financial assistance, counselling, information, referral and assistance to farm families and rural communities. It aims to develop strategies which will strengthen the community's capacity to deal with the profound effects of drought. The service model is based on outreach work and is resourced by one worker located in an established agency in the targeted rural communities.

Details on each program including the location of the workers, the area serviced by the workers, the organisations that employ the workers, and the amount of funding each organisation received are outlined in the attachment.

Family Support Worker Program—1998/99 (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Rural Family Support Program—1998/99 (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Family Support Program—1998/99 (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

578. Dalby, TAFE Courses

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

With reference to his answer to a question I asked on 6 August—

- (1) Does he acknowledge Dalby and district has a large unmet demand for TAFE courses?
- (2) Is he aware the Goss Government abandoned a former plan to build a TAFE college at Dalby in 1991?
- (3) On what basis would the money allocated in the 1998-99 Borbidge Budget for this facility be reallocated elsewhere, given the Dennis Long Report confirmed the existence of a severe unmet demand for TAFE courses in Dalby?
- (4) On what date did he give his approval to the Capital Development Program of TAFE for the 1998-99 budget?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

- (1) The Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE currently delivers training in business and general studies through leased facilities in Condamine Street, Dalby. The Dalby campus has recently almost doubled its space and the number of teaching hours is expected to double to more than 35,600 in 1998/99. The Dalby campus will connect to the Videolinq system. This will allow for delivery for an even greater range of services.

The key unmet demand is for engineering training. The government will provide \$500,000 in 1998/99 to expand the Dalby Agricultural College facilities to enable wider offerings in engineering and avoiding a duplication of public assets.

(2) Yes.

(3) The Dennis Long Report, together with the computer disk, was recalled by the office of the then Minister for Training and Industrial Relations. The government only received an official copy of the report from the former Minister on 13 October 1998 following the revelation of the then Minister's action in recalling the report and the computer disk during the 1998/99 Estimates process. The supposed Borbidge budget was only foreshadowed prior to the election and had never achieved budget status.

(4) The ANTA mid year review of the Capital Development Program for the 1998 calendar year was endorsed on 5 August 1998.

579. Coolangatta Watch-house

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (15/9/98)—

Will he advise whether the planned \$400,000 upgrade of Coolangatta watch-house will proceed, when work will commence and when it will be completed?

Mr BARTON (15/10/98): Work has already commenced on the project. Total estimated project cost is \$624,700. Some demolition works have already been carried out. Technical design work in relation to the new cells is well advanced. It is anticipated, at this stage, that work will be completed by Christmas 1998, subject to any unforeseen delays.

580. Building Services Authority, Claims

Mr WILSON asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (15/9/98)—

- (1) What are the number of claims dealt with by the Building Services Authority (BSA) in the last two years which are claims from (home) owners whose builders have either gone bankrupt or refused to complete the construction?
- (2) How many of these claims have been refused in part?
- (3) How many of these claims have been refused in whole?
- (4) How many of the refused or partly refused claims have been contested in the Building Tribunal by owners?
- (5) How many of the contested claims did the tribunal rule in favour of the home owners?
- (6) If there are rulings, has there been a consistent reason/s given in the decisions?
- (7) How many decisions of the tribunal in relation to the above claims have been appealed to a higher court (eg District and Supreme Courts)?

- (8) What has been the approximate cost to the BSA to run the appeals in the Building Tribunal over the last two years?
- (9) What has been the approximate costs to run the appeals in the higher courts during the last two years?
- (10) What is the average quantum of the claims that have been contested by the BSA during the last two years?
- (11) What has been the average quantum awarded by the Building Tribunal in the appeals during the last two years?

Ms SPENCE (13/10/98):

- (1) BSA has dealt with a total of 3,238 claims in the last two years of which 388 were for non-completion of construction resulting from contractor insolvency.
- (2) BSA does not keep statistics on part refusal of claims.
- (3) 4% (126) of all claims received in the last two years were rejected. 7% (26) non-completion of construction claims were rejected.
- (4) Of all claims dealt with in the last two years, 3% (98) were filed for review in the Queensland Building Tribunal. Of this 3%, 1% (28) were filed in relation to non-completion claims (number inconsistent with the number provided in answer to question 3 (26), due to reviews filed and finalised in different years).
- (5) Of the 28 non-completion claims reviewed, the Queensland Building Tribunal ruled in favour of three owners.
- (6) All three cases involved different issues therefore there was no commonality.
- (7) BSA has appealed two of these decisions to a higher court.
- (8) Eight of the 28 reviews were conducted by external solicitors at an estimated cost to BSA of \$45,000, the remaining 20 were run by BSA staff.
- (9) BSA's appeal costs for the two cases mentioned in answer number 7 were approximately \$7,000.
- (10) No data is kept on the average quantum of rejected claims however, by using average claim costs, the 126 rejections over the last two years are estimated at \$924,000. The 26 non-completion claims are estimated at \$517,000.
- (11) The average quantum of the two appealed cases was \$52,778.

581. Heliothis

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (15/9/98)—

With reference to the cotton industry in Queensland which experienced severe losses last season due to the problem of controlling heliothis and as the industry is worth \$600m to the State and in recent times has been expanding substantially in both dry land and irrigated areas—

- (1) What resources are being employed to find solutions to control the pest in the following areas (a) breeding varieties that produce toxins to repel heliothis, (b) undertaking studies in biological control and integrated pest

management, (c) investigating other means of chemical control and (d) gauging the value of trap crops and reducing the instance of volunteer plant species which act as a host between seasons?

- (2) What funding is being spent specifically on this program to control heliothis to instil confidence that there are measures being investigated to ensure growers crops won't be totally wiped out with this pest during the coming season?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/98):

1. The DPI Farming Systems Institute undertakes a range of research projects related to heliothis control with resources contributed by both DPI and industry.

CSIRO and private companies such as Monsanto handle basic cotton breeding. DPI conducts statewide testing of varieties from these programs to ensure that they are adapted to local conditions at a cost of \$155 000/year.

The Toowoomba entomology laboratory is the centre of DPI work on biological control and integrated pest management. The information is taken to industry by specialist extension staff. Investment on this topic is \$325 000/year.

Resources to investigate other means of chemical control have been boosted to \$580 000 by the recently announced new initiative against heliothis. This work will focus on environmentally friendly means of heliothis control. The Indooroopilly laboratories will be a major centre for this research that requires strong collaboration with other research providers in Brisbane.

Gauging the value of trap crops and elimination of volunteer plant hosts is a major research topic in central Queensland with developing interest in the south. Investment on this issue is \$200,000/year.

2. \$209 000.

582. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

- (1) Will he provide the House with a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding mentioned in parts 5 and 6 of his answer to Question on Notice No. 499?
- (2) When will the recruiting drive be held for the 500 apprentices mentioned in part 2 of his answer?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

(1) The Memorandum of Understanding is still being finalised.

(2) Individual agencies are currently undertaking recruitment of apprentices. Advertising for the recruitment of trainees commenced on Saturday 10 October 1998.

583. TAFE

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 495 in which he indicated that financial details of

the amount of industry-funded training conducted by TAFE is not available on a campus, college and institute basis—

- (1) Why are these figures not available when the gross whole-of-State TAFE figure obviously is available?
- (2) What were the reasons underpinning the massive increase from 1994-95 (\$11,595,630) to over \$25m in both 1995-96 and 1996-97?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

(1) The data for each of the 16 institutes is attached. Data is not generally kept at College or Campus levels. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The increase can be attributed to a range of reasons including the introduction of a significant increase in funds available through labour market programs in 1995/96 as a result of the Federal Government's Working Nation initiative.

584. Directors-General

Dr WATSON asked the Premier (15/9/98)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 472 and given that he is not prepared to provide, for each Director-General (or Acting Director-General) or equivalent, a list identifying the business and other organisations with which each has had significant dealings or association during the past five years—

Will he guarantee that no Director-General (or Acting Director-General) or equivalent has had dealings or associations during the past five years that would constitute the basis for a conflict of interest; if not, why not?

Mr BEATTIE (1/10/98): I refer the Honourable Member to my previous answer to Question on Notice No 472.

585. Nerang-Broadbeach Road

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/9/98)—

With reference to the Nerang-Broadbeach Road—

- (1) How many people have died on this road over the last 15 years?
- (2) How many reported car accidents have occurred, with and without persons injured or killed, over the same period?
- (3) How much money has been spent on the road over the last 10 years, where and for what?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/10/98):

(1) Reliable accident data is held from 1 January 1986 (about 13 years only). There were 21 people killed in road traffic crashes along the Nerang-Broadbeach Road, between the Pacific and Gold Coast Highways, during the period 1 January 1986 and 31 August 1998 (as at 17 September 1998).

(2) There were 994 road traffic crashes along Nerang-Broadbeach Road, between the Pacific Highway and the Gold Coast Highway, during the

period 1 January 1986 to 31 August 1998 (as at 17 September 1998).

The following table shows the works undertaken the Nerang-Broadbeach Road, for the financial years between 1988-89 and 1997-98. There has been \$16,564,107 of works undertaken on the Nerang-Broadbeach Road between 1988-89 to 1997-98. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

586. ANTA National Conference, Speech

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

Will he provide to the House the report he quotes from on page 6 of his speech to the recent ANTA National Conference?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98): A copy of the report will be available upon its release.

587. Public Works and Housing Portfolio, Election Commitments

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (15/9/98)—

What are the full details and costings of every written and verbal commitment, relating to his portfolio, given by members of the Beattie Government, its representatives and the Labor Party, prior to coming to Government?

Mr SCHWARTEN (15/10/98):

I thank the Member for Mooloolah for his interest in the Government's policies.

His question will allow me to expand on the Government's vision for Queensland with reference to my portfolios of Public Works and Housing.

Our plan to break the unemployment cycle is the central platform for the first term of the Beattie Government and the portfolios of Public Works and Housing are vital components of this plan.

It is an ambitious but crucial plan—to significantly reduce youth and long-term unemployment through new investment in apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Government will offer incentives to business and provide its own training opportunities to develop skills which future industries are likely to require.

The Government's comprehensive \$92 million a year plan will create 24,480 jobs through apprenticeships, traineeships and job placements in its first term of office.

Training opportunities will be spread over private, public and community sectors.

As part of the plan, 500 public sector apprenticeships will be created at a cost of \$25 million per year.

Six thousand public sector traineeships will be created at \$23 million per year.

In addition, almost 9,000 long term unemployed people will find work placement under our Community Jobs Plan at a cost of \$34 million per annum.

Placements that will provide at least six months employment on essential public works, community and environmental projects.

But our commitment to breaking the unemployment cycle goes much deeper.

We acknowledge there is a need to provide incentives for the private sector to take on apprentices and trainees.

We will provide Start-Up Assistance to assist with the initial costs involved in taking up employment.

For example, where there is a requirement for specialised equipment such as tools and protective clothing, a \$300 allowance will be provided to each apprentice or trainee.

This amounts to a \$4 million commitment over the life of the scheme.

We will also work with sectors which have continuing importance to our economic structure, such as the building and construction industries, to expand training opportunities.

A \$2,000 cash bonus will be provided to private sector employers or group training schemes which employ additional apprentices in areas of skills shortage such as tourism, building and construction and the metals and engineering industries.

Costing \$5 million per year, this scheme has the potential to support up to 2,500 new apprenticeships each year by reducing costs of engaging apprenticeships and trainees.

When combined with Commonwealth incentives, this initiative could mean that employers have access to up to \$5,500 for taking on an apprentice.

To support our partnership with the private sector to beat unemployment, we will introduce a range of labour-intensive public works schemes with a regional focus.

The programs, administered at a local level will include:

- road and park construction,
- environmental clean-up work such as restoring degraded beaches and rivers,
- the building of bicycle paths, harbour foreshores, retaining walls and
- the essential maintenance of schools.

We intend to enforce a requirement that 10 percent of all employable hours on public works be undertaken by apprentices and trainees and become a standard requirement of new State Government capital works contracts.

Industry figures indicate this will create an additional 300 apprenticeships per annum for the next three years—at no cost to the Queensland taxpayer.

Following on from the success of schemes such as the local government ATSIC traineeships, we will cooperate with local government in encouraging them to take on trainees with a strong emphasis on developing skills in information technology and related services.

Contracts will be let for 1,500 public houses to be built by group training schemes, involving 600 new

apprentices over a three year period, costing \$3 million per annum.

These initiatives will be funded using extra revenue generated by State growth and by slashing recent increases in the previous Treasurer's slush fund.

Other initiatives involve taking advantage of solar power and other alternative energy resources through the adoption of a minimum house energy rating standard and solar hot water heating for all new Government housing.

The number of solar hot water heaters in Queensland houses is expected to increase from 5 per cent to 20 per cent within 5 years.

The Government is also committed to the establishment of a green power purchase program.

This program will give all Queensland households the option of purchasing power generated from renewable energy resources.

Spearheaded by a Government commitment to buy a minimum of 2 per cent of all Government electricity as soon as practicable, the program will be paid for out of the savings from the Government's own energy management program.

The Cool Schools Program will be extended by an extra \$9 million over four years .

The program's extension will cover schools located south of Bowen including the balance of the Department of Education's former Northern and Capricornia regions.

Also included are the Central West, Central Highlands and Central Queensland regions.

Assistance to non-Government schools will also be provided.

The implementation of the Cooler Schools Program will be subject to a whole-of-Government commitment to promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy alternatives as part of a major greenhouse response strategy.

Trials of cooling systems using renewable energy sources and other energy-efficiency measures will be conducted.

Two percent of the total value of public building projects will be allocated for public art to support the development of local artists, generate new employment opportunities as well as improve the quality of the built environment.

This initiative will involve an annual expenditure of \$15 million and is restricted to public buildings with public access but excludes buildings such as prisons and public housing.

588. Queensland Workplace Agreements

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

- (1) As the Parliament has clearly indicated that QWAs are to remain as a flexible and valuable option for Queensland's employees and their employers, what resources has the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial

Relations allocated for the marketing and advertising of QWAs in 1998-99?

- (2) How many QWAs has the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations registered in July and how many in August?
- (3) Based on monthly trend figures, how many QWAs does the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations expect to register during the remainder of this calendar year?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

- (1) \$650,000 has been allocated in the 1998/99 financial year to promote a range of industrial relations options that can benefit Queensland businesses and their employees.

The funding allocation supports workplace advisers located in central and regional offices and provide them with the opportunity to actively inform employers and employees of the industrial relations options available to them under Queensland's industrial relations legislation.

- (2) In July 1998 there were 129 filing receipts issued for Queensland Workplace Agreements, and 120 filing receipts issued in August 1998. Included in these figures were multiple agreements lodged by individual employers.

- (3) It is too early to predict.

589. TAFE

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

How many additional, full time, permanent TAFE teachers does TAFE Queensland propose to employ to handle the additional training generated by the Labor Government's employment of an additional 2,000 trainees and 500 apprentices in the public sector?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98): The number of additional teachers to be employed will be determined by individual TAFE Institutes and will depend in part on the proportion of User Choice funding won by each Institute.

590. 4TAB Race Coverage

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (15/9/98)—

- (1) What plans are being undertaken to extend 4TAB race coverage in Queensland since the decision was made by the ABC to discontinue its service on its regional radio network from 1 July?
- (2) If there has been discussions between the Federal Communications Minister and TAB Queensland on this issue, what were the outcomes of those discussions?
- (3) What is the estimated cost to provide 4TAB coverage to those areas previously serviced by the ABC coverage that do not now receive radio race broadcasts?

Mr GIBBS (15/10/98):

- (1) The Queensland TAB have undertaken a program of expansion and extension to the 4TAB service throughout rural and regional Queensland.

(2) The former Federal Communications Minister informed the Queensland TAB that the Federal Government "considers it inappropriate to intervene in programming matters" but that he would have the "ABA and the ACA advise him of measures to prevent hoarding of apparatus licences for the operation of low power narrowcasting services".

- (3) The Federal Government does not release AM frequency licences throughout the entire State, so it is not possible to access all the areas the ABC currently covers.

591. Kimmins Report, Public Broadcasting of Alleged Offences

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (15/9/98)—

With reference to the Kimmins Report into allegations of misconduct in the investigation of paedophilia in Queensland and to a press statement from former Judge, Jack Kimmins, where he is quoted as saying: "The public heralding of false accusations can therefore be considered as heinous as paedophilia itself ...", Mr Kimmins continues: "it is in the community's interest that those who are in a position—directly or indirectly—to influence the public broadcasting of particular allegations should be vigilant to ensure that innocent people are not falsely condemned, and that investigations are driven by reasonable suspicion and not mere hysteria" and in his position as the upholder of justice in this State—

- (1) Does he support the sentiments of former District Court Judge, Jack Kimmins?
- (2) Does he consider that the Premier is a person in a position to directly or indirectly influence public broadcasting of particular allegations?
- (3) Does he agree that the Premier should have been more vigilant before disclosing the name of the MLA allegedly under police investigation for alleged child sex offences?
- (4) Does he believe the Premier's naming of the Member concerned could be interpreted as directly or indirectly influencing public broadcasting of particular allegations?
- (5) Does he believe the Premier's public call for the resignation of the Member concerned could be interpreted by some as directly or indirectly influencing public broadcasting of particular allegations?
- (6) Does he believe the Premier's naming of the Member concerned was an act conducive to ensuring "innocent people are not falsely condemned"?
- (7) What action did he take to counsel the Premier on issues of fundamental justice once he had heard the Premier's call for the Member's resignation?

- (8) What action did he take to counsel the Premier on issues of fundamental justice once he heard the Premier, on numerous occasions, refer by name to the Member concerned to several media outlets?

Mr FOLEY (14/10/98):

(1) Yes.

(2-8) The Premier has said nothing to contradict the presumption of innocence to which everyone is entitled under the criminal law.

592. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

Will he detail to the House the arrangements his department has in place to support (a) school based apprenticeships and (b) national training packages?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

(a) DETIR's commitment to school based apprenticeships includes:

a Senior Officer to work with the schooling sectors, employers and training providers to attend to issues of implementation, particularly industrial relations issues;

two Senior Officers in the Division of Training who work on policy-related matters, issues of implementation, and fostering relationships with the three schooling sectors;

representation on a Steering Committee comprising the three schooling sectors and the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies that oversees implementation issues in Queensland schools;

funding for two pilot projects to support and encourage the participation of indigenous students and students with a disability in school-based apprenticeships.

the collection of data on school-based apprenticeship activity

(b) The previous government entered into a commitment to implement National Training Packages without consideration for the resource implications. Myriad issues have emerged because of this action and DETIR is taking these up with ANTA as a matter of urgency.

593. TAFE

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

With reference to his public claims that whilst the Coalition drastically decreased TAFE teacher numbers through the VER process, there was a simultaneous increase of 300 administrative staff—

Will he indicate how he arrived at this figure and will he detail to the House the distribution of these 300 additional administrative staff, on an institute by institute basis?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98): The figures were obtained from the Human Resource Management

System (HRMS) as at 1 July 1996 and 1 July 1998 for each Institute.

594. Bob Marshman and Associates

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

With reference to Section (2) of his answer to Question on Notice No. 458—

(1) Did Marshman and Associates have any "informal" associates or employees prior to 30 June?

(2) Have any such "informal" associates or employees subsequently been given work within the DETIR, either as consultants or departmental employees?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

(1) No.

(2) Not applicable.

595. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

With reference to "User Choice"—

(1) Are all States committed to continue moving to full "User Choice" for all trainees and apprentices?

(2) In what year does DETIR anticipate that each of the other individual States will catch up to Queensland in relation to "User Choice"?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

(1) No. New South Wales has reserved its position regarding the implementation of User Choice for apprentices.

(2) DETIR is not in a position to anticipate decisions in other jurisdictions.

596. Sugar Industry

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (15/9/98)—

With reference to the decision taken by the previous Coalition Government and its subsequent actions to hand over ownership of the bulk sugar terminals to the sugar industry—

(1) Will he guarantee to the Parliament and the sugar industry that the Government will continue to fulfil this decision; if not, why not?

(2) If he is continuing to fulfil this decision, what is the progress of the handover?

(3) Under what type of structure will the bulk sugar terminal ownership be vested in the sugar industry?

(4) How will growers and millers hold equity in the bulk sugar terminal entity?

(5) Will this equity be tradeable?

(6) When does he anticipate the handover process will be finalised?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/98):

1. The State Government fully supports the decision to transfer the State's seven bulk sugar terminals to the Queensland sugar industry through the granting of long-term leases.
2. Industry has now established a Bulk Sugar Terminal Management Group as the forerunner to the industry company to be known as Sugar Terminals Ltd. A reconstituted Bulk Sugar Terminal Task Force, with equal representation from the sugar industry and the port authorities, is presently being set up.
3. Bulk sugar terminal ownership will be vested in an industry company structure known as Sugar Terminals Ltd.
4. The BST Management Group is charged with identifying options for assigning share entitlements to individual participants.
5. The BST Task Force recommended that shares be traded in a restricted market once the growers and millers have their entitlement.
6. The handover process is expected to be finalised by September 1999.

597. TAFE

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 511, in which he provides a table indicating the status of "User Choice" in each State—

- (1) As the question was based on his statement in the Parliament on 5 August which specifically mentioned both "User Choice" and "Competitive Funding" will he now complete his answer by providing a similar table showing the total VET funding put out to all forms of competitive funding, by each State?
- (2) Will he also table the original source documents from which the information requested above has been taken?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

(1 & 2) This information is only available from each individual state. The Member should refer his inquiry to other states.

598. TAFE

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 459—

- (1) How does he know that the decision to abolish TAFE Head Office and place staff from the Strategic Centre in TAFE Institutes will reduce the level of overheads and enhance the delivery of services when he stated quite categorically that no Cost-Benefit Analysis was done in relation to this decision?
- (2) As it appears that in response to part (2) of the Question he has tabled only one item of

communication, where are the others or does he expect members of this House to believe that the only communication his Director-General had with him and TAFE union leaders in relation to this critically important decision was to provide him with a copy of his letter to staff informing them (and him) of the decision after it was a fait accompli?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

(1) The new structure is consistent with modern management arrangements and the desire of institutes and their communities for greater local decision making. As a result the institutes will be in a better position to control the level of overheads.

(2) The stated policy of the Government as outlined in clause 7 of Labor's Ten Point Plan for TAFE Queensland indicates "Support for the devolution of operational matters, apart from the wages and employment conditions referred to in Point 5, to institutes of TAFE to ensure they have the flexibility to improve day by day operational matters." It was the desire to implement those intentions as soon as possible.

599. Tilt Train; Walkers, Maryborough

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/9/98)—

- (1) What does the recent contract with Walkers, Maryborough, for construction of diesel tilt trains cover?
- (2) What work is to be performed?
- (3) At what cost?
- (4) What tendering process was utilised in letting this tender?
- (5) Was Goninan NQ invited to tender?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/10/98):

(1) Joint initial concept design, performance specification, train layout, target price and proposed future contractual arrangements for detailed design and construction.

(2) Preliminary design, costing and legal (contractual) arrangements.

(3) Estimated cost of Walkers involvement for Stage 1 is \$900,000. Total budget for Stage 1 is \$1.75 million.

(4) Negotiated contract with Australia's only supplier of tilt trains.

(5) No.

600. Directors-General**Mr BORBIDGE** asked the Premier (15/9/98)—

With reference to the appointment of personnel to the position of Director-General of various Government departments by his minority Labor Government since taking office—

- (1) What are the names and the salary package and conditions of each Director-General for each department?

- (2) What are the names of those who have previously been Director-Generals or occupied other public service positions and received a payout where their term of employment was cut short previously?
- (3) What is the situation of that payout in relation to their current remuneration, for example, are they required to pay back some of their payout; if so, how much and on what basis?
- (4) Will their superannuation entitlements in future be based on the increased remuneration package over and above what was previously paid to Director-Generals?
- (5) What will the increased amount be in each case where these superannuation entitlements will be increased?
- (6) Will any of the appointees receive a period of continuity of service from other jurisdictions or will they be given continuity of service for work done in Queensland previously as Labor allowed to be given with the appointment of the original Court of Appeal Judges in 1991?

Mr BEATTIE (12/10/98):

1. There are currently six Director-General roles vacant and one in which the Chief Executive is currently on leave. All seven roles have persons acting as Chief Executives in terms of section 58 of the Public Service Act 1996. Appointment details of the remaining 14 Director-General positions are—

Department—Occupant—Superannuable Salary—Expiry Date of Contract

Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning—Kevin Yearbury—\$160,000—31.3.2003

Education—Terry Moran—\$190,000—9.8.2003

Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—Robert Marshman—\$165,000—2.8.2003

Equity and Fair Trading and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development—Margaret O'Donnell—\$160,000—20.8.2003

Families, Youth and Community Care—Kenneth Smith—\$165,000—2.8.2003

Health—Robert Stable—\$190,000—24.1.2001

Justice and Attorney-General—Jane MacDonnell—\$165,000—16.8.2003

Mines and Energy—Ron Boyle—\$160,000—3.9.2003

Natural Resources—Tom Fenwick—\$175,000—26.9.1999

Premier and Cabinet—Glyn Davis—\$190,000—27.8.2003

Queensland Police Service—James O'Sullivan—\$190,000—31.10.2000

Queensland Treasury—Gerard Bradley—\$190,000—9.8.2003

State Development—Ross Rolfe—\$190,000—27.8.2003

Transport—Bruce Wilson—\$175,000—12.11.2000

2. There were six people who were previously Directors-General and received a payout. They were Gerard BRADLEY; Jane MacDONNELL; Robert MARSHMAN; Ross ROLFE; Ken SMITH and Glyn DAVIS.

3. Under former CEOs' contracts, a CEO whose contract was terminated by the Crown (other than for disciplinary action) was entitled to two weeks salary for each year of recognisable service, plus an amount determined by deducting "the potential earning sum" from "the residual contract remuneration". "The potential earning sum" is a negotiated amount to reflect the Executive's capacity to earn future income or where no agreement is reached by a specified date, an amount equal to 80%. In effect, this means that the Executive receives 20% of the residual contract remuneration. This in fact, occurred in the instance of the five CEO first mentioned above. Dr Davis' contract was unique in the sense that his severance benefits were limited to 4 weeks' salary in total. Where a CEO was subsequently re-employed in the Queensland Public Service prior to the original contract's completion date, there is a requirement to repay severance payments received as determined by reference to the contract. The contract requires the CEO to repay the 20% residual payment in respect of any period prior to the completion date of the original contract. One CEO has repaid the required amount in full. Other individuals concerned have agreed to schemes of repayment which meet the requirements of Crown Law.

4. Yes, but only from 1 July 1999 in respect of the salary increases that commenced on 3 August, 1998.

5. There are many variables. As is well known, superannuation entitlements are determined by retirement age, salary applicable on retirement, length of service, contributions by the employee and employer and any additional voluntary contributions applicable.

6. Chief Executives are officers in terms of the Public Service Act 1996 and will be treated in the same way in which other officers recommencing employment would be treated. Recognition of prior service will be determined in accordance with Governor in Council Determination No. 4—Recognition of Previous Employment. A person who received a payout in respect of previous years of public sector service and who re-commences public employment cannot claim again for the earlier period of service.

601. Queensland Construction Industry Skills Centre

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (15/9/98)—

- (1) When will the report, requested through Question on Notice No. 484, be made available to members of the Parliament for their consideration?
- (2) As this report has been made available to the Board of the Queensland Construction Industry Skills Centre, why cannot it also be tabled in the House?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

(1 & 2) The report was commissioned commercial-in-confidence by the previous government. It remains commercial-in-confidence.

602. Education Districts; Sunshine Coast Schools, Cash Grants

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Education (15/9/98)—

With reference to his abandonment of the Leading Schools program—

- (1) Does he or his department have any plans to redraw education district boundaries, significantly modify the existing district structure or dispense with districts altogether?
- (2) Will he guarantee the job security of all staff, including district directors?
- (3) For each of the next three years, will he guarantee that individual State schools on the Sunshine Coast will not receive reduced cash grants, as a result of his proposed changes to school-based management funding guarantees contained in his department's enterprise bargaining agreement?

Mr WELLS (13/10/98):

1. Not at this stage, but this does not preclude an examination of this matter at some time in the future.
2. I do not have any plans which would put at risk the jobs of any group of employees in Education Qld (including District Directors).
3. Grants for individual schools can increase or reduce for various reasons, including increases or decreases in enrolment. Therefore I cannot guarantee that individual schools will not receive reduced grants.

603. Calliope/Monto, Regional Forest Agreements; Builyan Mills, Timber Harvesting Program

Mrs E. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (15/9/98)—

- (1) What is the status of Regional Forest Agreements in the Calliope/Monto region?
- (2) What steps are being taken to ensure a sustainable timber harvesting program for Builyan Mills in balance with conservation priorities?

Mr WELFORD (14/10/98):

(1) The Calliope/Monto region forms the northern part of the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (SEQ RFA) area. The SEQ RFA has completed data collection and will soon commence developing options for the future management and use of the forests of the region, including the Calliope/Monto region. These options will be made public to encourage comment from stakeholders and interested community members. It is hoped that the State and Commonwealth Governments will complete the SEQ RFA in the next few months.

(2) The SEQ RFA provides the vehicle for balancing sustainable timber industry development in the Builyan area, with conservation priorities. The RFA will be based on the best available science and sustainability information, and incorporates a high level of participation from stakeholders and community members to assist in negotiating the options to guide the final agreement between the State and Commonwealth Governments. Science combined with participation from key forest user and interest groups such as timber industry and conservation representatives will result in the balance needed for a long term sustainable development plan for the wood and wood products industry, including a transition to a plantation-based future.

604. Floods, Local Government Claims

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (15/9/98)—

With reference to the recent disastrous floods in Queensland—

Will she give assurances that (a) Local Government Authority claims will be met, bearing in mind that Queensland is not yet into the traditional wet season and (b) sufficient reserves will be allocated to take account of expected damages resulting from the effects of La Nina?

Mrs ROSE (15/10/98):

(a) All eligible Local Government claims under the Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements will be met.

(b) In reference to the second part of the question, I advise that questions regarding the allocation of reserves within the State Budget should be referred to the Honourable the Treasurer.

605. Police for the Future Report

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (15/9/98)—

With reference to the recent "Police for the Future" Report which reviewed the recruitment and selection processes for the Queensland Police Service which made recommendations which the Queensland Police Service has already said will be adopted—

- (1) What period of time did he allow to lapse between the report being handed down for public comment and the QPS's reported decision to implement the recommendations?
- (2) What submissions did he take from the Queensland Police Union, the chief industrial advocate of the Queensland Police Service's members?

Mr BARTON (16/10/98):

(1) The Report deals primarily with the internal administration of the Queensland Police Service recruitment program. It was not released for public comment, however, there are community representatives on the Council who played an active part in the formulation of the Report's recommendations. I should remind Honourable Members that almost the entire period during which PEAC formulated its report occurred during the life of the Borbidge Government. The PEAC Steering

Committee was first convened on 18 June 1996 and met on a regular basis until June 1998. I am advised that the former Minister for Police, the Hon Russell Cooper, was kept informed of PEAC's work.

(2) Most of the Report's recommendations deal with pre-employment issues and will impact primarily on members of the public who apply to become police officers. None of the recommendations deal directly with serving officers and a small number will affect police recruits.

To the limited extent that the recommendations deal with police recruits, Queensland Police Service officers will consult with the Queensland Police Union of Employees prior to the implementation of any specific measures.

606. Schools, Cash Grants

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (15/9/98)—

With reference to the guarantee of additional cash grants for implementation of school based management, contained in the Department of Education's enterprise bargaining agreement with the relevant unions—

(1) Does (a) the Queensland Teachers' Union, (b) the State Public Services Federation, Queensland, (c) the Australian Liquor Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers' Union, (d) the Queensland Association of State School Principals, (e) Queensland Secondary Principals' Association and (f) the Queensland Council of Parents' and Citizens' Associations support his proposal to vary this provision and reduce cash grants to schools implementing school based management?

(2) Will he be conducting a ballot of all education employees to ensure that this and any other changes have the majority support of staff who previously voted for the current agreement in overwhelming numbers; if so, when does he expect this ballot to be conducted; if not, why not?

Mr WELLS (13/10/98):

1. Extensive negotiations have occurred with parties to the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, who have agreed to a number of variations to the agreement. Other interest groups will be consulted at an appropriate time.

2. Yes, in 1998.

607. State Government, Rental Payments; Suncorp

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (15/9/98)—

(1) What is the total sum of all rentals paid by the Queensland Government and all of its departments and semi-Government bodies, in Queensland, for each year over the past five years?

(2) What is the percentage of this rental money that is paid to Suncorp each year for the previous five years?

Mr BEATTIE (12/10/98):

1. The Department of Public Works collects rental monies from Government departments and other Queensland Government agencies for commercial office buildings owned by the Government and for buildings controlled by non-Government landlords. The rental from Government owned office buildings is remitted to Queensland Treasury and the rental due to non-Government lessors is paid to those lessors. A small number of departments and other Government agencies, however, enter into rental arrangements with non-Government landlords directly, and that rental collection function is not controlled by the Department of Public Works. To ascertain the total sum of all rental money paid by Government departments and other Government agencies which have entered into direct rental arrangements with non-Government landlords would be a time consuming and resource intensive task. The following table details rental payments collected by the Department of Public Works for Government owned office accommodation and non-Government leased office accommodation over the past five years, including the percentage of rental money paid to Suncorp.

Financial Year	Total Rent	Suncorp %
1993/94	\$111,636,307	11%
1994/95	\$119,227,674	10%
1995/96	\$126,042,610	10%
1996/97	\$131,345,912	11%
1997/98	\$138,022,712	11%

In addition to rent collected by the Department of Public Works for commercial office buildings, the Department of Public Works collects rental payments from Government departments for housing assets occupied by Government employees. Rent collected for Government employee-occupied houses over the last five years is as follows:

Financial Year	Total Rent	Suncorp %
1993/94	* \$5,500,000	Nil
1994/95	* \$5,500,000	Nil
1995/96	\$5,536,555	Nil
1996/97	\$5,647,468	Nil
1997/98	\$6,931,564	Nil

*estimate, based on information available.

2. The answer to this question is contained in the above two tables.

608. Chevron Gas Pipeline, Royalties and Tariffs

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (16/9/98)—

(1) Will the Queensland Government receive annual royalty, or tariff payments from the Papua New Guinea gas pipeline, should the project become a reality; if so, what royalty, or tariff payments does his department estimate from the Papua New Guinea gas pipeline project?

(2) How would these payments compare with expected payments from Queensland coal fired power projects, such as North Tarong, Kogan Creek and Millmerran?

Mr McGRADY (29/9/98):

(1) No. The Queensland Government will not receive any royalty payments from the Papua New Guinea gas pipeline, should the project proceed. All resource rent or royalty payments would go to Papua New Guinea where the gas fields of the Kutubu and Gobe projects are located. The Queensland Government will not receive any tariff payments from the pipeline should the project proceed. However, annual pipeline licence fees would be levied by the Government on the Queensland coastal water and onshore sections of the pipeline.

(2) As the Government will receive no royalty or tariff payments from the Papua New Guinea gas pipeline, they cannot be compared to any expected royalties (currently 5% of domestic coal value) which the Government would receive from Queensland coal mining undertaken to supply future power station projects. The Papua New Guinea gas pipeline project will however provide over 1000 jobs during the construction phase and significant benefit to the economic development of the State.

609. Gold Coast Drug Council; Corrective Services, Drug Rehabilitation Programs

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (16/9/98)—

With reference to the Gold Coast Drug Council which, for several years and under successive Governments has received funding of \$55,000 per annum from Community Corrections to provide drug rehabilitation programs for offenders as ordered by the courts and in 1997-98 services were provided to 64 Community Corrections clients (both residential and out-clients) from the Gold Coast Drug Council's establishment at Mirikai, Burleigh Heads—

Why was this funding cancelled from 1 July and will he re-instate this funding in view of increased financial allocation to Corrective Services as shown in the State Budget of 15 September?

Mr BARTON (16/10/98):

(1) In January 1998, during the term of the previous Government, the Queensland Corrective Services Commission Board approved changes for the 1998/99 process of assessing applications for grant funding and also managing this program. The Board advised that the changes are aimed at providing a more equitable approach to the allocation of funds throughout the State. Further consideration is now given to issues such as the geographical location of the agencies as well as the proportion of indigenous and women inmates in Centres serviced by the grants. In addition, all applications for the financial year 1998/99 should only be considered for a one year grant. Previously grants were for a three year cycle. This cycle concluded in June 1998.

For 1998/99 the Queensland Corrective Services Commission has \$700,000 available for the grants program. This sum is the same amount available as in the previous year. Applications received totalled \$5.2 million and therefore only those projects viewed as having the highest priority were able to be funded.

In May this year, during the period of the previous Government, funding recommendations were finalised. I have been advised that although it was recognised that the Gold Coast Drug Council makes a worthwhile contribution, the organisation was not shortlisted at that time to receive funding in the current round of grant allocations.

(2) The budget for the grants program has once again been set at \$700,000 for 1998/99 (as in the previous year). Unfortunately, that sum was fully allocated in accordance with the guidelines developed by the QCSC Board in January 1998, and recommended to the QCSC Board in May 1998, at least one month before Labor came to Government.

610. Lowood State High School

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Education (16/9/98)—

With reference to future planning for Lowood State High School—

Will he outline plans for the school as far as extra classroom space and a community/assembly hall are concerned, given the extensive work done by the schools Parents' and Citizens' Association and others in order to cater for growth and expansion within the Lowood district?

Mr WELLS (13/10/98): Lowood State High School serves a number of schools in the Esk, Laidley, and rural Ipswich area. Under the Regional Framework for Growth Management, none of these areas are indicated as appropriate acceptors of rapid growth. This is likely to remain the case over the next ten years at least.

While this high school drawing area experienced some rapid growth in the 1970s and 1980s, this will not recur; in fact there has been a stabilisation and decline, in general, across the feeder primary schools of the area.

There is no need for additional classroom space at the school in the near future.

Difficulties are being experienced in being able to select a suitable site for the student covered area/hall.

This project is on the Capital Works program as a planning project only.

Negotiations will continue with the school community to resolve this matter.

611. Townsville South Rail Workshop, Livestock Wagons

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/9/98)—

With reference to the Coalition Government which had made arrangements for 300 livestock wagons to be constructed at the Townsville South Rail Workshop—

What is the present situation in relation to this construction project?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/10/98): The 300 KOJX cattle wagon container project has commenced with a purchasing strategy currently being established.

Initial materials will be progressively purchased during October and November 1998.

Currently, an additional program of 20 cattle containers are under construction in the South Townsville Workshops. The prototype has already been delivered and the production line is now consolidated in readiness for the 300 KOJX project to commence manufacture and deliveries in January 1999.

612. TAFE

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/9/98)—

With reference to the information provided by him in response to Question on Notice No. 496—

Will he provide a table indicating each TAFE Institute in Queensland and the amount that their budget was in deficit or credit on 30 June of each year of the Goss Labor Government?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98): No, to provide this information would result in an unreasonable divergence of departmental resources.

613. TAFE

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/9/98)—

With reference to his response to Question on Notice No. 496 in which he provided a table that indicated that seven TAFE Institutes were in deficit at 30 June—

Will he provide to the House a table of the other TAFE Institutes in this State indicating their financial status at the same date?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98): The attached table shows the actual financial position of all TAFE Institutes as at 30 June 1998 after a number of adjustments had been made including adjustments to State Base and prepayments of User Choice and Competitive Funding.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

614. TAFE; Mr K. Bannikoff

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/9/98)—

- (1) Will he table the tender documents referred to in his answer to Question on Notice No. 485?
- (2) Will he also table copies of the advertisements placed in newspapers and elsewhere, announcing the availability of this tender?
- (3) What was the total number of tenders received?
- (4) What is the estimated total value of in-kind assistance being provided by the department to this consultancy (ie; salary of those officers assisting the consultant, travel, accommodation and meals, costs incurred by such officers, secretarial assistance, etc.)?

- (5) On what date does this twelve week tender expire?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

- (1) The project brief is attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (2) Tender arrangements complied with State Purchasing Policy.
- (3) Three (3).
- (4) The total estimated value of in-kind assistance being provided by the department to this consultancy is \$116,000.
- (5) 12 October 1998.

615. TAFE; Mr K. Bannikoff

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (16/9/98)—

As the Director-General of his department has announced the effective abolition of TAFE's Head Office and the devolution of its responsibilities and its personnel to institutes, why has the consultant, Kim Bannikoff, been given, as one of the terms of reference on which he is to report, "The appropriate responsibilities to be delegated to Institutes consistent with the governance arrangements put in place by the government and a management plan to implement this."?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98):

This term of reference has been included to precisely determine a set of protocols which clearly identify the responsibilities of:

- the Department as the purchaser of training;
- the TAFE Queensland Executive which consists of the Institute Directors; and
- individual Institutes as providers.

616. Environmental Youth Green Care Program

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (16/9/98)—

- (1) Will he recommit his department to the Coalition Government's successful employment generating Environmental Youth Green Care Program which not only helped projects of environmental importance be established or enhanced, but also gave numbers of young unemployed people a real chance to be productive and to eventually obtain full-time employment?
- (2) Will he please re-introduce this excellent employment generating scheme that gives so many people hope?

Mr WELFORD (14/10/98):

- (1) It is understood that the Honourable Member is referring to the Youth Conservation Corps program in this question. The Honourable Member would be aware that the Government has made an election commitment to reinvigorate the Youth Conservation

Corps program. This program was initiated by the previous Labor Government back in 1992. Unlike the previous Coalition Government of which you were a member and your federal colleagues in Canberra who have ripped millions of dollars from employment schemes, Labor is totally committed to maintaining funding to meaningful labour market and job training programs. The Youth Conservation Corps is currently operating 7 projects across the south eastern and Central Coast Regions at:

Caboolture—Sheep Station Creek
Conservation Park

Ipswich—Mt French National Park

Burleigh Heads—David Fleay Wildlife Park

Mapleton—Mapleton Falls National Park

Bundaberg—Woodgate National Park and Rifle Range Creek

Gladstone—Boyne Island Conservation Park

(2) The Youth Conservation Corp program will not be re-introduced as suggested by the Honourable Member because it was never scrapped. This Government is committed to jobs, jobs, jobs, and employment schemes of all kinds will be considered. The irony of the Honourable Member's apparent concern about the future of this program relates to the fact that it was a National Party led Government that allowed both State and Federal funding contributions to this initiative to be cut back by more than half of what they started with in 1992. The reason the Honourable Member was not able to identify the funds for YCC in the Environment and Heritage budget papers is that it will form part of the Community JobsPlan. This will ensure the program is more directly linked to Labor's broader jobs focus Breaking the Unemployment Cycle. I refer you to the answer I provided at the Estimates Hearing recorded by Hansard for any further clarification on this matter.

617. Public Housing, Vacancies

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/9/98)—

With reference to public housing at 31 August—

- (1) What is the composition of public housing stock by dwelling type?
- (2) How many dwellings by dwelling type and bedroom number were vacant for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to 12 weeks and (c) greater than 12 weeks in total and by Area Office?
- (3) What was the vacant turnaround time for maintenance and for allocations of public housing premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (5/10/98):

(1) The composition of public housing stock by dwelling type as at 30 June 1998 is as follows. This data is only generated half-yearly and it is not possible to provide these statistics for 31 August 1998. Updated statistics should be available in December 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) Information on vacant properties is provided as at 31 July 1998. Data as at 31 August 1998 can not be obtained because of a conversion from one computer system to another. However, it is unlikely there will be significant variation in vacant figures from one month to the next. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

618. Public Housing, Rental Arrears

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/9/98)—

With reference to public housing at 31 August—

- (1) How many public housing rental accounts were in arrears in total and percentage terms of the total number of rental accounts by Area Office?
- (2) How many of these accounts were in arrears for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to less than 8 weeks, (c) 8 to less than 12 weeks and (d) greater than 12 weeks in total and by Area Office and what is the total monetary value of each of the above categories?
- (3) How many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (2/10/98):

(1) The number of public housing rental accounts in arrears in total and as a percentage of the number of accounts is as follows. For statistical purposes only those accounts in arrears by four or more weeks rent are deemed to be in arrears. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The number of accounts in arrears for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to less than 8 weeks, (c) 8 to less than 12 weeks and (d) greater than 12 weeks in total and by area office is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The monetary value of these arrears by category is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) The number of public households paying full market rent is 2,811. This represents 5.8 percent of the total of public rental households in Queensland.

619. Public Housing, Waiting List

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/9/98)—

With reference to public housing at 31 August—

- (1) How many applicants were on the public housing waitlist in total and by Area Office?
- (2) What is the composition of the public housing waitlist by the family types (a) couple (without children), (b) couple (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) single (without children), (e) pensioner (couple), (f) pensioner (single) and (g) domestic violence (single) in total and percentage terms by Area Office?

- (3) What is the number of applicants on the public housing waitlist by wait time months (a) up to 11 months, (b) 1 to 2 years, (c) 2 to 3 years, (d) 3 to 4 years and (e) more than 4 years in total and by Area Office.
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 August 1997 and 31 July in total and by Area Office?

Mr SCHWARTEN (2/10/98):

(1) As at 31 August 1998, there were a total of 22,958 applicants on the public housing waitlist. The breakdown of the waitlist by area office is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) The composition of the public housing waitlist by family type as at 31 August 1998 is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) The number of applicants on the waitlist by wait time in months, and by area office as at 31 August 1998 is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The waitlist figures for specific area offices may vary from the results given previously because the waitlist statistics reported in Question 3 are based on the area office where the application was lodged, which is not necessarily the same as the applicant's area of preference.

(4) The number of applicants allocated housing between 1 August 1997 and 31 July 1998 in total and by area office was requested in Question on Notice No. 553 on 27 August 1998. The table of data is reproduced as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

620. Nerang-Broadbeach Road

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/9/98)—

With reference to the Nerang-Broadbeach Road between Alabaster Drive and Hoy Street—

- (1) What safety initiatives have been undertaken over the last nine years?
- (2) How much was spent and when?
- (3) What impact did this have on the safety of this stretch of road and why?
- (4) What is the safety record prior to and after these initiatives?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/10/98):

(1) Traffic and road safety initiatives on the Nerang-Broadbeach Road, between Alabaster Drive and Hoy Street, have included:

traffic signals and associated roadworks—to reduce the number and severity of crashes and improve traffic flow and operations;

provision of right-turn auxiliary lanes—provided at intersections to reduce turning/through traffic conflicts;

channelisation—provides positive guidance to the driver, simplifies the vehicle movements and reduces the room for error, reduces confusion and separates conflict points;

delineation—provides visual information to the driver that identifies the safe limits of the travelled way, improve lane discipline, regulate the direction of travel, lane changing and overtaking;

signing—clear and unambiguous messages contributes to the safe and efficient operation of the road network;

street lighting—reduces night time crashes; and

road and pavement maintenance—improves skid resistance and pavements roughness.

(2) The following table shows the works undertaken on the Nerang-Broadbeach Road, between Alabaster Drive and Hoy Street, for the financial years between 1988-89 and 1997-98.

There has been \$ 4,697,103 of works undertaken on the Nerang-Broadbeach Road, between Alabaster Drive and Hoy Street, between 1988-89 to 1997-98.

YEAR	WORKS—COST
1988-89	Four laning at Gold Coast-Springbrook Road intersection (including traffic signals and channelisation at Cocos Markets intersection—\$ 1,159,000
1991-92	Traffic signals and associated roadworks at Market Street intersection—\$211,000
1991-92	Widening of westbound carriageway to provide additional passing/turning traffic lane between the Go-Cart track and Birmingham Road—\$50,000
1992-93	Installation of street route lighting, road delineation and pavement marking from Carrara Road and Main Drain Creek—\$120,812
1992-93	Traffic signals and associated roadworks at Garden Grove Road intersection—\$2,746,000
1992-93	Pavement overlay between Ginhouse Creek Bridge and Carrara Shopping Centre—\$130,000
1997-98	Intersection upgrade at Alabaster Drive—\$280,291

(3 & 4) The yearly crash social cost statistics indicate a declining trend since 1992. This is due to reductions in the number of more severe crashes. The Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes measured at the intersection of the Nerang-Broadbeach Road and Hoy Street has increased from 30,834 vehicles per day in 1992 to 32,603 vehicles per day in 1995, this represents a growth rate in traffic volume of almost two per cent per annum. In summary, traffic volumes along the Nerang-Broadbeach Road have increased and the yearly social cost of crashes has decreased. This indicates that road safety initiatives have improved safety along the road, between Alabaster Drive and Hoy Street.

621. Investigation of Alleged Offences by Member of Parliament

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Premier (16/9/98)—

With reference to his letter to me dated 8 September which asked me to ask the Premier the following question in Parliament in relation to alleged discussions between the Premier, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and the Police Commissioner—

- (1) Did he have a meeting or discussions with the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and/or the Police Commissioner in relation to alleged child sex offences allegedly involving a Labor Party Member of Parliament; if so, who instigated this meeting or these discussions and when did they occur?
- (2) Did he give any directives or advice to the Minister and/or Police Commissioner as to how the investigation should be conducted and/or timing of the investigations; if so, what advice or directives did he give?
- (3) Did he express a view or a wish to either the Minister or Police Commissioner as to how long the investigations should take before police were in a position to determine if charges should be made?
- (4) Did he give any directive, advice or make a wish as to the level of resources that should be directed towards the investigations; if so, on what basis did he differentiate this case from that of any other criminal investigation?

Mr BEATTIE (12/10/98): On Saturday, August 29, The Courier-Mail carried a story that police were investigating allegations that a Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly had sexually abused a number of young girls but that the investigation was at such an early stage that the Member had not been interviewed by police.

The story was seized on by the rest of the media, resulting in widespread coverage, much speculation and the naming by the media of the Member. On August 30 a completely wrong and misleading media report alleged the Government had been plunged into crisis.

Continuing speculation and media coverage of this kind had the potential to affect any future court case and to create the perception—however wrong—that the stable government of this State could be at risk, thus affecting business and jobs.

I instigated a meeting with Police Minister Tom Barton on August 29. We were of one mind—that it was crucial that the matter should be fully investigated and there should be absolutely no interference in that investigation from the Government.

For the reasons outlined above, it was crucial that the matter be resolved quickly by the police so that the Member was either charged or cleared.

On the morning of Sunday August 30 I met the Member and suggested to him a number of options, including the possibility of him resigning in the interests of himself, his family and the Government.

Later that morning I fulfilled a long-standing invitation to officiate with Police Minister Tom Barton and Police Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan in Queen St Mall at a police function where I launched the Government's \$47 million crime prevention policy.

I repeated to the Police Commissioner the commitment I had given that there would be no political interference or any decision by the Government in relation to the charges.

I wanted to make certain that the police had all the resources they needed to investigate the allegations and to assure him that this would be done without any political interference from the Government in any manner, shape or form.

I informed him that extra funds could be made available to ensure any investigation into the allegations was completed as quickly as humanly possible.

The Police Commissioner indicated to me that he had allocated extra resources to the investigation.

It is unhelpful for Queensland jobs for the Member to seek to make cheap political points on this matter, bearing in mind his National Party leader, Mr Borbidge, has stated publicly that the Member concerned should remain in Parliament.

622. Eumundi State School

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Education (16/9/98)—

When will the proposed upgrade of library facilities at the Eumundi State School commence?

Mr WELLS (13/10/98): The need to upgrade existing library facilities at Eumundi State School has rated highly in a ranked order of capital upgrading needs for all schools across the state.

Upgrading of the library facilities at the school was included for planning purposes in the 1997-98 Capital Works Program. Community consultation and full documentation have occurred for this project.

Because of the pressures on Education Queensland's Capital Works Program for 1998-99 attributed to enrolment growth in many schools throughout the state, it has not been possible to progress those planning projects to the construction phase.

Planning of the draft Capital Works Program for 1999-2000 is currently occurring within Education Queensland and you are assured that the need for upgraded library facilities at Eumundi State School will be fully considered in this process.

623. Education Department, Freedom of Information Application

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (16/9/98)—

With reference to the freedom of information application lodged with his department on my behalf by Mr Greg Jackson of the State Opposition office on 29 June, seeking transition-to-Government documents—

- (1) Is he aware of the public statement by the Premier that only transition-to-Government documents of a personal nature or commercial-in-confidence would be considered FOI exempt by his Government?
- (2) Why is his department withholding transition-to-Government documents which do not fall within those two categories and when will he direct the department to comply with the Premier's publicly stated policy?
- (3) Has he or anyone from his office sought to influence, or give direction to, Education Queensland's FOI coordinator in a way which might lead her to withhold some documents; if so, what were the circumstances and reasons?
- (4) Has he or anyone from his office sought to influence, or give direction to, an officer of his department to influence, or give direction to, Education Queensland's FOI coordinator in a way which might lead her to withhold some documents; if so, what were the circumstances and reasons?
- (5) Has any officer of his department sought to influence, or give direction to, Education Queensland's FOI coordinator in a way which might lead her to withhold some documents; if so what were the circumstances and reasons?

Mr WELLS (13/10/98):

1. Yes

2. The department is not withholding documents. The department is now out of jurisdiction because the applicant sought external review. There was an initial delay in the determination of Mr Jackson's application. This delay was caused by cuts in resources of the Freedom of Information and Judicial Review Unit, by the previous government, as well as a backlog of large and complex cases. A number of applications have been determined late in recent times. There has been no deliberate attempt of thwarting the freedom of information process. The department has submitted to the Information Commissioner that some matter should be exempt, viz:

matter where release would constitute contempt of court—s50(a);

matter which would prejudice the outcome of a ballot of employees—sec40(c) or (d);

matter that would prejudice tender processes not yet completed—sec45(1)(b) or (c);

matter which would be protected from production in court on the grounds of legal professional privilege—s43(1);

matter concerning the personal affairs of district directors—s44(1);

matter which would reveal a deliberation of Cabinet—s36(1)(e).

No submission was made that the documents should be withheld by reason of Cabinet's examination of the documents on 13 July 1998. The reliance on the Cabinet exemption was in relation to matter in a brief which would reveal a deliberation of Cabinet.

Further, there are third parties who have objected to release of parts of other documents for other

reasons, and the Information Commissioner has been informed of those objections.

The reasons provided by the departmental decision-maker and the third parties are now to be tested by the Information Commissioner, who will, I am sure, provide the applicant with an opportunity to make submissions against any arguments for exemptions.

3. No.

4. No.

5. No.

624. Ambulance Service and Fire and Rescue Authority, Staffing

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (16/9/98)—

With reference to staffing levels at Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority centres throughout Queensland—

Will she indicate, centre by centre, (a) the number and categories of operational staff and positions, (b) the number and categories of all positions not currently filled and (c) What measures are being taken to ensure these positions are filled?

Mrs ROSE (20/10/98): In relation to Queensland Ambulance Service:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Measures for addressing vacancies—

With approximately 1,800 firefighters and station officers employed in the QFRA across the State, vacancies vary on a day to day basis, having regard to transfers, resignations, retirements, etc.

Many positions, particularly FPO2 positions in public safety and training, show as vacancies that are utilised on a rotational basis for developmental purposes.

Current recruit course of 22 and further courses planned for the new year.

System of voluntary transfers operating between regions to fill both popular and difficult to fill locations.

Positions advertised on an ongoing basis.

625. Families, Youth and Community Care Portfolio, Consultation with Organisations

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/9/98)—

With reference to organisations with which her department has contact—

(1) What are the names and addresses of all organisations her department consults, or intends to consult, in the formulation of policy and legislation?

(2) What are the names and addresses of all organisations, relating to her portfolio, which she or members of her staff, have met or dealt with at a personal level, since the minority Beattie Labor Government came to office?

Ms BLIGH (19/10/98):

1. In the course of policy development or legislative change it is expected that relevant peak bodies would be consulted with respect to policy changes in their own areas of interest. The Department has contact with many peak consumer and service provider organisations to ensure that a range of views are considered. In addition to consultation with peak agencies, formal structures of program and ministerial advisory committees are also used to inform policy development or legislative change. A list of peak agencies and program and ministerial advisory committees according to program area are provided in Attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. As the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and the Minister for Disability Services I am involved in meetings with numerous individuals and organisations in relation to a broad range of issues within the portfolio. I have also held a number of informal and formal consultation sessions with members of the community sector and particularly the disability sector through a series of morning and afternoon teas held in Brisbane. Similar meetings have been held with disability groups in Cairns, Townsville and Rockhampton. The attendance sheets for these meetings are provided in Attachment 2. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane) In addition to these consultations, I have met and will continue to meet with a range of consumer and service delivery organisations, individuals and other community groups prior to the Community Cabinet meetings held throughout the year in regional Queensland.

626. Gurulmundi Landfill

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/9/98)—

With reference to the proposed monitoring and remediation of the Gurulmundi Secure Landfill in the electorate of Western Downs—

- (1) Has the Brisbane City Council been paid out an agreed \$2.9m now that the landfill is no longer receiving treated toxic waste from Willawong?
- (2) Will the proposed expansion to the evaporation ponds at the landfill be built?
- (3) Is it his intention to pump water from the landfill pit and spread it across the landfill site by way of an irrigation system?
- (4) Is it his intention to have his department accept total responsibility for the site, excluding the Murilla Shire Council?
- (5) Is it his intention to take away the current legal indemnity offered to the Murilla Shire Council, leaving that council liable to legal action in the future in matters related to this landfill?
- (6) Given the Coalition had allocated \$4.9m for monitoring and remediation, how can he justify this being reduced to \$3.6m in his Budget?

Mr WELFORD (14/10/98):

(1) A formal agreement is currently being prepared to enable the payment to occur.

(2) The additional evaporation pond was initially proposed when the landfill was receiving treated pesticide, paint and solvent waste from Willawong. The landfill has not received waste for a year and is in a maintenance phase awaiting the results of an assessment of the long term viability of the alternative private sector facilities. These facilities are currently being used instead of the landfill. It is therefore unnecessary to construct an additional evaporation pond at this stage.

(3) The Department of Environment and Heritage has developed a program for the use of excess stormwater for irrigation. The stormwater has been tested and is similar to the quality of the local creek water. The stormwater will only be used within the working area of the site and its application controlled to ensure that runoff does not occur. The stormwater will help establish and maintain grass growth, an important part of site maintenance.

(4) The Government is providing for the maintenance and monitoring of the site and, subject to the results of the assessment of the long term viability of the private sector alternative facilities, the rehabilitation of the site. The Department of Environment and Heritage is establishing a Community Consultative Committee to ensure the Murilla Shire Council and the local community are consulted and informed of maintenance and monitoring activities at the landfill.

(5) The Government has no intention of passing any liability for the landfill onto the Murilla Shire Council. The Department is consulting with the Murilla Shire Council to resolve any potential liability issues.

(6) The Government has allocated \$3.6m for the maintenance and monitoring of the landfill. The Department is assessing the long term viability of the private sector facilities which are managing the waste formerly disposed at Gurulmundi. If the assessment shows that these facilities are viable then the rehabilitation of the landfill can occur. It would be inappropriate to spend money on rehabilitation until the results of the assessment are available. The budget in the Borbidge/Sheldon Government's Ministerial Portfolio Statements was simply a guesstimate allocation of the potential long-term costs of rehabilitating the site which was never likely to be spent in one year—this explains the variance to which you refer.

627. QNI Limited

Mr RAPPOLT asked the Treasurer (17/9/98)—

With reference to QNI which is a Queensland icon with its Yabulu Nickel and cobalt refinery in Townsville employing over 1,000 workers and injecting huge amounts annually into the North Queensland economy—

- (1) Is he aware that Billiton Jersey Limited are presently conducting a hostile raid on QNI Limited?
- (2) Will the Queensland Government through the Queensland Investment Corporation, who at 9

September already owns 11,073,156 shares (1.3 per cent of shares in QNI) be prepared to buy up to 10 per cent to stave off the hostile takeover by a multinational of another top Australian resource company and save these Queenslanders, who less than a year ago purchased shares for between \$2.00 and \$2.30 and if this Government fails to do this, many Queenslanders will have their shares compulsorily taken at the present offer of 90 cents or a little more, showing a substantial loss?

Mr HAMILL (13/10/98):

1. Yes.
2. QIC cannot be directed to undertake share purchases. Section 34 of the Queensland Investment Corporation Act 1991 specifically prohibits any involvement by the Government in QIC's investment decision-making.

628. Bundaberg, Paradise Dam Project

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/9/98)—

- (1) Is he aware that there has been in this years recently announced State Budget not one cent allocated to the Paradise Dam Project in the Bundaberg area?
- (2) In view of the fact that not only has the Paradise Dam been put back, but also no funding has been allocated to increase capacity of the Walla, Bucca and Jones Weirs to which the previous Government had committed to, will he seek to urgently have these important employment generating projects reinstated immediately?

Mr WELFORD (14/10/98):

- (1) It is not correct to suggest that there is not one cent allocated to the Paradise Dam Project in this year's Budget. Planning and investigations for the Paradise Dam proposal are proceeding according to plan.

Whilst no money has been allocated specifically for construction in the Budget Papers, more than \$10 million has been allocated Statewide for the planning and assessment of numerous development proposals across the State including the Paradise Dam.

As detailed in my Department of Natural Resources Water Infrastructure Implementation Plan, the proposal is being assessed as part of a Burnett Catchment study which is expected to be completed late in 1999 at a total cost of more than \$2 million.

A technical and cost comparison between storages of various capacities at the Paradise site and alternative sites at Kalliwa and at Mingo Crossing is well advanced. The funds allocated to this study alone amount to \$280,000.

- (2) Assessment of the Paradise Dam proposal has not been put back.

Regarding the Bucca and Jones Weir proposals, funds are available for allocation to projects approved during the current financial year.

Subject to satisfactory assessment and approvals being obtained, it is possible that a start could be made on these in the next 12 months.

With respect to Walla Weir, the Stage I development is very nearly completed and is capable of storage. Before committing to the Stage 2 development I am of the view that the results of all of the baseline and other environmental studies should be fully assessed. When that has been done, it should be possible to indicate when Stage 2 might proceed.

629. Nerang-Broadbeach Road

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/9/98)—

With reference to Nerang-Broadbeach Road—

- (1) What consultation has occurred in relation to increased speed limits?
- (2) What criteria was considered in the decision?
- (3) What is the standard process for determinations of this type?
- (4) Are ministerial directions considered or are they simply ignored if considered inappropriate?
- (5) Is he going to ensure that ministerial directions are considered in the future?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/10/98):

- (1) Consultation has been in the form of the following:

input from the Gold Coast Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC), comprising representatives of Gold Coast City Council, the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Transport, RACQ and the Department of Main Roads

departmental letters to local councillors and MLAs, as representatives of the community, seeking feedback and comments.

- (2 & 3) To ensure selection of appropriate speed limits, the Guide to the Application of Speed controls was developed by Queensland Transport's Speed Management Project Team.

This guide prescribes the processes to be considered in determining an appropriate speed limit for traffic on a particular length of road and provides an uniform method of evaluating and sign posting such a limit.

The standard procedure for reviewing existing speed limits is outlined below. The procedure is structured around a three-stage assessment of the criteria, namely:

- (i) road function—the function of the road is an important consideration with regard to the selection of an appropriate speed limit.
- (ii) prevailing vehicle speeds—speed data is collected and analysed for the purpose of evaluating the distribution of prevailing vehicle speeds; and
- (iii) speed environment—assessment of roadside and traffic characteristics, and crash history.

Furthermore, where a speed limit has been changed, it is reviewed to ensure it is appropriate following the changes in land use, traffic characteristics and crash history.

(4 & 5) Ministerial directions are always considered, consistent with legislative obligations and the duty of care of Public Servants.

630. Public Hospitals, Outpatient Services

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Health (17/9/98)—

With reference to the outpatients service which operates from Queensland public hospitals—

- (1) Will outpatients services continue to cater for the health requirements of existing patients?
- (2) Does Queensland Health plan to encourage current outpatients to utilise the services of private practitioners?
- (3) Will Queensland Health continue to service the needs of new patients wishing to use outpatients services?
- (4) Does this policy apply statewide?

Mrs EDMOND (15/10/98):

(1) Outpatients services will continue to cater for patients' health needs. Ongoing patient management is based on the clinical decision of the health professional involved.

(2) General Practitioners are the main providers of primary health care services. Secondary health care services are provided by specialist outpatient clinics in public hospitals. Emergency Departments will continue to provide primary and secondary services.

(3) Queensland public hospitals will continue to accept new and existing patients for outpatient services by referrals from general practitioners, other community providers, other hospitals and private specialists.

(4) Queensland public hospitals provide outpatients services according to what available services they offer.

631. Lowood, Indoor Sports Centre

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (17/9/98)—

With reference to the importance of sporting and recreational facilities in general, and, in particular, country towns, and with particular reference to Lowood and its indoor sports centre and with the recognition of the need for Government to assist the community in financing these facilities—

What are all avenues of finance and other assistance available to assist the community of Lowood and its indoor sports centre?

Mr GIBBS (15/10/98): The Lowood Sport and Recreation Centre is privately owned and therefore ineligible to receive public funding. I understand, however, that the Esk Shire Council or perhaps a local community group have expressed an interest in the property. If the ESC or an incorporated organisation acquired a minimum five-year lease for the Centre, then they could be eligible for funding from my Department.

632. Karragarra Island; Macleay Island

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/9/98)—

With reference to the previous Coalition Government's May Budget and in policy area -07 transport:- dredging and other infrastructure (a) an amount of \$0.6m was proposed for dredging the channel referred to as the Karragarra W's and (b) a further amount of \$0.105m was proposed to demolish the (Dalpura St) Jetty on Macleay Island—

- (1) Are both of these projects proceeding in 1998-99; if not, why not; and does he realise the safety implications for island residents and others using the channel for daily access to and from the mainland?
- (2) Does he realise the jetty has been declared unsafe but is still being used?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/10/98):

(1) Both the projects, namely (a) Dredging of the Karragarra W's and (b) Demolition of the Dalpura Street Jetty on Macleay Island, are planned to proceed in 1998/9.

(2) Regarding Karragarra W's Channel:

Funding of \$600, 000 has been provided in 1998-99. A hydrographic survey has been recently carried out to establish dredging parameters. Planning has been commenced by Queensland Transport engineers. The project is included in the strategy for meeting the dredging needs in the area.

(3) Regarding Dalpura Street Jetty:

The jetty is not owned by the Government but currently belongs to the Australian Security and Investment Council (ASIC), following the insolvency of the Tweed Pastoral Company, which constructed the jetty in 1972.

Queensland Transport is aware that the structure is beyond economic repair and is arranging for its demolition in the current financial year, in the interests of the maritime safety.

ASIC has advised that they have no objection to the demolition of the structure by Queensland Transport. It is understood that Redland Shire Council has installed a warning notice on Council land regarding the unsafe nature of the structure. I have also been advised that there is unauthorised use of the structure by water taxi operators. Queensland Transport officers will request Redland Shire Council to barricade the approaches to the jetty to prevent such unauthorised use, until the demolition of the structure.

633. Rural Science Organisation

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (17/9/98)—

With reference to his announcement on 15 September to establish an \$800,000 Rural Science Organisation (RSO) within the department headed by an internationally renowned chief scientist—

- (1) Where would this RSO be located?
- (2) Will the chief scientist come from any particular discipline; if so, which one?

- (3) Why is it necessary to allocate this position—are there inadequacies within the current departmental structure?
- (4) What formed the basis for this initiative, is it simply a perception or is there a specific need?
- (5) Did he consult with the department prior to his decision to establish the RSO and appoint a chief scientist; if so, what was the response from the department?
- (6) Did he consult with the institute chairmen or boards prior to his decision to establish the RSO and appoint a chief scientist; if so, what was the response from the institute chairmen and boards?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/10/98):

1. The Rural Science Organisation will not have a separate physical location and will be located within DPI.
2. The chief scientist will not come from any particular discipline.
3. The chief scientist's role will provide DPI with a high level officer to take responsibility for developing and expanding DPI's existing RD&E arrangements both internally across Institutes and business groups, and externally with other RD&E providers such as CSIRO and universities.
4. The basis of this initiative is to ensure Queensland is at the forefront of science and technology innovation. This initiative will ensure greater sector-wide coordination and planning of research priorities as well as providing a balance between applied, strategic and pure research; the high-risk strategic research being the area that often provides major innovation breakthroughs and attracts high technology industries.
5. The department was consulted and is supportive of the RSO concept.
6. Institute Directors, Chairs and Board members provided constructive input into the implementation strategy for the RSO concept and role of the chief scientist.

634. Nambour-Brisbane Rail Service, On-board Toilets

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/9/98)—

What arrangements have been made to ensure that all trains between Nambour and Brisbane have on-board toilets for the comfort of passengers?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/10/98): Rollingstock used on the North Coast line is a mix; Suburban Electric Multiple Units (SMU), which are not equipped with toilet facilities and are designed for short haul suburban services, a very limited number of the new Inter-Urban Units (IMU) and Inter-City Express (ICE) cars which are equipped with toilet facilities and are designed for longer haul services.

Unfortunately, with the current rollingstock available within the Citytrain fleet, it is not possible to guarantee that the only units used on the North Coast line will have toilet facilities for passengers.

Where possible, comfort stops are included into the timetable at Caboolture for passengers to use toilet facilities.

635. Bob Marshman and Associates; Construction Industry Skills Centre

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/9/98)—

With reference to Section (5) of his answer to Question on Notice No. 458—

Has his Director-General advised him that there could be a public perception of conflict of interest arising from his previous employment by the Construction Training Skills Centre at Salisbury and the current move to provide millions of dollars of training funds from the Building Workers' Portable Long Service Leave Fund to the Construction Training Skills Centre rather than having these public moneys channelled to the public provider, TAFE Queensland?

Mr BRADY (15/10/98): My Director-General has advised that he has never been employed by the Construction Skills Centre at Salisbury. There is no move to provide millions of dollars of training funds from the Building Workers' Portable Long Service Leave Fund to the Construction Training Skills Centre.

636. Landsborough Police Station

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/9/98)—

With reference to continuing community consternation as to the future of law and order in the fastest growing railway town of Landsborough and to his totally inconclusive answer of 3 September regarding the continuation and manning of the Landsborough Police Station—

- (1) How many uniformed police officers will be stationed at Landsborough Police Station after the completion of the Beerwah Police Station?
- (2) What are the exact hours that the police station will be opened each day?
- (3) Will the station still have its district responsibility?

Mr BARTON (19/10/98):

(1) This will be determined closer to the date of commencement of operations from the new Beerwah Police Station to fit the policing needs of the community at that time. Factors to be considered at that time include population, traffic and crime statistics.

(2) The station's current hours of 8am-4pm will be maintained.

(3) A Landsborough Police Division will be retained after the opening of the Beerwah Police Station. The boundaries of the new Beerwah Police Division, and the consequent adjustments to the boundaries of the Landsborough Police Division, have yet to be determined.

In relation to the Honourable Member's comments regarding the 'inconclusive' nature of my answer of 3 September, and the Coalition's continued undermining of the Beattie Labor Government's attempts to improve policing for Beerwah and Landsborough residents, I would point out that—

the former Coalition Government also had plans to provide a new Police Station for Beerwah. This Government has simply accelerated those plans based on a genuinely articulated need by the local community.

it would be inappropriate and irresponsible to pre-empt the needs of the Landsborough and Beerwah communities by trying to define the resource requirements almost two years ahead of the commissioning of the new station.

637. Tilt Train; Rail Level Crossings

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/9/98)—

- (1) Is he aware that there are approximately 220 unprotected rail level crossings between Rockhampton and Cairns?
- (2) As the proposed tilt train will need to travel at speeds of up to 160km/h, does he propose to upgrade safety at these crossings; if so, where is the budget for these upgrades, estimated at \$150,000 each, given that there is no provision made in the tilt train project for these costs and that no upgrade has been proposed in relation to freight traffic?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/10/98):

(1) Yes, I am aware that there are in fact 221 unprotected rail level crossings between Rockhampton and Cairns. Let me say at the outset that the safety of both passengers and residents living in towns alongside this corridor is a major consideration for the Government in the operation of all trains on the Cairns corridor.

(2) Any necessary level crossing upgrades will be carried out consistent with Queensland Rail policy and as part of Queensland Rail's future track upgrading.

638. Ambulance Service and Fire and Rescue Authority, Appliances

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/9/98)—

Will she indicate numbers and types of appliances in both the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority and the Queensland Ambulance Service in the following categories (a) under 12 months, (b) between 1 and 3 years, (c) between 3 and 5 years, (d) between 5 and 10 years, (e) between 10 and 15 years and (f) over 15 years?

Mrs ROSE (16/10/98):

IN RELATION TO QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY: URBAN DIVISION—(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The age profile under one year old is being changed through the current delivery of thirty one new Pumper Tankers 4x2. The above figures do not include Rural Appliances.

The 1998-99 budget for the QFRA is a record \$209 million. That amount includes \$10 million for 69 new urban appliances.

Only recently I received Executive Council approval for the expenditure of almost \$7 million for 20 new urban pumper tankers and three telescopic aerial platforms (TAPs) which will help boost the QFRA's operational capacity and efficiency.

RURAL FIRE SERVICE

No. of appliances under 12 months—50
 No. of appliances between 1 and 3 years—130
 No. of appliances between 3 and 5 years—38
 No. of appliances between 5 and 10 years—54
 No. of appliances between 10 and 15 years—98
 No. of appliances over 15 years—237

The Government is committed to properly funding and equipping Queensland's rural volunteers. The QFRA budget includes \$3.7 million for almost 100 new appliances which will be allocated across the state.

There is also extra funds for safety and other equipment, for training and for new station subsidies.

And we will prove our commitment by consolidating base funding—which will provide a massive, permanent, boost to the rural division and its hard-working volunteers.

IN RELATION TO QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Note: A proportion of the vehicles over 10 years of age are owned by Mining Companies, Local Ambulance Committees and Hospital based services. A number are located at Honorary stations with typically small workloads and hence are low mileage vehicles which are in very good condition. For example in the over 15 year age group for emergency response vehicles there is a 19 year old Ford at the German Creek Mine, a 17 year Land Cruiser at the Curragh Mine and a 16 year old Land Cruiser at the Honorary station at Thargomindah.

The QAS in 1998-99 has received a record budget of \$177.3 million, including \$18.6 million in additional funds from consolidated revenue. The budget provides for 50 new or replacement vehicles which will help officers boost service delivery to the communities in which they work.

639. Forestry Industry

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/9/98)—

With reference to section 4.2 of the National Forest Policy Statement which says the sustainable economic use of native forest and plantations is one of the principle objectives, and to his comment that "the Queensland Government does not see more

intensive harvesting and silviculture as a solution to the predicament of the native forest industry"—

Is he of the view that farm forestry or purpose planted trees are a possible alternative; if so, what is he proposing the industry does for the 50 or so years it will take for these trees to mature?

Mr WELFORD (14/10/98): The Government supports the National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) which defines an integrated assessment and planning process for Australia's Forests. The process referred to as a Comprehensive Regional Assessment provides the information base for negotiating a Regional Forest Agreement with the Commonwealth Government. The Queensland Government is committed to an early completion of the South East Queensland RFA.

It is my view, based on resource data on the condition of our State Forests, that the native forest industry faces an immediate sustainability crisis. The RFA process will quantify the sustainable yield from the forests and this could lead to substantial decreases in allocation of Crown mill logs. It is my considered opinion therefore that the future timber industry will rely increasingly on purpose planted trees. The transition strategy to purpose planted trees requires concerted whole of government action, and it is my intention to afford the highest priority to the development of this strategy. Inaction in relation to the critical issues at stake with respect to our forests and the communities they support is a terrible indictment on the former Coalition Government in Queensland.

640. Public Works Portfolio, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (18/9/98)—

With reference to the Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit (SDS) within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in August?
- (2) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 31 August?
- (3) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for August?

Mr SCHWARTEN (7/10/98): Senior officers of SDS advise that the figures sought by the Member for Mooloolah are:

- (1) \$3,115,000.
- (2) \$5,527,000.
- (3) Loss of \$57,000.

641. TAFE Queensland, Treasury Loans

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/9/98)—

- (1) During the period of the previous Labor State Government, what Treasury loans were provided to TAFE Queensland?
- (2) What was the purpose, quantum and duration of each loan?

Mr BRADY (27/10/98):

(1) During the period of the previous Labor Government i.e. 1989/90 to 1995/96, two Treasury Loans were provided to TAFE Queensland. The loans were for the College Administration Project (CAP) and Voluntary Early Retirements (VERs).

(2)(i) The purpose of the CAP Loan was to supplement internal funding available in 1991/92 for the implementation. The loan of \$7.408m was approved in 1991/92 with a five-year repayment term from the first instalment date of 30 June 1993. While the full loan amount was drawn down from Queensland Treasury in June 1992, a special repayment of \$1.2m was made at that time due to the revised funding requirements for the CAP project.

The final loan instalment payment on the CAP Loan was made in December 1995.

(ii) The VER loan was to meet the cost of Voluntary Early Retirements across a number of TAFE Institutes in order to realign staffing requirements to match training demands in a changing business environment.

The loan of \$1.3765m was approved in 1995/96 with a five-year repayment term from the first instalment date of 30 June 1996.

While the full loan amount was drawn down from Queensland Treasury on 31 March 1996, a special principal repayment of \$1.040m was made at 30 June 1996 due to reduced VER funding requirements.

The final loan instalment payment on this VER loan was made on 30 September 1997.

642. Clermont, Rural Financial Counsellor

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (18/9/98)—

With reference to 1996-97 when the Clermont Rural Financial Counsellor's position received \$12,500 from the State Government and recently the position was to receive funding of \$2,000 from the State Government where other Counsellors' positions were to be allocated funding between \$12,500 and \$25,000—

- (1) How can he justify his department's allocation of \$2,000 to the Clermont position, and allow this blatant discrimination against a vital service to an area affected in the same way as any other drought affected area in Queensland?
- (2) As the Commonwealth has continued to provide the funding for the position, will he look at providing equal funding to all services so that the State does not let down the people of Clermont and district?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/10/98):

1. The State Government places a high priority on, and remains committed to providing good quality farm financial counselling help to primary producers with financial and other problems. The Department of Primary Industries has 19 counselling positions located in areas of high need throughout the State.

The Clermont Rural Financial Counsellor's position, along with 11 other non-DPI counselling positions in Queensland, is primarily funded by the

Commonwealth Government's Rural Communities Program, as it was in 1996-97. Commencing this financial year, the Commonwealth has reduced the amount of support available to these positions without consultation with the Queensland Government. There is an expectation from community groups that the State Government will make up the funding shortfall, which amounts to \$310,000.

State Government financial support for these positions has to be met from DPI's Farm Financial Counselling budget. DPI is rationalising some positions, managing vacancies in Mackay and Charters Towers and transferring a number of its positions to community management through the Rural Communities Program to cover this unexpected call for assistance.

To ensure that this funding goes to legitimate counselling services in areas of clearly identified need, the State Government has requested information on workload and demand from funding applicants.

I am happy to say that we have agreed to fund ten of the twelve applications received representing a commitment of \$250,000 to the community, a commitment the previous government had not made.

2. Unfortunately, in the case of the Clermont position, data provided by the community indicated that the service being provided did not involve the detailed financial analysis that other counselling services around the State do. Consequently, clients in the Clermont district have been accessing the DPI's counsellor in Emerald who does provide financial analysis services.

The Rural Communities Program funds these services based on the local demand for them. Client numbers in Clermont are well below that set by the Rural Communities Program to justify a full-time counsellor.

Based on this assessment, and the demand from other higher priority areas (i.e. based on their demand and usage) the request for funding for the Clermont position was declined.

643. Kimmins Report, Public Broadcasting of Alleged Offences

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Premier (18/9/98)—

With reference to his letter to me dated 16 September which asked me to ask him the following question in Parliament in relation to the observations of former Judge Jack Kimmins and to a report handed down by Judge Kimmins into the allegations of misconduct in the investigation of paedophilia in Queensland where he is quoted as saying: "The public heralding of false accusations can therefore be considered as heinous as paedophilia itself ...", Mr Kimmins continues: "it is in the community's interest that those who are in a position ... directly or indirectly ... to influence the public broadcasting of particular allegations should be vigilant to ensure that innocent people are not falsely condemned, and that investigations are driven by reasonable suspicion and not mere hysteria"—

- (1) Does he support the sentiments of former District Court Judge, Jack Kimmins?
- (2) Does he consider that, as Premier, he is a person in a position to directly or indirectly influence public broadcasting of particular allegations?
- (3) Does he agree that he too should have been more vigilant before disclosing the name of the MLA allegedly under police investigation for alleged child sex offences?
- (4) Does he believe that his naming of the Member concerned could be interpreted as directly or indirectly influencing public broadcasting of particular allegations?
- (5) Does he believe that his call for the resignation of the Member concerned could be interpreted by some as directly or indirectly influencing public broadcasting of particular allegations?
- (6) Does he believe that his naming of the Member concerned was an act conducive to ensuring "innocent people are not falsely condemned"?

Mr BEATTIE (1/10/98): Parts (3), (4) and (6) of the question, together with the correspondence which the Member initiated with me on this matter, show that the Member's question is predicated on a belief that I named the Member concerned and that this led to the Member's name appearing in The Courier-Mail on August 31.

This is completely untrue. I did not name the Member, causing his name to be published in The Courier-Mail on August 31. The report in The Courier-Mail acknowledges this fact. The Gold Coast Bulletin of the same date points out that the Member was, in fact, named by the media.

644. Agricultural Colleges

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/9/98)—

With reference to Labor's New Direction Statement—Breaking the Unemployment Cycle—which states that "Labor has a proud record of encouraging young people to acquire new skills to gain employment" and given the remarkable history of job placements for graduates of Queensland's Agricultural Colleges—

- (1) Is his recent decision to abolish a \$6m grant for agricultural college infrastructure previously approved by the former Government expected to enhance that proud record?
- (2) Will he give an indication of his level of commitment to the continuation and servicing of Queensland's four agricultural colleges?

Mr BRADY (27/10/98):

- (1) Changing the proposed grant to a loan to improve residential infrastructure is not likely to have any effect on the good employment outcomes of the Agricultural College students.
- (2) There has been no change in the level of grant payment to the colleges for the provision of training from the previous government commitment.

Agricultural colleges will continue to provide key entry level skills development for the rural industry.

645. Tilt Train; Torbanlea/Howard Service

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/9/98)—

Will the Tilt Train stop at either Torbanlea or Howard?

Mr BREDHAUER (13/10/98): Queensland Rail's intent for operating the tilt train service is to provide a high speed service between Rockhampton and Brisbane. The number of stops between these centres has to be regulated to achieve the projected seven-hour schedules.

The tilt train is currently undergoing extensive testing on the Brisbane to Rockhampton corridor, and these trials have identified operating times to enable a timetable to be completed. The tilt train will commence service on Friday 6 November 1998.

Queensland Rail representatives have concluded community consultation meetings in Rockhampton, Mount Larcom, Gladstone, Miriam Vale, Bundaberg, Howard, Maryborough, Gympie, and Nambour between Monday 14 September and Friday 18 September 1998. The concept behind these meetings was to preview the tilt train and also gain input on issues relating to the stopping pattern and the introduction of the tilt train service.

Input collected from community consultation meetings, coupled with operating times identified during trials, have resulted in a timetable being completed which includes stations such as Howard. The tilt train will not stop at Torbanlea.

The Tilt Train timetable allows for stops at Landsborough, Cooroy, Howard, Miriam Vale and Mt Larcom for passengers who are pre-booked. These stops are currently included in the Spirit of Capricorn service.

Please find following timetable information for the tilt train services.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

646. Nerang-Broadbeach Road

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/9/98)—

With reference to the Nerang-Broadbeach Road and the recommendation by Main Roads for an Option A roads upgrade—

- (1) Has any research been undertaken as to the likely asset devaluation of homes in the near vicinity as a result of this recommendation; if so, (a) What was the average devaluation, (b) What was the worst devaluation in both dollars and percentage terms and (c) What was the total devaluation of homes in the area?
- (2) If no research has been undertaken, why not and when will it be undertaken?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/10/98): If option A, which is within the existing road corridor, is adopted for the duplication of Nerang-Broadbeach Road, any

additional lanes would be further away from any residences than the existing road. As a consequence, a quieter road surface would result and landscaping would be provided. The local community will continue to be consulted following noise studies during determination of the need for and acceptability of noise mounds/barriers.

647. Gladstone Electorate, Dental Technicians

Mrs E. A. CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health (18/9/98)—

With reference to the unacceptably high number of people in my electorate who are on a waiting list to have dentures made and who have had all oral/dental work completed (i.e. extractions)—

Why can't this work be contracted to private technicians to ensure a timely finalisation to this dental work and the minimisation of discomfort and embarrassment to the patient as has occurred previously?

Mrs EDMOND (15/10/98): Three overseas dentists will commence employment in Gladstone before the end of October. Technician resources in nearby oral health clinics will be made available to Gladstone Community Dental Clinic to assist with the backlog of prosthetics patients.

648. Browns Plains State School

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Education (18/9/98)—

- (1) Which buildings at the Browns Plains State School are not connected to the State Government security system?
- (2) How many break-ins have occurred at the school over the past twelve months?
- (3) What plans does the Government have to improve security at the school?

Mr WELLS (16/10/98):

1. The buildings that are not connected to the Central Operations Room of State Government Protective Security Services are:

Pre-School—Teaching Block 1—Teaching Block 2—Modular A, B, C, D.

2. The Resource Replacement Scheme loss history for the period of 1/9/97 to 1/9/98 identifies four (4) reported incidents of break and enter.

3. During the life of the Security Upgrade element of the Building Better Schools Program the overall objective is to provide enhanced physical and electronic security to an optional level to as many very high risk government schools as possible.

Browns Plains State School is at the lower end of the scale in terms of schools which incur costs against the Resource Replacement Scheme as a result of offences.

As a result, there are presently no plans to enhance the security at the school in the foreseeable future. The situation however, will continue to be monitored closely with a view to taking further action should this become necessary.

649. Ministerial Offices, Liaison Officers

Mr HEGARTY asked the Premier (18/9/98)—

With reference to liaison officers attached to Ministers in his minority Labor Government—

- (1) Listed by Minister, department and agency, how many liaison officers are provided by each Government department and agency to ministerial offices?
- (2) Listed by Minister, department and agency, what is the cost of providing these officers to Queensland Ministers?
- (3) Listed by Minister, department and agency, what was the criteria used for appointment of each liaison officer and what was the date of appointment?
- (4) Listed by Minister, department and agency, what is the job description of each liaison officer and what was the date that each description was prepared?
- (5) If there are any liaison officers without a job description, why and when will appropriate descriptions be completed?
- (6) How many of these positions have been advertised and where?
- (7) Will those positions not advertised be advertised; if so, when; if not, why not?
- (8) Are there any policies or guidelines regarding the use of public servants for political activities?
- (9) Are there any policies or guidelines regarding the use of liaison officers for political activities?
- (10) Is it appropriate for a liaison officer to serve a Minister in a politically partisan manner and to perform duties and functions normally undertaken by Ministerial staff?
- (11) Is it appropriate for a liaison officer to regularly attend sessions of Question Time and to spend a considerable amount of time at Parliament providing political advice to a Minister?

Mr BEATTIE (12/10/98): There are no liaison officers provided by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to the Office of the Premier. In relation to other Government departments and agencies, questions (1) to (5) should be directed to the respective Ministers.

Reference to question (9) will indicate that arrangements, whereby public servants undertake liaison roles within Ministerial Offices, are normally limited to periods of up to 12 months. As a result, there is no requirement for these roles to be advertised. Directive Number 6/98: Notification of Proposed Appointments (Advertising Vacancies), which superseded Directive 5/96, lists a range of exemptions from the requirement to advertise vacancies including vacancies:

to be filled on a temporary basis where the period will not exceed 12 months

to be filled on secondment at level only

to be filled on secondment to a higher level where the period will not exceed 12 months.

Refer to my answer to Question (6).

Respective departmental Codes of Conduct would deal with this issue in a general sense.

Yes. My Government has endeavoured to provide some policy guidance to Chief Executive Officers with respect to public service officers undertaking liaison roles, either within Ministerial Offices or within the offices of Directors-General. The Acting Public Service Commissioner wrote to all Chief Executive Officers on 24 July 1998 indicating, in part, that such arrangements should not provide substantial staffing beyond the positions approved through the Ministerial Support Unit.

Furthermore, public service officers should restrict their activities to the liaison function to which they are engaged and should not undertake work normally the responsibility of Ministerial Staff.

Finally, to ensure there is no perception of politicisation for officers assigned to such duties it would be appropriate to limit assignments of this nature to periods of normally around 12 months. Liaison officers are also subject to Departmental codes of conduct.

No.

No political advice should be provided.

650. Primary Industries Department, Report on Tax Reform

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (18/9/98)—

With reference to a Question Without Notice asked on 15 September by the Member for Thuringowa of him regarding a claim that under the previous Coalition Government the Department of Primary Industries commissioned consultants to examine tax reform to help John Howard get re-elected and to his reply that this study was a legacy of mine as former Minister for Primary Industries and also replied that DPI had commissioned consultants from New South Wales to undertake the study at a cost of \$50,000—

- (1) Was this study commissioned by the Ministerial office or the department and can he produce documentation to substantiate this?
- (2) When was this study commissioned?
- (3) Who were the consultants and when where they appointed?
- (4) What action did he take when he received the results of the report?
- (5) Why haven't the results of the report been made available to Parliament and the public?
- (6) Will he now release this report; if not, why not?
- (7) Is there a lack of propriety in not releasing the report, when according to him \$50,000 of taxpayers money was spent in its commissioning?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/10/98): On the assumption the member for Hinchinbrook is referring to a Question on Notice, asked on the 15 September by the member for Mundingburra (not the member for Thuringowa), the following answers are provided.

1. The taxation consultancy was commissioned by the Department to develop a farming system decision support model to evaluate the impacts of changes to taxation policy, changes to social security payments, and the impacts of variations in seasonal conditions on primary producers. This can be substantiated.
2. The invitation to tender was advertised in the Courier Mail on 8 April 1998.
3. The Centre for Agriculture and Regional Economics (CARE), Armidale, New South Wales were the successful tenderers. They started work for the Department in early May 1998.
4. The report has not been received by me.
5. See answer 4.
6. See answer 4.
7. See answer 4.

651. Education Portfolio, Staffing

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (18/9/98)—

With reference to staffing levels in his portfolio—

- (1) At 1 September (a) What was the total number of teachers employed by Education Queensland, (b) how many were full-time teachers, (c) how many were part-time teachers, (d) how many were contract teachers, (e) how many were employed in each sub-program, by sub-program and (f) how many of these were on secondment to organisations (i) within education portfolio and (ii) outside the education portfolio?
- (2) At 1 September (a) What was the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers employed in his portfolio, (b) how many were FTE full-time teachers, (c) how many were FTE part-time teachers, (d) how many were FTE contract teachers, (e) What was the FTE number of teachers employed in each sub-program, by sub-program, (f) how many FTE teachers were on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the education portfolio and (g) What is the name of each organisation inside and outside the education portfolio that had teachers on secondment, at this date, (including the number of FTE teachers and the percentage of salary recouped from each organisation)?
- (3) At 1 September (a) What was the total number of public servants employed in his portfolio, (b) What was the total number of wages employees employed in his portfolio, (c) how many of each category (a) and (b) were FTE, (d) as for (c) how many were FTE full-time, (e) as for (c) how many were FTE part-time, (f) as for (c) how many were FTE contract employees, (g) What was the number of (i) public servants, and (ii) wages employees employed in each sub-program, by sub-program, and (h) What was the number of (i) FTE public servants and (ii) FTE wages employees employed in each sub-program, by sub-program?
- (4) At 1 September (a) What was the total amount paid to teachers employed by Education Queensland, (b) What was the amount paid to full-time teachers, (c) What was the amount paid to part-time teachers, (d) What was the amount paid to contract teachers, (e) What was the payroll bill for teachers in each sub-program, by sub-program and (f) What was the payroll bill for teachers on secondment to organisations (i) within the education portfolio and (ii) outside the education portfolio?

Mr WELLS (16/10/98): The information is provided in the attachments.

Attachment A Total Numbers of Teachers and FTE Numbers of Teachers (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Attachment B Locations of Teacher Secondees (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Attachment C Non-Teaching Workforce—Public Service (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Attachment D Non-Teaching Workforce,—Cleaners (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Attachment E Total Amount Paid to Teachers (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

In lieu of wages staff, profiles have been prepared for the broader workforce groups of: teachers, public servants (including janitor groundscre), and cleaners.

Teacher aides, casual administrative officers and supply teachers are not included at this time as the data is not held centrally. This information should be able to be provided when the new human resources information payroll system is commissioned later this year.

652. Ambulance Service and Fire and Rescue Authority, Response Times

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (18/9/98)—

Will he detail the response times for the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority (a) in 1993, (b) in 1996, (c) currently and (d) forward projections?

Mrs ROSE (20/10/98):

IN RELATION TO QUEENSLAND FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

IN RELATION TO QUEENSLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE:

(a) In 1993 the average response time for Code 1 emergency cases was 8.00 minutes.

(b) In 1996 66% of Code 1 emergency cases were responded to in less than 10 minutes. *Note: Recording of response times has changed since 1993—the QAS and other ambulance authorities, measure the percentage of Code 1 cases which are responded to in less than 10 minutes.

(c) Currently (1997/98) 65% of Code 1 emergency cases are responded to in less than 10 minutes.

(d) The QAS aims to achieve 66% of Code 1 emergency cases are responded to in less than 10 minutes in 1998/99.

653. Carnarvon Development Road

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/9/98)—

With reference to expenditure by both the Goss and Borbidge Government which has enabled the upgrading of the formerly unsealed section of the Carnarvon Development Road between Injune and Rolleston, and as this road is now part of the most direct route from far north Queensland to Melbourne and, as a result, the traffic density has grown quickly and as a result, the older section of this road north of Roma in the Bungil Shire is in need of urgent upgrading of alignment and pavement—

- (1) Does he acknowledge the Roma-Injune section is in need of upgrading?
- (2) What forward planning has been carried out to overcome these currently unsafe conditions?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/10/98):

(1) As with many other roads across the State, the Carnarvon Developmental Road (Roma-Injune) link is in need of upgrading, consistent with other competing priorities for the funds available for roads. Many sections of this road are older than 30 years, with some sections requiring widening.

(2) Over the past three years, \$2 million has been spent on the Carnarvon Developmental Road (Roma-Injune) and \$5.5 million on the Carnarvon Highway (Surat-Roma). Priority for further upgrading works on the Injune-Roma section is being considered as part of the development of the 1998-99 to 2002-03 Roads Implementation Program, which I expect to finalise in the near future. This Roads Implementation Program will provide details of works proposed on this link over the next five years and will be tabled in Parliament in due course.

EXPENDITURE TABULATION

The following table shows recent construction and planned works that has occurred on both the Carnarvon Highway (Surat-Roma) and the Carnarvon Developmental Road (Roma-Injune).

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

As seen from the above table, major works are planned to upgrade this significant north/south link to present construction standards.

654. Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (18/9/98)—

With reference to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study and the draft strategy that is open to public consultation until 2 October when a final strategy will be prepared—

- (1) Will he assure the residents of the Bay Islands that their land, should it be required for resumption, will not be resumed at prices that have been forced down because of the present study?
- (2) Will he assure landowners that if land has been identified for resumption that no more shire rates will be levied on that land?

Mr MACKENROTH (19/10/98): In response to the questions made by Mr Hobbs, I can advise as follows: The Southern Moreton Bay Islands Study has highlighted the development and infrastructure problems existing on the islands and has provided recommendations for their future sustainable development. It needs to be reiterated that the findings and recommendations contained in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Study are yet to be considered by the State Government and Redland Shire Council. Consequently the Government has made no decisions regarding the outcomes and recommendations arising from this study at this point in time.

655. Health Department, Accounting System

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (18/9/98)—

- (1) Does the Health Department run a best practices management accounting system; if not, what accounting systems are in place and how do they measure up to best practices?
- (2) How, and on what basis, do the chief medical health officer and Health Department assess the number of hospital beds to be licensed in the State?
- (3) How do they account for the age demographics weighting?
- (4) How do they account for population movements?
- (5) How many staff are employed in the non-delivery of service area?
- (6) Do the numbers and structure demonstrate best practices to ensure the most effective and cost efficient delivery of services?

Mrs EDMOND (15/10/98):

(1) Yes. Queensland Health is implementing the SAP R3 system for Financial and Management Accounting and Materials Management across the entire Department. This software is the best practice system for financial management improvement. The system is accrual based and Year 2000 compliant.

(2), (3) and (4) The Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health, has statutory responsibility under the Health Act 1937, sections 63 to 76 A for the licensing of private hospitals in Queensland.

This legislation does not enable the Chief Health Officer to determine the numbers of hospital beds that the State should have. The focus of the regulatory regime is the quality of the clinical service to be provided and compliance with safety requirements. One dimension of quality is minimum throughput to assure maintenance of the competencies needed to deliver the clinical service in question.

(5) Queensland Health has defined approximately 570 different occupations within the department. The majority cannot be classified simply as service delivery and non-service delivery. Queensland Health employees are part of a service delivery cycle. Some have direct contact with the client; others support these employees at different stages of the cycle. The pathologist who provides test results and opinions to the general practitioner may not see the client but cannot be classified as non-service delivery. The trend towards team based service delivery further confounds such a categorisation.

Staffing (Full-Time Equivalents) as at 30 June 1998 are detailed in the Ministerial Portfolio Statement of the Minister for Health in the State Budget Papers.

(6) At this stage, yes.

656. Country of Origin Labelling

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (18/9/98)—

With reference to his statements of support for country of origin truth in labelling in this Parliament on 16 September, and also to the decision by the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) to over-turn country of origin truth in labelling legislation at their July meeting—

- (1) What representations did he make to the Health Minister in support of country of origin truth in labelling legislation prior to this meeting?
- (2) What action will he take to overturn this most un-Australian decision?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/10/98):

1. I have made the Health Minister aware of trade and food quality issues affecting primary and processed products.

2. In relation to the proposal by the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) relating to labelling

of food, Health Ministers in July discussed recent amendments to the Trade Practices Act which had set definitions to help ensure consistency and truth in labelling for products, including food, made or produced in Australia. The amendments sought to ensure accurate consumer information without undermining World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations or imposing unnecessary burdens on industry.

It was noted that some industry groups wanted food standards to be adopted which would require certain types of unpackaged imported food, particularly pork products, to be labelled when offered for retail sale. The Ministers decided this would have adverse effects including adding costs to business and consumers. It could also contravene Australia's obligations under the WTO and provoke trade restrictions on our exports.

Instead, Ministers opted for an approach involving the development of a Code of Practice and product promotion by producers, processors and retailers with support from ANZFA and other government bodies.

The amendments to the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act altered the truth in labelling laws for all products, including food. These laws clarified arrangements governing the use of the terms "Product of Australia" and "Made in Australia".

The amendments mean that a good labelled "Product of Australia" must be 100 per cent or as near 100 per cent as possible, made in Australia. Products labelled "Made in Australia" must be substantially transformed in Australia and at least 50 per cent of the cost of producing or manufacturing the product must have occurred in Australia.

Since the amendments to the Trade Practices Act also encompassed food labelling, ANZFA did not proceed with the ANZFA proposal.

Producers and consumers will benefit from the changes to the Trade Practices Act. Producers will be able to enhance the marketing capacity of their products and consumers will be provided with more information to enable them to identify whether the goods they are purchasing were made in Australia or transformed in Australia.

I see these changes to the Trade Practices Act as a positive step forward, and I am working closely with my colleague the Honourable Wendy Edmond, Minister for Health, to ensure that requirements for truth in to labelling benefit food producers and consumers at large.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**657. Mr H. Heilpern**

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (20/10/98)—

With reference to Mr Hans Heilpern, an Assistant Commissioner to the Forde Inquiry—

- (1) How much has the State Government paid him to date in his role as an Assistant Commissioner to the Forde Inquiry?
- (2) How much Government money has Mr Heilpern expended on airfares and what are the full details of each airfare?
- (3) How much Government money has Mr Heilpern expended on accommodation and what are the dates, daily tariff and locations of this accommodation?
- (4) How much Government money has Mr Heilpern expended on other forms of transport and what are the details of this transport?
- (5) What are the full details of other expenses incurred by Mr Heilpern and paid for by the Queensland Government?

Ms BLIGH (17/11/98):

1. Mr Heilpern, like Ms Forde and Dr Thomason, is paid \$1,100 per day in his capacity as a Commissioner. As a part-time Commissioner, Mr Heilpern (like Dr Thomason) works for the Inquiry an average of two days per week. I should point out that this \$1,100 per day compares favourably with the exorbitant amount of \$3,000 per day which the Member for Indooroopilly paid to Mr Connolly and Mr Ryan in their role as Commissioners of the Connolly-Ryan Inquiry into the Criminal Justice Commission.

2. Nil.
3. Nil.
4. Nil.
5. Nil.

658. Illegal Sale of Unpasteurised Milk

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (20/10/98)—

If public health is a major concern in the goat milk affair, what action has been taken by the Health Department or the Queensland Dairy Authority over the past four years to reduce the risk from the illegal sale of unpasteurised milk which is stated by the Queensland Dairy Authority in 1995 as a significant volume (discussion paper 1995)?

Mrs EDMOND (17/11/98): The sale of unpasteurised goats milk is legal under exemptions issued by the previous Minister for Health.

659. Electricity Industry

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (20/10/98)—

Will he give an overview of his vision for the electricity industry in relation to privatisation/amalgamation/corporatisation, with particular reference to likely job

losses, reduced service and increased vulnerability to power outages?

Mr McGRADY (19/11/98): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Dalgleish, I can advise as follows:

As you know, a key election commitment of this Government was to re-examine the structural and operational regimes of Queensland's electricity industry. Accordingly, on entering Office, I initiated a review of Queensland's existing electricity industry structure to determine whether the structure is optimal in terms of management of security of supply, its ability to deliver competitive outcomes across all sectors and efficient governance.

A working group comprising officers from the Queensland Department of Mines and Energy, Queensland Treasury and the Queensland Electricity Reform Unit is currently undertaking the review. I plan on taking a submission to Cabinet as soon as possible to seek endorsement of a new structure for the electricity industry in Queensland. It would therefore not be prudent of me to say anything in relation to the State's electricity industry structure until Cabinet has considered the matter.

However, I will say that the Government is committed to a competitive electricity market as a means of ensuring low prices to consumers and a sustainable and reliable electricity industry in Queensland. The Government is also seeking to ensure that the Queensland industry is able to compete effectively in the national electricity market.

The Government will be looking to establish an industry structure which will be best able to accommodate market growth, provide economical and reliable power to business and the community and enhance employment opportunities. The Government has also given an assurance that, if structural changes are to be made, there will not be any forced redundancies of staff.

660. Public Housing, Waiting List

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/10/98)—

With reference to public housing at 30 September—

- (1) How many applicants were on the public housing waitlist in total and by area office?
- (2) What is the composition of the public housing waitlist by the family types (a) couple (without children), (b) couple (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) single (without children), (e) pensioner (couple), (f) pensioner (single) and (g) domestic violence (single) in total and percentage terms by area office?
- (3) What is the number of applicants on the public housing waitlist by wait time months (a) less than 6 months, (b) 6 to 11 months, (c) 1 to 2 years, (d) 2 to 3 years, (e) 3 to 4 years and (f) more than 4 years in total and by area office.
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 October 1997 and 30 September 1998 in total and by area office?
- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing by month in 1998-99?

- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred by month in 1998-99?

Mr SCHWARTEN (17/11/98):

(1) As at 30 September 1998, there were a total of 23,029 applicants on the public housing waiting list. See Attachment A for the breakdown of the waiting list by area office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment B for the composition of the public housing waiting list by family type as at 30 September 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) See Attachment C for the number of applicants on the public housing waiting list by wait time in months, and by area office as at 30 September 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(4) See Attachment D for the number of applicants allocated housing between 1 October 1997 and 30 September 1998 in total and by area office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(5) See Attachment E for the number of applicants allocated public housing by month in 1998-99. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) See Attachment F for the number of public housing tenants evicted by month in 1998-99. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

661. Public Housing, Vacancies

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/10/98)—

With reference to public housing at 30 September—

- (1) How many dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, were vacant for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office?
- (2) What was the vacant turnaround time for maintenance and for allocations of public housing premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (17/11/98):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 30 September 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) For September 1998, the average turnaround time for maintenance was 8.4 working days. The average turnaround time for allocations was 9.3 working days. These figures do not, however, include properties in areas which do not have a current waiting list. A change to the methodology to exclude these properties was introduced in February 1998. If these properties are included, the average turnaround time for maintenance becomes 9.3 working days and the average turnaround time for allocations becomes

14.4 working days. These figures can be directly compared to typical turnaround times for public housing of 10 working days for maintenance and 7 working days for allocations up to October 1997. The increase in turnaround times can be attributed to the housing reforms introduced by the previous Minister, as applicants must now provide references. They are also more likely to reject offers of housing as a result of the new waiting list zones. Many properties must now be offered to more applicants than previously before they are accepted.

662. Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/10/98)—

With reference to the fact that he is obliged to subscribe to the principle of Cabinet solidarity and as the Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill 1998 aims to (a) abolish boards that are claimed to be another layer of cumbersome decision making, (b) save money that can be better spent on other departmental programs and (c) establish an advisory council made of stakeholders from a wide range of relevant interests—

- (1) How can he support the Emergency Services legislation while, in his own department, he plans to (a) set up another layer of cumbersome decision making in the form of an Environmental Protection Agency, (b) spend up to \$7m per annum on this agency when other programs within the department need more money for vital projects and (c) abolish the Environmental Protection Council of Queensland which was an advisory body representing a wide range of stakeholders?
- (2) Has Cabinet endorsed the proposal, knowing it is inconsistent with Cabinet's approval of the Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill 1998?

Mr WELFORD (18/11/98):

(1)(a) The Government will not be setting up another layer of bureaucracy. In fulfilling its role of protecting Queensland's environment, the Government has noted there had been a lack of focus and leadership, under the former Government, in protecting Queensland's environment. This problem can best be addressed by establishing an Environmental Protection Agency to replace the Department of Environment and Heritage.

(b) There will be some establishment costs however, it is envisaged that in the near future there will be a reduction in administrative costs by improving decision making. The \$6.8m per annum mentioned in our policy documents will be used to support strategies for sustainable industries, reduce response times for development and licence applications and enhance customer service by having more officers in the field.

(c) The Environmental Protection Council was a much ignored invention of the former Government. Other arrangements, which will provide for much more effective community access to the Government on environmental issues are to be established.

(2) Establishment of an Environmental Protection Agency in Queensland is the policy of this Government.

663. Insecticides, Product Registration

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (20/10/98)—

With reference to a wide range of crops in Queensland which need some form of protection against pests and as The National Registration Authority requires that products used for plant protection be registered, although with minor crops it is not always possible to receive registration as the manufacturer may be reluctant to carry out the registration for a number of reasons, and as this factor can severely affect the production of the crop and the growth of an industry—

- (1) Is the Department of Primary Industries prepared to carry out this registration; if not, what are the alternatives?
- (2) Will the necessary work be done by contract with DPI paying the cost?
- (3) Are Queensland growers being disadvantaged against imports from other countries where a product not registered in Queensland is being used by the importing country?
- (4) Is produce being analysed to ensure unregistered products are not being used?
- (5) Is it not in the best interest of Queensland growers to have the best safe mechanism available to combat pests?
- (6) Are sufficient funds being applied to spray technology to ensure the best use of the registered products?
- (7) How much is being apportioned by DPI for the development of this technology?
- (8) Where is it being carried out and how many staff are involved?
- (9) Is there likely to be any increase in the budget?
- (10) What range of equipment is being examined?
- (11) What relationship exists between DPI and the manufacturers of equipment?
- (12) How do we rate with other countries and States, especially our competitors, with the spectrum of plant protection?
- (13) Which countries and States are using superior methods to those being adopted in Queensland?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/98):

1. The National Registration Authority for Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (NRA) has the responsibility for the registration of all agricultural and veterinary chemicals.
2. DPI will endeavour to assist wherever possible through the design and conduct of externally funded trials.
3. I am unaware of any instances where Queensland growers are being disadvantaged against imports from other countries where a product not registered in Queensland is being used by the exporting country.

4. The DPI conducts residue testing of Queensland produce under the provisions of the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988.

5. The DPI supports the use of the most appropriate chemical and non-chemical control methods and application equipment within the principles of good agricultural practice.

6. The DPI works closely with other specialist researchers in the field of spray application technology, particularly the Centre for Pesticide Application and Safety (CPAS) at the University of Queensland, Gatton. DPI has many projects that are developing spray application technology in conjunction with various industries. The DPI is also actively involved in the extension of new spray application technology to producers across the State.

7. DPI has two specialist officers working in this field. One of them is based at CPAS to maximise the benefits of this collaborative relationship. Many other DPI researchers also contribute through their specialist knowledge of pest management techniques.

8. DPI projects are being carried out across the State and in a wide range of industries including grain and cotton crops and tree crops such as avocados, bananas and macadamias.

9. The Department recognises the importance of optimising chemical applications in cropping situations. Spray application technology is only one aspect of this complex issue. Departmental spending on chemical safety issues is being increased under the general thrust of a responsible use of chemicals in agriculture new initiative.

10. The primary focus of departmental research into spray application technology is on ground spraying equipment, including power assisted sprayers.

11. DPI staff have professional contacts with many agricultural agencies, including manufacturers of equipment.

12. Pest management systems currently in place in Queensland's crops are at the forefront both nationally and internationally.

13. Queensland is a national leader in pest management programs. Departmental scientists also have a strong record of collaborative work in overseas developing countries where Queensland knowledge is being applied to solve local pest management problems.

664. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/10/98)—

With reference to a media release on 24 August, titled "New jobs package pledges boost to employment" in which he stated, and I quote, "State Government departments, local councils, industry and statutory authorities will all be involved, with quotas for new jobs positions to be set for the public sector by the new Jobs Policy Council. Early indications are that a number of departments are already leading the way in boosting jobs in their own

areas. Queensland Rail will increase recruitment from its last intake of 80 apprentices to 150 apprentices and 100 trainees and housing is looking at expanding the Housing Industry Trade Training Program from 200 apprentices to 400 over the next three years. My own Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations is considering taking in at least 200 trainees and 20 apprentices and Q-Build will increase its intake from 5 trainees to 90 ... the first statewide recruitment would take place in October, with a second early in the new year"—

How many trainees and apprentices have been employed by the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and other departments since that statement was issued?

Mr BRADY (19/11/98): At 30 October 1998, applications to register training contracts for 413 trainees and 12 apprentices within the State Government had been lodged with DETIR.

The majority of departments are planning to recruit in early 1999 when the majority of school leavers and graduates of tertiary training enter the labour market.

665. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/10/98)—

With reference to Labor's New Direction Statement, "Breaking the Unemployment Cycle", which provides for an additional 9,000 apprenticeships and traineeships in the private sector over three years as follows (a) 7,500 from the private sector, (b) 600 from construction of public housing and (c) 900 from application of the 10 per cent rule on contracts and to the release on 5 September 1997 by the Hon Dr David Kemp MP, the Federal Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs of his "New Apprenticeship" National Campaign and as part of this, Queensland was to receive \$126m for more than 50,000 apprenticeships and traineeships over two years—

Does he consider 9,000 additional apprenticeships and traineeships over three years to be an ambitious target given Federal projections for 50,000 over two years and if he considers his 9,000 will be in addition to the 50,000 projected by the Federal Government, what will distinguish his 9,000 from the 50,000?

Mr BRADY (19/11/98): The Beattie Government is committed to achieving the additional apprenticeships and traineeships. The 9000 apprenticeships and traineeships can be distinguished from the 50 000 because they are all additional job opportunities and do not include conversion of existing workers.

666. Vessel Monitoring Systems

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries (20/10/98)—

With reference to a demonstrated and serious problem with the mandatory operation of Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) on fishing vessels without auxiliary power where batteries are flattened,

leaving vessels helpless and isolated from safe harbour—

Will he give an exemption to the full time operation on these vessels of VMS on the basis of radio reporting by vessel operators of position changes which would retain the integrity of the purpose of VMS?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/98): VMS was introduced into the scallop fishery this year following numerous complaints from industry regarding the high level of illegal activity in scallop replenishment zones.

Under current legislation, any operator experiencing technical difficulties with VMS equipment has certain obligations to notify Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) of the problem and to return to port.

These obligations only exist where the operator does not have a reasonable excuse for not complying.

Both the DPI and QFMA are currently reviewing regulations applying to VMS. The ability to radio report in cases where VMS fails, but this failure does not compromise fisheries management arrangements, is being assessed in this review.

667. Mental Health Staff

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (20/10/98)—

With reference to her announcement of a program to recruit 200 additional mental health staff—

- (1) Will she detail the cities and towns where these staff will be located?
- (2) What is the timeframe for recruiting these staff?
- (3) Will any of the staff be recruited from within existing Queensland Health mental health services?
- (4) In particular, will any of the 200 mental health staff be recruited from either Wolston Park Hospital or Baillie Henderson; if so, how many will be recruited from each institution?

Mrs EDMOND (9/11/98):

(1) The cities and towns in which these staff will be located include: Atherton, Ayr/Bowen, Bamaga, Biloela, Brisbane, Bundaberg, Caboolture, Cairns, Charleville, Charters Towers, Emerald, Gayndah, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Goondiwindi, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Inglewood, Innisfail, Ipswich, Kingaroy, Logan, Longreach, Mackay, Mareeba, Maryborough, Mount Isa, Nanango, Redcliffe, Redland Bay, Rockhampton, Roma, Stanthorpe, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Tully, Warwick, Weipa, Wynnum.

(2) Staff are being recruited to commence in January 1999.

(3) Staff of Queensland Health's mental health services can apply for these positions.

(4) Staff of Wolston Park Hospital and Baillie Henderson Hospital can apply for positions.

668. Coal Royalties

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (20/10/98)—

With reference to the planned review of mining royalties and to his goal of introducing a "fair and realistic" royalty regime which promotes value adding to Queensland mineral production (page 2, Ministerial Portfolio Statement) (20/10/98)—

- (1) How exactly does he define "fair and realistic"?
- (2) How does this definition relate to his stated goal on page 1 of the Ministerial Portfolio Statement of "maximising the net return of royalty" and his other objective of "maximising the net return of jobs"?
- (3) What action is he and the Government taking to ensure Queensland coal royalties are competitive with other coal producing countries?

Mr McGRADY (19/11/98):

(1) A fair and realistic regime is one that provides an appropriate return to the State for the utilisation of the State's resources whilst ensuring the viability and sustainability of the Queensland mining industry. Royalties however represent only one of the many benefits the community receives from allowing the private utilisation of the State's mineral assets. There are many others in terms of infrastructure and regional development, employment, rents and taxes, dividends from Government corporation infrastructure providers and export earnings. To maximise the overall benefit to the community a balance must be achieved in terms of the charges that are placed on the industry.

(2) The Labor party is committed to introducing policies that offer incentives to companies to value-add to minerals produced in Queensland rather than exporting them in their raw state. Value adding to raw products requires processing plants and refineries, which creates jobs and provides greater export earnings from the higher value products.

The Labor Government in 1995 introduced such an incentive to the downstream processing of base metals. Thus while the Government might forgo some revenue, with a reduced royalty for a valued added commodity, the increased overall economic benefits to Queensland resulting from the downstream processing will greatly offset this.

(3) After a review was undertaken over a number of years for coal, new royalty arrangements were announced in September 1993. They involved progressive removal of de facto royalties and the implementation of a 7% ad valorem royalty. Extensive quantitative analysis indicated that this rate would not substantially impact on investment and production decisions of the Queensland industry players, and the community would receive an adequate return for the use of its resources. Part of this analysis involved looking at the rates and regimes of other Australian States and overseas competitors. However, looking at such royalty rates is only used as a guide and is not a useful measure of competitiveness by itself. The whole investment framework needs to be considered such as the

taxation and regulatory regime. When taking this broader view, Queensland is competitive relative to the other coal producing countries.

669. South Burnett, Rural Family Support Service

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (20/10/98)—

With reference to funding of \$74,000 for the Rural Family Support Service in the South Burnett which was announced in mid-May 1998, applications to sponsor closed in mid-July, still no decision made and as the service needs to be operating and the need was first identified in April 1997 (now almost 18 months later)—

When will a decision be made on the sponsoring body to set up the Rural Family Support Service in the South Burnett?

Ms BLIGH (17/11/98): In May 1998, the Department was requested by the former Minister to secure funds for a proposed new service in the South Burnett. This request coincided with the Country Cabinet Meeting held at that time. Non-recurrent savings of \$73,000 were subsequently set aside from savings within the Families Program, to enable the establishment of this new service. Recurrent funds were not available. It was the Department's view that this service was not a priority when assessed against other needs across Queensland. Services with clear recurrent implications should not be funded on a non-recurrent basis, as it places substantial limits on services' ability to plan and respond to what are ongoing, identified community needs.

I acknowledge the Member's concern for the difficult circumstances being faced by numbers of rural families in her electorate and I would reassure her that I share that concern. However, following advice from my Department, I have decided not to proceed, at this time, with the allocation of funding for a Rural Family Support Service in the South Burnett region. I have taken this action on the following grounds:

firstly, the commitment made by my predecessor was for the funding of a service on a non-recurrent basis. It is not particularly fair to the community, to the organisation involved in sponsoring the service, or to the staff employed by that organisation, to establish such a service without a commitment that financial support can be sustained for a more reasonable period of time. The service's viability and its operational effectiveness would be compromised by such a short-term response, and its ability to seriously address identified need would be limited;

secondly, there are significant and very legitimate demands for financial assistance constantly being made on Government by communities right across the State. It is my view that Government must respond to those demands in a carefully planned and strategic manner, in order that our always over-stretched resource base can achieve the maximum possible impact. I have arranged for my

Department to assess the current demand and need for the funding of Family Support services, particularly in the non-metropolitan areas of the State and provide me with advice on options for the future delivery of such services. The allocation of funds to any particularly community in Queensland (such as the South Burnett) will need to be considered in light of that needs based assessment. I do not anticipate that such a decision will be able to be made until the early new year.

670. TAFE

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/10/98)—

With reference to his TAFE Budget, which expends an additional \$10m which he has taken from the Competitive Funding Allocation yet he achieves no increase in TAFE student numbers, only a marginal increase of 0.5 million student contact hours, and to his plan to raise 20 per cent less in receipts from course and tuition fees—

Will he guarantee that ANTA will not financially penalise Queensland because his efforts do not meet Federal funding requirements that States maintain their training effort?

Mr BRADY (19/11/98): 1998 results to date indicate that Queensland will reach the targets outlined in the 1998 Annual VET Plan and will therefore meet Commonwealth funding requirements.

671. Tarong-Calvale Transmission Line

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (20/10/98)—

With reference to the Calvale to Tarong Power Transmission line—

- (1) How many people were employed as "cultural heritage monitors" on this project?
- (2) What was the total cost of these monitors to the project?
- (3) At what rate did these monitors get paid?
- (4) What qualifications did these monitors need to have to justify this rate of pay?

Mr McGRADY (19/11/98): Powerlink has legal obligations in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage matters under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994. These obligations are met by development of a cultural heritage management plan in consultation with traditional owners of the land traversed by a new line.

Such management plans are based on an Agreement negotiated with traditional owner groups to survey the length of a proposed route for sites of cultural and heritage significance, and then to monitor construction activities to ensure no damage occurs to any Aboriginal artefacts or sites.

The Calvale-Tarong line was the first project where Powerlink had to do this. The agreement negotiated provided for maximum Aboriginal autonomy in

cultural/heritage matters, and was in line with the recommendations of models promoted at that time by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Affairs and the Department of Environment. Powerlink advise that they have since revised their procedures on the basis of the difficulties and expenses incurred to meet their obligations on this project.

The Calvale-Tarong line is 330km long, and some 200 Aboriginal monitors were employed over the 12 month construction period to monitor segments of the line construction. Monitors were employed for varying periods of time, with up to 40 on the project on one day during the early stages when up to 15 sites were being worked simultaneously.

The total labour cost for construction monitors was \$2.8 million, with pay rates of \$31.25 per hour. The Agreement between Powerlink, a Steering Committee of the traditional owners and Goolburri Aboriginal Corporation Land Council required that monitors be selected for their work by the traditional owners. Powerlink had no say in their selection since Powerlink was given to understand that the necessary qualifications were inherent in the Aboriginality and cultural upbringing of the people selected.

672. Natural Resources Department, Departmental Regions

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/10/98)—

- (1) Will he advise the proposed changes in the number of departmental regions for the Department of Natural Resources?
- (2) Which regions will be disbanded?
- (3) When the regions are disbanded, what will be the new boundaries?
- (4) Will he provide a map of the new boundaries?
- (5) How will service provision of the department be enhanced by the restructure of the regions?
- (6) In those regions to be disbanded and/or amalgamated, which staff positions will be (a) abolished, (b) downgraded and (c) restructured?
- (7) What effect is expected on staff morale with the restructure?

Mr WELFORD (18/11/98):

(1) A priority for me since becoming Minister has been to bring the operations of my two Departments closer together. As part of this process I requested that both Departments review their regional boundaries so as to better align them and as well to reduce overhead costs so that more money can be returned to fundamental service delivery.

In the case of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) it is proposed that there will be five regions, one less than currently.

(2) & (3) A key recommendation of this review was the need to strengthen the existing community of interests by building on the strong east-west linkages that exist in this State; ie—

Mt Isa, Cloncurry, Townsville
 Longreach, Emerald, Rockhampton
 Charleville, Roma, Toowoomba.

The proposed new regions will be North, Central, West, South East, Metropolitan Brisbane, and South. These arrangements will improve service delivery to all regions.

(4) These are proposals only and no final maps will be available until issues associated with the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Parks Service have been finalised.

(5) The district structure will remain the same and will continue to be the basis for service delivery. It is the districts where staff are located, while regions are simply an amalgamation of these districts.

I am, however, committed to enhancing service delivery within the Department. I have directed that specific measures be taken to better coordinate service delivery across the State and ensure that resources are directed at where they are needed.

(6) Savings from the new arrangements, will be redirected into the western areas of the State as high priority work on the ground. No staff will be downgraded or made redundant due to the changes.

(7) I believe most departmental staff as well as the community will welcome the enhanced focus on service delivery under the proposed changes. In addition, staff located in the western areas of the State will also directly benefit from a decision by this Government to replace below standard accommodation in Cloncurry, as well as enhancing existing facilities in Longreach and Charleville. These new capital work projects will create more jobs in these important centres.

673. Longreach/Burdekin, Agricultural College Students

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/10/98)—

Why has he chosen to put the well-being of agricultural college students at Longreach at risk and also risk the health of students and the Burdekin community by taking essential infrastructure funding for new dormitories, sewerage treatment facilities, etc., from the colleges so that he can provide \$4m to a private training enterprise, i.e., the Construction Training Skills Centre at Salisbury?

Mr BRADY (19/11/98): The Beattie Government is not putting the well-being of agricultural students or any other sector of the community at risk.

674. Training; Regional Roundtables

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/10/98)—

With reference to his recent correspondence to Roundtable Chairpersons advising them of the virtual disbanding of the Roundtables and in view of the fact that Regional Roundtables were established by

the previous Government in order to obtain advice and input for the training profile from a regional perspective—

Will he indicate to me the area within his Budget where an allocation has been made for this type of training advice to be received or has he dispensed altogether with mechanisms to obtain training advice for the training profile from a regional perspective?

Mr BRADY (19/11/98): The Regional VET Roundtables are in abeyance while my Department undertakes a review of the mechanism.

675. Animal Care and Protection Bill

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (20/10/98)—

With reference to dairy farmers (and other primary producers) who have experienced difficulties in the past with animal inspections carried out by the RSPCA and have requested that the Department of Primary Industries stock inspectors be seconded to such duties in matters relating to livestock—

- (1) Will the new Animal Care and Protection Bill include the provision that the Department of Primary Industries stock inspectors and veterinary officers will be "inspectors" under the new legislation?
- (2) Will these "inspectors" be the primary inspectorate promoting and enforcing the legislation with livestock?
- (3) What role will RSPCA inspectors have under the new legislation and what powers will RSPCA inspectors have in relation to DPI officers?
- (4) Will the powers of RSPCA inspectors be the same as at present; if not, how will these change?
- (5) When will the legislation be presented to Parliament?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/98):

1. Stock Inspectors—yes. Veterinary officers—certain veterinarians aligned to the Department's Animal and Plant Health Service will become inspectors.

2. There will be more inspectors from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) than from any other agency involved in livestock aspects of the proposed new animal welfare legislation.

3. Both RSPCA and DPI inspectors will have the same three broad roles under the new Act. These are:

- education
- monitoring; and
- complaint investigation.

4. Powers in the new Act will not be exactly the same as the current (1925) Act, because the new Act will need to comply with Fundamental Legislative Principles of the Legislative Standards Act 1982. The powers of all inspectors under the new Act, especially in relation to entry to property and seizure of animals will be more qualified than under the current Act.

5. It is currently anticipated that the new legislation will be introduced to Parliament in mid 1999.

676. Hides, Value-based Marketing System

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (20/10/98)—

With reference to the Cabinet decision on Monday 19 October to amend the Brands Act—

- (1) Will the State Government be lending support to the development of a value-based marketing system for hides?
- (2) What work has the Department of Primary Industries and/or the Beef Industry Development Advisory Council undertaken to date to develop a system of value-based marketing for hides?
- (3) If the State Government is lending support to the development of a value-based marketing system, what form will this system take and when and how will this system be implemented?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/98):

1. The State Government strongly supports the development of value-based marketing of hides.

The Queensland Meat Processing Industry Task Force announced by the Queensland Government in October 1998 will work with industry to identify opportunities for industry development and improvement. This will include support for value adding and new product development. As part of this the Queensland Meat Processing Development Initiative will provide the meat processing industry with funding of up to \$20 million over the next three years.

2. The Department is supporting the National Hide Improvement Project.

The Department is taking part in the national Storelink project.

The Department has conducted over 20 marketing tours for producer groups and has been involved in the development of industry standards to facilitate electronic transfer of data, including hide feedback systems, and has conducted extension activities on analysis of hide feedback sheets through the Queensland Beef Industry Institute's Beef Marketing Project.

The Beef Industry Development and Advisory Council (BIDAC), in their role as an industry development and advisory council, has made strong recommendations that both the cheek and rib positions no longer be recognised branding positions to promote value adding of hides and encourage market acceptance.

3. The Government's role is to continue to encourage and promote value-based marketing in all sectors of the beef industry.

To implement a value-based marketing system it is necessary to

identify and record individual animals and management practices throughout the entire birth to plate process,

provide associated quality programs to provide product integrity,

develop industry standards and feed back systems, and

identify characteristics for different markets and implement a price discovery mechanism for these characteristics.

677. Main Roads Department, Resumption of Land

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/10/98)—

With reference to land resumed or purchased for the purpose of road construction—

- (1) For what associated purposes can land be resumed or purchased?
- (2) Can the Main Roads Department purchase or resume land to create parkland to act as a buffer zone between roads and housing?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/11/98): (1) & (2) The powers of the Department in relation to the acquisition of land are to be found in the Transport Planning and Co-ordination Act 1994 and in particular section 25 of the Act.

678. Pay-roll Tax Refunds

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (20/10/98)—

As prior to the last Election both the then Leader of the Opposition and he as the employment Shadow Minister promised that employers on the verge of retrenching 50 or more employees would be refunded \$100,000 in payroll tax in order to stave off such retrenchments, has provision for the refund of the above stated amount of money been made in any other Ministerial Program Statement; if not, does such a provision exist within his Ministerial Program Statement; if so, where?

Mr BRADY (19/11/98): The guidelines for the Labour Adjustment Fund are currently being developed for consideration by government.

679. Nathan Dam; Study of Effect of River Dams on Marine Life

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (20/10/98)—

With reference to the previous Government's decision to fund a world-first study based on the proposed Nathan Dam to determine the effect river dams have on marine life by monitoring water quality sediment, food webs, significant species and agricultural chemicals and their relationship to coastal fisheries, sea grass and coral reef ecology and as this program was to be funded through the Regional Infrastructure Development program—

Will he provide details on the budget allocations for this study, the time-frame for the study under the new Government and the names of those people (and their organisations) who will be involved with the study, in addition to the anticipated commencement date?

Mr WELFORD (18/11/98): The proposed study on the impact of the Nathan Dam on marine life as promoted by the previous Government is currently under review. The original project, while well-intentioned, was a hurriedly developed proposal which did not pass through the usual processes of review.

I recently released a draft Water Allocation and Management Plan (WAMP) for the Fitzroy Basin. The draft Plan is currently out for consultation and receipt of submissions by 9 November.

The draft Plan has been prepared using the best information and experience available during its development. It is recognised that the assessment of the environmental flow requirements of river systems is a new and developing area of science. The draft Plan proposes priority research areas and a baseline monitoring framework. It is intended that the information gained from such research and monitoring would be used when the approved Plan is formally reviewed in 7 years.

A large number of water-related research projects have been undertaken in the Fitzroy catchment in recent years. For instance the projects dealing with land and water management issues in the catchment have been listed in the recently published, "Eutrophication Compendium: Fitzroy River Catchment, edited by Duivenvoorden L.J. and Heath B.M. as part of the National Eutrophication Management Program sponsored by the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation and the Murray Darling Basin Commission. In addition to the studies listed in this compendium, works exist on salinity, heavy metals, pesticides, and fisheries issues in the catchment.

A more comprehensive approach to the issue is now proposed. My Department of Natural Resources is investigating a joint research program with the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation and the CSIRO Division of Land and Water into eutrophication, sedimentation and pesticide issues as a whole in the Fitzroy Basin. It is planned to involve other organisations such as Environment Australia, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and the Australian Institute of Marine Science in further developing the proposal over the next few months.

At the same time the Department has developed a proposal to establish a Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management which, if established, would, together with the Co-operative Research Centre for Catchment Hydrology, coordinate and develop integrated frameworks and decision-making tools for the evaluation, planning and management of water resource use in the Fitzroy and other catchments. A decision on the CRC is due in 1999.

This approach envisages a coordinated multi disciplinary initiative aimed at developing sufficient scientific understanding of the effects of flow, sediment and nutrient transport, and flow modification practices to be able to recommend catchment and in-river management actions to obviate or minimise any adverse impacts.

680. Education Department, Consultancies

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (20/10/98)—

With reference to his department and other agencies within his portfolio—

- (1) What is the name of each person or company engaged in a consultancy role since the change of Government on 26 June?
- (2) What is the purpose of each consultancy?
- (3) What are the dates of engagement and estimated dates of completion for each consultancy?
- (4) What are the hourly and total costs of each consultancy?
- (5) How much has been expended on each consultancy in 1998-99 to date?
- (6) What is the total estimated cost of each consultancy in 1998-99?
- (7) Which of these consultancies will present a report and when (month and year will suffice)?
- (8) Which of these consultancies will not present a report and why not?
- (9) Which reports will be made public and when (month and year will suffice)?
- (10) Which reports will not be made public and why not?

Mr WELLS (15/11/98): See Attachments A, B & C.

ATTACHMENT A

Education Queensland has engaged the following consultancies since the change of Government on 26 June:

Consultancy Registration No: 001/99

1. Name of Consultant: EdData, 10 Carnegie Court, Coombabah, Q, 4216
2. Purpose of Consultancy: Review of the provision of special school buses for community access programs.
3. Dates of Engagement: 26 August 98 to 6 November 98.
4. Total Costs of Consultancy: \$16,200 Note: Hourly rate not provided as it is considered commercial-in-confidence.
5. Expenditure to Date (1998-99): \$4,000
6. Total Estimated Cost (1998-99): \$16,200
- 7-10. Reporting: The report is due November 98 and is for internal use only. No decision has been made at this point about the public dissemination of this report.

Consultancy Registration No: 002/99

1. Name of Consultant: Professor Leo Bartlett, Central Queensland University
2. Purpose of Consultancy: An investigation of on-site delivery of teacher education.
3. Tasks to be Performed: Assess the potential for extending on site teacher education focusing on—
gathering stakeholder perceptions of the current program's outcomes and processes through questionnaires/interviews.

using data gathered through questionnaires/interviews and from existing documentation to make judgments about the success of the current program to date.

making recommendations to Education Queensland on the extension of the delivery of teacher education using the distance mode.

ATTACHMENT B

4. Dates of Engagement: 28 September 98 to 14 December 98.

5. Total Costs of Consultancy: \$55,700 Note: No hourly rate was specified in contract.

6. Expenditure to Date (1998-99): Nil

7. Total Estimated Cost (1998-99): \$55,700

8-10. Reporting: A report is due to the Board of Management on 14 December 98. No decision has been made at this point about the public dissemination of this report.

Consultancy Registration No: 003/99

1. Name of Consultant: Jan Robinson and Associates Pty Ltd, PO Box 145, Everton Park, Q, 4053

2. Purpose of Consultancy: Investigate, develop and register a short course to assist delivery of VET courses in senior secondary schools.

3. Dates of Engagement: 7 September 98 to 11 December 98.

4. Total Costs of Consultancy: \$13,100 Note: Hourly rate not provided as it is considered commercial-in-confidence.

5. Expenditure to Date (1998-99): Nil

6. Total Estimated Cost (1998-99): \$13,100

7-10. Reporting: Course is due December 98. It is planned to pilot the course in selected schools with business and industry partners early in 1999.

Consultancy Registration No: 004/99

1. Name of Consultant: EdData, 10 Carnegie Court, Coombabah, Q, 4216

2. Purpose of Consultancy: The conduct and reporting of an environmental scan of literacy and numeracy initiatives in the junior secondary school.

ATTACHMENT C

3. Dates of Engagement: 10 October 98 to 18 December 98.

4. Total Costs of Consultancy: \$9,795 Note: No hourly rate was specified in contract.

5. Expenditure to Date (1998-99): Nil

6. Total Estimated Cost (1998-99): \$9,795

7-10. Reporting: Report is due December 98 to Education Queensland, AISQ and QCEC.

Consultancy Registration No: 005/99

1. Name of Consultant: Ken Gilbert

2. Purpose of Consultancy: Literature scan on the issues of centralised selection processes and locally based selection.

3. Dates of Engagement: 18 September 98 to 6 October 98.

4. Total Costs of Consultancy: \$1,500 Note: No hourly rate was specified in contract.

5. Expenditure to Date (1998-99): Nil

6. Total Estimated Cost (1998-99): \$1,500

7-10. Reporting: Report was received in October. No decision has been made at this point about the public dissemination of this report.

681. Ipswich State High School, Bus Waiting Zone

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Education (20/10/98)—

With reference to the sudden and costly storm which struck the Ipswich-Brisbane region on Tuesday, 13 October and the dangerous "bus waiting zone" situation which developed at about 3pm on Vogel Road, Brassall, on the western side of Ipswich State High School oval when some 500 children were placed in a most serious and dangerous situation after being left exposed on open ground to the violent thunderstorm with lightning and heavy hail, and as many parents have lodged complaints about this situation and have complained that their children could not escape back to the protection of the school facility because of the distance involved—

- (1) What will he tell these parents, especially when he discovers that complaints are stacking up and have gone back at least six years?
- (2) How would he react if children had been killed or seriously injured by the storm because the authorities had not acted sooner to clear up this mess?
- (3) What steps has he taken to provide shelter?
- (4) What study, if any, has been made of an easement into the school oval?

Mr WELLS (16/11/98):

1. All schools are required to instigate appropriate management practices to be followed in the event of emergency situations including severe electrical storms.

2. The current set down arrangement is seen to be adequate under departmental standards. Upgrade of set down at existing schools is not subject to the normal 50/50 funding under the infrastructure agreement.

Should any augmentation of the current set down arrangements at the school be seen to be necessary by the school community, application can be made to access the SafeST funding, administered by the Department of Transport, through the local authority.

3. There is an existing drainage easement at the school. If the Honourable Member is suggesting that the drainage easement should be used as a means of allowing a bus to set down and pick up students much closer to the school building; this would not be possible under departmental policy.

The policy position is that student set-down is appropriately part of the public (state or council) road system. In Ipswich State High School's case, a minor street acts as the set down area. The department would not be able to sustain the liability incurred in having the school site bisected by a public road.

682. Dalby, TAFE Facility

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/10/98)—

With reference to the Goss Government in 1990 and the Beattie Government in 1998 which have both taken away proposed funding for a TAFE facility in Dalby which has been shown by the Long Report to have a huge unmet demand for TAFE courses and the current courses are delivered out of entirely inadequate accommodation—

- (1) Why did the department ignore the finding of the Long Report in regard to Dalby's need?
- (2) Does he now admit he has had access either to this report or advice based on the report once he became the responsible Minister?
- (3) Does he understand Dalby's anger at its loss of a dedicated TAFE building when it has seen TAFE in Toowoomba double its capacity since 1990?
- (4) Will he guarantee this building will become a reality in the 1999-2000 Budget, if not before, to signify his acknowledgment of their need?

Mr BRADY (20/11/98):

(1) The Long Report was unavailable to the department because it, together with the computer disk, was recalled by the office of the then Minister for Training and Industrial Relations.

(2) The government only received an official copy on 13 October 1998 following the revelation of the then Minister's action during the 1998/99 Estimates process.

(3) & (4) The department has commenced a consultation process with Dalby community leaders to discuss the region's needs. The vocational education and training needs of the Dalby region will continue to be monitored and improved as required in collaboration with the local community.

683. Register of Written-off Vehicles

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/10/98)—

With reference to wrecked vehicles which are sold at auction for spare parts and are often acquired by dishonest persons, who transfer compliance and identification plates onto stolen vehicles and police and the motor industry have identified wrecked vehicles as an integral part of a multi-million stolen car racket and as insurance companies and traders in New South Wales are now required to provide Roads and Traffic Authorities with details of all wrecked vehicles for inclusion in a "Written-off Vehicles Register" (which effectively cancels the identification plates)—

Has a similar system been introduced in Queensland; if not, will it be introduced to protect buyers of used vehicles from purchasing stolen vehicles?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/11/98): As part of a suite of measures aimed at combating motor vehicle theft a register of written off motor vehicles is being considered.

684. Public Housing, Rental Arrears

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/10/98)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) At 30 September, how many public housing rental accounts were in arrears in total and percentage terms of the total number of rental accounts by area office?
- (2) How many of these accounts were in arrears for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to less than 8 weeks, (c) 8 to less than 12 weeks and (d) 12 weeks and greater in total and by area office and what is the total monetary value of each of the above categories?
- (3) At 30 September, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 September 1997 and 31 August in total and by area office?
- (5) What was the vacant turnaround time for maintenance and for allocations of public housing premises during the month of August?

Mr SCHWARTEN (17/11/98):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of public housing rental accounts in arrears in total and as a percentage of the number of accounts. For statistical purposes only those accounts in arrears by four or more weeks rent are deemed to be in arrears. The apparent large number of tenancies in arrears less than 4 weeks includes all those accounts which may be as little as one day late in paying their rent, which in some cases may reflect processing delays rather than actual performance. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment B for the number of accounts in arrears for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to less than 8 weeks, (c) 8 to less than 12 weeks and (d) greater than 12 weeks in total and by area office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) The number of public households paying full market rent as at 30 September 1998 is 2,814. This represents 5.8 percent of the total of public rental households in Queensland.

(4) See Attachment C for the number of applicants allocated housing between 1 September 1997 and 31 August 1998 in total and by area office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(5) For August 1998, the average turnaround time for maintenance was 8.8 working days. The average turnaround time for allocations was 9.9 working days.

685. Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning Department, Consultancies

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (21/10/98)—

Will he list consultancies, by department and business group/unit, engaged since 26 June with (a) the name of the principle consultant/s and the company trading name, (b) the anticipated/actual cost of each consultancy, (c) the purpose of each consultancy, (d) the anticipated reporting/completion date of each consultancy, (e) whether the consultancy has/will be provided/providing a written report and (f) whether the consultancy was publicly tendered?

Mr MACKENROTH (19/11/98): The Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning has advised me a total of 24 consultants have been engaged in the period 26 June 1998 to 6 November 1998. Details of each consultancy are specified in Attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

686. Member for Springwood

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Premier (21/10/98)—

Does he condone the blatantly antagonistic attitude of the Member for Springwood, in his assertions on 20 October at 12.18 pm as his attitude was specifically designed to draw a response and was negative and hardly consistent with the Premier's push to clean up Parliament and his jealous outbursts and continuous tirades on the age and abilities of everyone but himself clearly shows an arrogant attitude towards this Parliament?

Mr BEATTIE (17/11/98): I thank the Member for his recognition of my push to clean up Parliament. On this theme of cleaning up Parliament, it strikes me that this question is designed only to try to score political points and will not serve to benefit the constituents of either Member in a positive way. For that reason I will devote my time to dealing with positive tasks such as job creation strategies instead of spending time analysing the speech referred to.

687. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, VERs

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (21/10/98)—

With reference to the Voluntary Early Retirements offered by her department since the minority Beattie Labor Government came to office—

- (1) How many VERs were offered?
- (2) How many VERs were accepted?
- (3) Who were offered VERs?
- (4) Who accepted a VER?
- (5) What was the public service classification of each officer (a) offered a VER and (b) who accepted a VER?
- (6) What amount of money was paid to each recipient?
- (7) What is the reason the VER was offered?

Ms BLIGH (17/11/98):

1. Four.
2. Four.

3. I do not believe it is appropriate to name the Departmental Officers who were offered VERs.

4. All four Departmental Officers accepted their respected VERs.

5. The public service classification of those Departmental Officers offered VERs was AO8, AO7 and two officers at AO4.

6. The amount of money paid in these VER packages is as follows—

AO8—\$51,417.65

AO7—\$46,941.92

AO4—\$58,520.62

AO4—\$39,591.16

7. The first three VERs (i.e. AO8, AO7 and one of the AO4), are attributable to a review of the Office of the Director-General which dramatically reduced the number of staff employed within that Office, freeing up resources to be used for other priorities, such as service delivery. As a first option in this redeployment, the Chief Executive used his discretion to offer VERs to surplus staff (who in fact, requested that VERs be offered to them). The fourth VER is attributable to an organisational change process within the Families Program.

688. Public Works Portfolio, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/10/98)—

With reference to the Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in September?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in September?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 31 September?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for September?
- (5) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in August?
- (6) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in July?

Mr SCHWARTEN (16/11/98):

- (1) \$3,138,753.40.
- (2) \$3,161,698.47.
- (3) \$5,706,486.37.
- (4) A loss of \$22,945.07.
- (5) \$3,172,404.22.
- (6) \$3,622,049.31.

689. Poultry Products

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (21/10/98)—

With reference to the recent outbreak (mid September) of Newcastle disease on two New South Wales poultry farms—

- (1) To what countries are Queensland poultry products exported?

- (2) To what countries are Australian poultry products exported?
- (3) What action is his department taking to ensure continued market access for Queensland poultry products into each of these markets?
- (4) What action is the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service taking to ensure continued market access for Queensland and Australian poultry products to these markets?
- (5) What other agencies are involved in safeguarding this market access and what actions are these agencies taking?
- (6) Is he satisfied these actions are sufficient; if not, what further action will he be taking to ensure they are?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/98):

1. Queensland poultry products can potentially be exported to any of approximately 44 different countries.
2. Australia has export protocols in place for some 44 countries. Actual exports vary from time to time and at present some restrictions apply due to the recent Newcastle disease diagnosis in NSW.
3. The continuance of export trade from Queensland depends upon Queensland remaining free of Newcastle disease and on the assurance of our trading partners that no risks are associated with import of Queensland product. To this end Queensland is fulfilling its obligations as part of the national eradication effort in New South Wales.
4. The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service negotiates export protocols on behalf of all Australian States and Territories. Information is being supplied to overseas countries and through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to Australian overseas diplomatic posts.
5. Each State or Territory, the Commonwealth, CSIRO and industry is involved.
6. The actions taken to date have been in accord with the best technical practice recommended by AUSVETPLAN.

690. Toowoomba, State Development Centre

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (21/10/98)—

With reference to the establishment of a State Development Centre in Toowoomba—

- (1) What is the timeframe for the establishment of the Toowoomba centre?
- (2) Where will the centre be located?
- (3) How many staff will be based at the centre?
- (4) What will be its function?

Mr ELDER (19/11/98):

1. Stage 1 of establishing the State Development Centre (SDC) has been completed, in so far as the activities of the former Departments of Tourism, Small Business and Industry and Economic Development and Trade have been integrated and are being delivered from the Department of State Development Regional Office located at 4 Little

Street, Toowoomba. However, the subsequent stages in establishing a fully integrated SDC is a priority of the Government and is currently being actioned through my Department. The Toowoomba SDC will, subject to accommodation issues being resolved, be established in early 1999.

2. The centre will be located in the CBD precinct of Toowoomba. This may involve the development of a new office or the refurbishment of the current premises to meet the requirements of the fully functional SDC. At this stage, options are still being assessed.

3. In addition to the eight staff currently located at the Toowoomba office it is envisaged that some additional staff may be required to be physically located in the SDC. However, options for the delivery of service by the economic development departments in the regions are currently being investigated.

4. The SDC will provide business and the wider community with more immediate and better access to a wide range of government services, information, advice and support.

Specifically the SDC will:

have a strong client focus;

be tasked with assisting business in whatever dealings it has with Government (eg licensing, environmental compliance, training, taxation and government assistance);

provide information technology and communication facilities which may otherwise be out of reach of local businesses; and

assist electronic lodgement of forms and applications and payment of charges to reduce the regulatory burden on business.

The manager will work with local government, and with regional development organisations to implement regional strategies.

691. Crystal Creek

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/10/98)—

With reference to Crystal Creek at the southern end of the Hinchinbrook Electorate which experienced severe erosion on its southern bank from the high rainfall and flooding in January and as a water pipeline to Townsville was threatened by a substantial wash-out and a major reconstruction program of the southern bank in the national park was carried out from February to July when enormous amounts of cement were grouted from the stony creek bed 10 metres up the stone pitched face for a distance of 500 metres, then a rock basket finish of the embankment occurred and less than a two metre flood has caused major havoc with the incompetent design and a major flood will be devastating and as this extraordinary expenditure could have been better spent if a natural channel was re-opened to allow the water to take a more direct route—

- (1) Who carried out the design work for the reconstruction of the bank at Crystal Creek and what departments were involved?

- (2) How much did the work on the southern embankment cost and what component was Disaster Relief Funding?
- (3) How was the project funded other than Natural Disaster Relief Funding?
- (4) What guarantees were given by the designer and the contractor that the work would stand up to severe flooding, let alone moderate flooding?
- (5) Now, with the failure of this expensive reconstructed embankment, what do the relative departments intend to do?
- (6) Do the departments intend to throw money at the badly eroding bend without redirecting the water through its former channel?
- (7) Is this yet another example of not cleaning out build-up of material that causes creeks in national parks to change their main direction?
- (8) As no doubt it will require a commitment to rectify the problem otherwise the water pipeline will be at risk of being undermined, what is the estimated cost of additional work required to stabilise the problem and who will pay for this work?
- (9) Due to the unstable nature of the weather in northern Queensland, when will the necessary work be carried out?
- (10) As a similar situation prevails on the public road which runs along the banks of Crystal Creek downstream, will the island that has developed a bend in the creek have the channel re-routed to avoid the loss of farmland and the road?
- (11) What cost has been incurred to date and what is the estimated cost to rectify the problem in this section of the creek?
- (12) Who has borne the cost to date and where will the funding come from to stabilise this area?

Mr WELFORD (18/11/98):

(1) Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board engaged Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd as design engineers and Mac North Pty Ltd as project managers. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was consulted over some aspects of the repair work at the Yank Gully/Crystal Creek erosion site.

(2) Approximately \$1.2 million has been expended by the Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board to date.

The Yank Gully erosion was not eligible for Disaster Funding. The previous Government facilitated loans and approved direct grants for approximately 50% of the total damage costs for the entire Intake Project which included the Yank Gully retaining wall. It is understood that the total repair cost, including upgrade works, will be in the order of \$6.1 to \$6.8 million.

(3) The project was funded by Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board loan funds.

(4) Standard contractual obligations.

(5) DNR has provided technical advice to the Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board and its design consultants Gutteridge Haskins and Davey Pty Ltd. Repair works and flow control structures

have been designed based on that advice. The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) will have input into visual amenity impact and environmental impact assessment of the repair works.

(6) There has been no assessment of the "former channel" option as it is in the national park. An environmental impact assessment would be needed for this option. As natural stream processes led to the southern migration of the Crystal Creek channel alignment, those same processes may make reinstatement to the "former channel" ineffective. Such an exercise may be a waste of time and money.

(7) The member should understand that coastal streams are not mere drains waiting for human manipulation. All watercourses are dynamic. Movement in stream bed location is a natural process on all watercourses, inside and outside of national parks. The flow regimes of Crystal Creek in response to large rainfall events in its catchment are not greatly influenced by in-stream debris—for example over 1700mm of rain fell over a four day period in the Paluma area in January 1998. The depth and force of the flood water removed very large in-stream Melaleuca trees. These trees had withstood normal wet season events for over 100 years.

(8) An insurance claim has been made to cover damages caused by the flood. The estimated cost of additional work to stabilise the channel is \$300,000.

(9) The Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board have committed to undertake the repair works prior to the 1998/99 wet season.

(10) An engineering report has been prepared by the Department of Natural Resources Engineering Services as a consultancy to the Thuringowa City Council. Work is proposed to commence in November 1998 under Natural Disaster Relief funding to realign Crystal Creek to afford protection to Spiegelhauer Road and adjoining farmland. The flood heights experienced in January 1998 were in excess of any previously recorded. This section of Crystal Creek floodplain is relatively flat and any future flows of such a magnitude would break out across Spiegelhauer Road and adjoining lands regardless of the location of the primary stream bed.

(11) Approximately \$1.2 million has been expended to date; and approximately \$300,000 will be required for repairs.

(12) Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board.

692. Nerang-Broadbeach Road

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/10/98)—

With reference to the Nerang-Broadbeach Road—

(1) At what time did the Main Roads Department originally decide that Nielsens Road was not feasible to be used as a main road?

(2) At what time did the Main Roads Department change its mind and decide that it could be used as a main road?

(3) On what basis did the Main Roads Department change its mind and is the decision documented?

(4) How much did the CAL's consultancy cost?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/11/98):

(1), (2) & (3) A decision on the appropriate option for upgrading of the Nerang-Broadbeach road will be made in the near future following consultation with the community. No decision has yet been made.

(4) The cost of the CAL's commission for consultation is \$34,275.

693. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Premier (21/10/98)—

Subsequent to his answer to Question On Notice No 539, will he now provide the following additional information (a) the actual number of trainees in each State whose training is within the User-Choice category as of 1 January, (b) the actual number of trainees in each State whose training is not within the User-Choice category as of 1 January, (c) the actual number of apprentices in each State whose training is within the User-Choice category as of 1 January and (d) the actual number of apprentices in each State whose training is not within the User-Choice category as of 1 January?

Mr BEATTIE (17/11/98): (a) (b) (c) (d) Queensland does not record or hold information on traineeship and apprenticeship numbers from other States. The Member will need to seek that information from each State. In Queensland, as a result of the full implementation of User Choice arrangements in traineeships and apprenticeships as of 1 January 1998 by the previous Coalition Government, all trainees and apprentices fall into the User Choice "category". As at 1 January 1998, there were 24,102 apprentices and 24,218 trainees, some of whom may have commenced their training up to four years before this date.

694. VET

Mr STEPHAN asked the Premier (21/10/98)—

- (1) For the years since 1993-94, will he provide the necessary comparative figures for each State and Territory, indicating (a) total expenditure on all forms of competitive funding (including VET in secondary schools, particularly in New South Wales where exceptionally large numbers of students are involved, (b) total expenditure on VET and (c) (a) as a percentage of (b) to justify his claim that the process in Queensland is occurring "3-4 times the speed of any other State or Territory?
- (2) Will he indicate the official source of all statistics quoted in his response?

Mr BEATTIE (17/11/98):

(1) This information required is only available from each State or Territory. The Member should refer his inquiry to the other States and Territories.

(2) In Queensland, the statistics and calculations are based on the available budget figures for the State of Queensland for competitive funding and user choice.

695. Tilt Train

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/10/98)—

Will it be necessary for any track infrastructure including bridges, tunnels, cuttings and curves to be upgraded to permit the proposed tilt train to Cairns to actually tilt; if so, what is the budget and timetable for these upgrades?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/11/98): The Cairns tilt train will be able to operate in tilt mode between Caboolture and Cairns.

696. TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/10/98)—

Will he provide specific details of the additional services to be provided by his department's Corporate Services to (a) TAFE Queensland and (b) training services together with the cost of each in order to justify the virtual doubling of the financial contribution of TAFE and training services to Corporate Services?

Mr BRADY (20/11/98): I have provided the answer to this question in my response to the non-government Question on Notice No. 4, which was asked during the Estimates Hearings process. My response to Estimates Committee F non-government Question on Notice No. 4 was tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, 22 October 1998 and is available from the Bills and Papers Office at Parliament House.

697. Prof. Viviani

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/10/98)—

Has he or the department appointed Professor Viviani to undertake a consultancy or project; if so, will he provide the terms of reference given to Professor Viviani, a breakdown of the costs of the exercise and an assurance that all requirements of the State Purchasing Policy have been met?

Mr BRADY (20/11/98):

1. Yes, attached are the Terms of Reference. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
2. A daily consultancy fee of \$1000 per day (including all expenses); the total fee to date is \$6,500.
3. All requirements of the State Purchasing Policy have been met.

698. Torres Strait Island Councils

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (21/10/98)—

With reference to the fact that presently Torres Strait Island Councils are able to access financial assistance under the Financial Accountability Improvement Program to improve the financial

management of councils and that councils are only provided with financial assistance under the program when the council elects to use staff employed by the Island Coordinating Council (ICC) and that councils that elect to employ their own financial staff are not provided with financial assistance—

What initiatives will be undertaken to ensure that councils who help themselves are not financially penalised when other councils are encouraged to continue as non-performers?

Ms SPENCE (17/11/98): The financial accountability of Torres Strait Island Councils is assessed annually by the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament. Over the years, the Auditor-General has identified significant shortcomings in many Torres Strait Island Councils' ability to meet their financial accountability obligations under the Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984.

The Financial Accountability Improvement Program (FAIP) assists Torres Strait Island Councils, as needed, to improve their financial management performance in a variety of ways as determined by a Regional Committee comprising senior representatives from my Department, the Island Coordinating Council, and the Torres Strait Regional Authority.

FAIP funds are not used to reward or penalise good performance, nor to encourage continued poor performance. Urgent or significant remedial financial accountability needs have priority, and FAIP support or intervention may include the temporary appointment of key financial staff. However, financial assistance is also provided to Torres Strait Island Councils to assist them maintain and enhance satisfactory financial practices. For example, all Councils are provided with FAIP funded internal audit services and training support. Most Councils have received, or will receive, FAIP assistance for the purchase or upgrading of financial accounting computer hardware and software.

In all respects my Department's FAIP is currently addressing the concerns raised by Mr Hobbs. To answer each question raised by Mr Hobbs I can say:

All Councils receive operational funding under the State Government Financial Aid (SGFA) program which they use to employ admin and clerical staff, such as Council Clerks, accountants/bookkeepers, etc. Councils are responsible for undertaking their own recruiting for these positions.

FAIP is a special program designed specifically to provide additional or remedial assistance to non-performing Councils. FAIP is not intended to provide recurrent funding for any Council positions.

In the Torres Strait, the FAIP Management Committee uses FAIP funds, inter alia, to appoint Financial Services Officers (FSOs) on a contract basis to those Councils which have not secured an unqualified audit result, on the basis that FSOs will provide hands-on training and assistance for Councils and staff (including Council-employed accountants/financial officers) so that their services are not needed in the long term, skills having been transferred to existing Council staff. This QON has originated from Coconut Island which has achieved unqualified audit results for the last 5 years.

The Torres Strait FAIP Management Committee has developed a register of suitably qualified or accredited service providers for internal audit and financial management/admin training from which Councils are encouraged to make their choice for provision of relevant services. If they choose alternative service providers, FAIP does not pay for the service. This is primarily a quality control mechanism (minimum qualifications and consistency/accuracy of advice or assistance provided).

FAIP is designed to provide strategic intervention and assistance on a needs basis, not as automatic supplementation of recurrent operational funds already provided annually. It may eventuate, if and when all Councils are achieving satisfactory and sustainable financial accountability levels, that FAIP funds are redirected elsewhere eg to augment SGFA funding or other areas of need. It is misleading to suggest that non-provision of FAIP funds to a well-performing Council is a penalty—such a Council is already receiving its current entitlement.

No Councils are encouraged to continue as non-performers.

699. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Executive Support Unit

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/10/98)—

With reference to the increase of six personnel in the Executive Support Unit of his department to support the Director-General and Deputy Director-General—

What are the strategic and cross-divisional support activities envisaged to be carried out by these additional staff?

Mr BRADY (20/11/98): Freedom of information, ministerial liaison, public relations, policy coordination and communications.

700. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Executive Support Unit

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/10/98)—

With reference to the increase in the cost of his department's Executive Support Unit from 1997-98 actual \$1.106m to the estimate for 1998-99 of \$2.712m—

How much of this increase is being directed to the payment of salaries and what are the public service classifications of the 21 people to be employed within the Executive Support Unit?

Mr BRADY (20/11/98): \$722,574. Director-General, Deputy Director-General, SES 1, SO2, SO1, AO8, 4 x AO7, 4 x AO6, AO5, 3 x AO4, 2 x AO3, AO2.

701. Call Centre Project

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/10/98)—

Why has he diverted more than \$4m from the "Call Centre" project at Moreton Institute to fund the burgeoning bureaucracy "Corporate Services" when the "Call Centre" project would create "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs" and put Queensland at the forefront of this area of information technology?

Mr BRADY (20/11/98): Funds allocated for capital development cannot be used to fund recurrent expenditure. The question therefore does not apply.

702. Apprentices

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (21/10/98)—

Why is he persistently claiming credit for the 10 per cent policy (ie ensuring that apprentices provide 10 per cent of work time on major Government-sponsored employment projects) when his departmental staff, in February, sent out 500 form letters to contractors advising them of compliance requirements under the policy?

Mr BRADY (20/11/98): The 10 per cent policy was introduced in 1993. The Beattie Government is enhancing the implementation of the policy by:

- rigorous enforcement;
- additional staff in DETIR to monitor compliance;
- removing the exclusion of the Department of Housing;
- insertion of the 10 per cent policy in the pre-qualification processes for government contracts;
- tightening the contract conditions to maximise compliance.

703. State Forest Land, Grazing Leases

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/10/98)—

With reference to the Regional Forestry Agreement, will he provide details of all grazing leases on State forest land within the RFA region which are scheduled for renewal in 1998-99 and the date at which the existing leases are scheduled to come up for renewal as well as the number of these leases which have already been renewed and the terms and length of the renewals?

Mr WELFORD (18/11/98): As at 9 September there were 295 grazing (term) leases within the South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) area. The terms of the grazing leases vary to up to 30 years in duration.

Details of all expiring leases are held in various regional offices of the Department of Natural Resources.

Leases coming up for renewal during the RFA are being processed in the normal manner by the Department.

This process is resulting in most leases being renewed, unless the areas in question are required

for other purposes. This situation is part of the usual arrangements when expiring leases are considered for renewal.

The RFA itself is having no impact at present on renewal decisions. Leases are being renewed with varying terms and conditions including the standard condition under the previous Government that leases could be terminated with six months notice to the lessee.

704. Giardia; Cryptosporidium

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (21/10/98)—

- (1) Will she immediately publicly release advice she received about any presence of giardia or cryptosporidium in Queensland's water supply?
- (2) What testing is being done for these organisms?
- (3) Has there been any additional testing in this State requested by authorities since the outbreak of disease in Sydney's water supply and what is Queensland Health's involvement in regard to testing in this State?
- (4) Is she notified of all incidents of these dangerous organisms in Queensland's water supply?

Mrs EDMOND (9/11/98):

(1) Advice would be released where there is a clear, scientifically and epidemiologically-established risk to public health.

(2) & (3) Queensland Health Scientific Services (QHSS) provides a testing service for Giardia and Cryptosporidium. Many Queensland drinking water providers have submitted water samples for testing by QHSS with no results of public health concern experienced to date. There has been an increase in the number of samples submitted by drinking water providers in Queensland to QHSS.

(4) I established an Expert Group on Water Quality to advise on public health aspects of water use in Queensland. This group has developed an interim protocol for the management of and response to Cryptosporidium and Giardia in drinking water. The interim protocol requires a drinking water provider to advise Queensland Health of the detection of Giardia and Cryptosporidium in drinking water.

705. Gladstone, Group Apprentices Scheme

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (21/10/98)—

With reference to discussions we have held regarding the specific allocation of six Queensland Housing Commission houses to Gladstone Area Group Apprentices Scheme and to his support for this approach—

When will this allocation be made?

Mr SCHWARTEN (17/11/98): Advice has been provided to Group Training Australia on the 1998/1999 allocation of dwellings for group training schemes. Included in this allocation was a provision

for ten dwellings for the Gladstone Area Group Apprentices Scheme.

Further, the Department is confident that an allocation of six dwellings will be made to the Gladstone Area Group Apprentices Scheme in the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 Capital Works Programs. Scheduled programs will be provided to Group Training Australia prior to the commencement of each financial year.

706. Corrective Services Commission, Legal Actions for Negligence

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (21/10/98)—

What is the number of legal actions for negligence which have been filed against the Corrective Services Department or any of its officers and what is the dollar value of such actions over the past three years?

Mr BARTON (20/11/98): 85 legal actions for negligence have been filed against the Queensland Corrective Services Commission or its officers over the past three years. The total dollar value of defending such actions filed against the Commission in the past three years is \$301,517.00.

For your further information, I am advised that the total amount of money paid out by Workcover (which is outside my portfolio area) over the past three years on claims against the Commission, regardless of when actions were filed, is \$5,687,543.00.

707. Education Department, Professional Development Programs

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (21/10/98)—

With reference to professional development—

- (1) What is the total budget allocation for 1998-99?
- (2) How many school and departmental employees are expected to benefit?
- (3) What are their public service classifications (eg. Band 5 Principal, AO4 Public Servant etc.)?
- (4) What is the description and cost of each professional development program planned to date?
- (5) How much was spent in 1997-98?
- (6) How many school and departmental employees benefited?
- (7) What were their public service classifications?
- (8) What was the description and cost of each professional development program conducted?

Mr WELLS (16/11/98):

1. As the Government's Budget was not introduced until September 15, and funds not appropriated until passed by the Parliament on October 22 and assented by the Governor on October 27, internal budget processes have not been completed. It is therefore not possible to respond to Questions 1,2,3 and 4. However, Education Queensland is committed to ensuring adequate and targeted professional development for its employees.

The Director-General has requested the development of a strategy on the professional development and training needs of its employees including central and district office staff. There is a recognition of an integrated approach which will impact on the roles and activities of the Centre for Leadership Excellence (CLE) and the Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE).

However during 1998/99, the Centre for Teaching Excellence has organised:

Three (3) September vacation schools—116 teachers (including some administrators)

Learning Technology Leadership—29 teachers

ACOT Practicums—91 teachers

360 teacher are being supported during the 1998 calendar year through Tertiary Inservice Support. A similar number were supported in 1997. Schools were provided with funds that allowed every preschool teacher and selected administrators to be released to attend training modules. This equated to 2 TRS per teacher. In all funding directly to schools totalled \$1.1m.

Professional Development associated with the Preschool Curriculum Guidelines (90% of eligible preschool teachers and administrators have now attended this professional development during 1998)

To date in 1998/99, the Centre for Leadership Excellence has continued the Workshadowing program and has organised:

Induction program for new principals

Teaching Principal Project Workshop

Standards Framework for Leaders Workshop

2. Internal budget processes are not yet completed.
3. Internal budget processes are not yet completed.
4. Internal budget processes are not yet completed.
5. The Centre for Leadership Excellence expenditure for 1997/98 was \$955,187.

The Centre for Teaching Excellence expenditure for 1997/98 was \$7.546 million.

The figures do not include salary and administrative costs for the staff in these two Centres of Excellence.

In addition, school communities are encouraged to use monies in their grants to support professional development and training. Resources to be directed towards this end should be included in the Annual Operational Plan and reported in the School Annual Report. Schools also receive direct funding for professional development—may access services of the Centre for Teaching Excellence and the Centre for Leadership Excellence.

Branches and other work units in central office and district offices are allocated in amounts equal to 1% of their salary costs to support professional development and training. This allocation will continue in 1998/99.

6. In 1997/98, 4642 school leaders including parents attended Professional Development and Training sponsored by the Centre for Leadership Excellence.

Attendance at specific professional development activities in 1997/98 for the

Centre for Teaching Excellence was as follows:

Eight Vacation schools—382 teachers, teacher aides and some administrators

Learning Technology Leadership—30 teachers

LOTE Beginning Teachers—60 teachers

Advisory Visiting Teachers—50 teachers

Education Advisers (Curriculum) training—70 to 80 Employee Advisers

Behaviour Management Support personnel—50 teachers

Reading Recovery Tutors—16 teachers trained as tutors

Reading Recovery Teachers—180 teachers training

7. The Centre for Leadership Excellence caters for Principals, Senior Executives, Deputy Principals, Heads of Department, AO6 to AO8 Public Servants and Parents

The Centre for Teaching Excellence does not cater for public service officers, but is focused on teaching staff in schools. School administrators and school support staff are also involved.

No specific data is available on the numbers of people from each classification attending these programs.

8. The attached sheet provides a description and breakdown of each project for 1997/98 for both Centres of Excellence. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

708. Goat Milk

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (21/10/98)—

- (1) When she signed the letter on 13 August, informing the Chairman of the Raw Goat Milk Producers' Association that, (I quote) "I am not convinced that this belief (in raw goat milk) is justified or that it warrants consideration to the extent whereby I am required to continue the systems of exemption", was she aware that the Health Department had no papers from the review conducted in November/December 1996; if not, when did she find out?
- (2) For what reason and on what evidence did she refuse to issue the exemption from pasteurisation beyond 31 December, for goat milk?
- (3) What does she propose that the people who cannot tolerate pasteurised milk, for whatever reason, or who prefer unpasteurised goat milk for health reasons, consume after 31 December?
- (4) Will she provide from the Health Department records, the number of cases of the following infections that have occurred in Queensland in the last 10 years, (and the number that can be attributed directly to the consumption of unpasteurised goat milk produced from

monitored dairies) (a) typhoid, (b) hepatitis A, (c) brucellosis, (d) diphtheria, (e) dysentery and (f) Q fever in Queensland?

Mrs EDMOND (17/11/98): The report "Committee of Review—Sale of Unpasteurised Goat Milk" was on Queensland Health files as well as the minutes of meetings and evidence given during the Queensland Health review.

709. Police Service and Corrective Services Commission, Capital Works Program

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (21/10/98)—

Will he provide the capital works program for 1998-99 with scheduled commencements and completion dates for the entire Departments of Police and Corrective Services including total cost of projects and expected outlays?

Mr BARTON (20/11/98):

QCSC CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 1998/99

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Notes: Expenditure achieved will be dependent upon capacity of contractors to maintain time frames. Inclement weather, industrial activity and non supply of essential equipment may delay completion and reduce actual expenditure.

Commencement dates are the dates that a contractor or managing contractor was engaged or commissioned to commence the procurement process.

Dates provided are approximate only. Completion dates are the dates that the construction activity should cease and in some cases will be an approximation based on the information available at the time.

QPS CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM 1998/99

The 1998-99 Capital Works Program with respect to the Queensland Police Service is detailed in the attached schedule.

Projects which are in either the tender or construction phase have anticipated construction start and completion dates. However, these dates can change as a result of delays through wet weather, materials availability, poor performance the contractor to name but a few.

Hence the dates shown on the attached schedule are therefore subject to change for reasons outside the control of the Queensland Police Service.

Projects which are in the design and planning phase do not have dates for construction scheduled. These projects are in the pre planning phase and will not be noted with dates for construction until they are documented and ready for tender. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Notes: Expenditure achieved will be dependent upon capacity of contractors to maintain time frames. Inclement weather, industrial activity and non supply of essential equipment may delay completion and reduce actual expenditure.

Dates provided are approximate only. Completion dates are the dates that the construction activity should cease and in some cases will be an approximation based on the information available at the time.

710. Nathan Dam

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (21/10/98)—

With reference to the Nathan Gorge geotechnical exploratory work—

- (1) How many people were employed as "cultural heritage monitors" on this job site?
- (2) What was the total cost of these monitors to the project?
- (3) At what rate did these monitors get paid?
- (4) What qualifications did these monitors need to have to justify this rate of pay?
- (5) Are these monitors to be employed for this construction of Nathan Gorge dam?
- (6) How many "cultural heritage monitors" will be on the construction site during construction?
- (7) Who will meet this cost?

Mr WELFORD (18/11/98):

(1) A total of seventeen Aboriginal people were employed, on a rotational basis, as Cultural Heritage Field Officers (CHFOs) during the Nathan Dam geotechnical studies. A total of six (two from each of three groups expressing interest in the land to be affected by the dam) was permitted on the site on any one day. This was a condition of an access deed between the Government and landholders at the dam site. The participation of Aboriginal people in the site-work was one of the conditions under which they would agree to the issue of necessary permits.

Arrangements for the geotechnical studies including the participation of Aboriginal people were the subject of extensive consultation between the Departments of Natural Resources, the Premier and Cabinet, State Development, Environment and Heritage and SUDAW Developments.

(2) Only those CHFOs present on the site on any day received wages for the day. The total cost of the monitors for the project was in the order of \$53,000. This figure includes wages (approx. \$30,000 incl. overheads), travelling allowance (approx. \$12,000) vehicle hire (approx. \$8,000), material and equipment (approx \$3,000).

(3) The rate of payment for CHFOs was based upon Operational Stream Level OO5-1 Paypoint of the Public Service Award. The ordinary hourly rate paid for work on site was \$18.15 plus 19% loading (casual basis).

(4) The CHFOs were chosen by their respective Aboriginal groups to work under the guidance of an Archaeologist. Some workers were Aboriginal elders and others were younger Aboriginals. The rate paid was in line with that paid to cultural heritage monitors on recent projects elsewhere in the State.

(5) My Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the preparation of a Cultural Heritage

Management Plan (CHMP) which will set out the actions necessary for the protection and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the area affected by the dam. The participation of Aboriginal people in salvage operations and during construction is likely to be a condition of cultural heritage clearance of the dam project area should the project proceed. The conditions of such participation will be negotiated during the preparation of the CHMP.

(6) The number of CHFOs which may participate in the construction of the dam is not known at this time. This will be the subject of negotiation during the preparation of the CHMP.

(7) The question of who will bear the cost of monitoring during construction will be a subject of the negotiation of a Concession Agreement between the Queensland Government and SUDAW Developments.

711. TAFE

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to his partial answer to Question on Notice No. 593—

Will he complete his answer by detailing the distribution of the 300 additional administrative staff, on an Institute by Institute basis, as requested?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98): The following table provides the distribution of the 300 additional staff on an Institute by Institute basis, as requested.

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Table Note:

These figures have been taken from HRMS on 1 July (1998 and 1996).

These totals are neither cumulative, nor annualised. This is "point in time" data as opposed to an average of staff over the timespan.

These staffing levels include permanent and temporary officers and exclude casual and contract staff. Staffing numbers reflect the full-time equivalent employees at this time. FTE is calculated as the actual hours worked by an officer divided by the normal hours for the position.

There may be a slight variation in numbers—fractions have been rounded to the nearest whole number prior to inclusion in table.

712. Coorparoo TAFE Campus; Queen Alexandra Home

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

Will he answer the question that was actually asked of him through Question on Notice No. 545 of Wednesday 26 August?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98): Consideration of the most appropriate options to ensure that the facility provides maximum benefit to the community as a whole are continuing

That process will include widespread public consultation, details of which will be announced as soon as practicable.

713. State Government, Office Accommodation

Mr PAFF asked the Premier (22/10/98)—

- (1) What are the administrative guidelines operating in the Queensland Government in relation to the negotiations for office accommodation for Queensland Government departments, budget dependent statutory authorities, Government-owned corporations, Government business units that have untied clients and that fully comply with competitive neutrality guidelines, Government business units with tied clients, statutory bodies that are trading enterprises, statutory bodies that are part budget dependent or are able to pass on their costs to their clients or the community and trust funded agencies?
- (2) To what extent is preference given to accommodating Queensland Government departments, statutory authorities, business units, Government-owned corporations and trust funded agencies in buildings owned by the Queensland Government?
- (3) What is the percentage of office accommodation of Queensland Government departments, statutory authorities, business units, Government-owned corporations and trust funded agencies in buildings owned by the Queensland Government?
- (4) Does the Queensland Government give any preference, implied or explicit, in the negotiation of office accommodation on behalf of Queensland Government departments, statutory authorities, business units, Government-owned corporations and trust funded agencies in relation to buildings owned by Suncorp-Metway Ltd?
- (5) What is the percentage of office accommodation of Queensland Government departments, statutory authorities, business units, Government-owned corporations and trust funded agencies in buildings that are owned by Suncorp-Metway Ltd?
- (6) What is the tenure of the leases of all office accommodation of Queensland Government departments, statutory authorities, business units, Government-owned corporations and trust funded agencies in buildings that are owned by Suncorp-Metway Ltd?
- (7) How do these compare with the tenure of leases by departments and statutory authorities over buildings owned by other private owners?
- (8) How do the monetary rental terms of the leases of all office accommodation of Queensland Government departments, statutory authorities, business units, Government-owned corporations and trust funded agencies in buildings that are owned by Suncorp-Metway Ltd compare with leases by departments, statutory authorities, etc., over buildings of a

similar standard and owned by other private owners?

- (9) How do the monetary terms of the leases from Suncorp-Metway Ltd compare with leases in the general property market over properties of a similar quality and standard in the centres in question?

Mr BEATTIE (17/11/98):

- (1) The administrative guidelines applicable to Government office accommodation are titled "Policy and Guidelines for the use of Owned and Leased Government Office Accommodation" and are held by the Department of Public Works. The guidelines are available for perusal. These guidelines apply to Queensland Government Agencies including Government departments and those Statutory Authorities which are directly funded by Queensland Treasury. The guidelines do not apply to Government-Owned Enterprises or corporatised entities. To ascertain the guidelines used by all entities as requested would be a time consuming and resource intensive task. Any further queries in relation to administrative guidelines should be directed to the Minister responsible for those other entities.
- (2) Government Agencies covered by the "Policy and Guidelines for the use of Owned and Leased Government Office Accommodation" are required to utilise office accommodation in Government owned office buildings in preference to non-Government leased space.
- (3) To ascertain the percentage of office accommodation of Queensland Government departments, statutory authorities, business units, Government-owned corporations and trust funded agencies in buildings owned by the Queensland Government would be a time consuming and resource intensive task. Queries in relation to particular entities should be directed to the responsible Minister. However, in terms of office accommodation controlled and administered by the Department of Public Works, the percentage of Government office accommodation in Government owned office buildings is approximately 49%.
- (4) No.
- (5) As far as the Department of Public Works is aware, approximately 6.5%.
- (6) As far as the Department of Public Works is aware, the tenures of the leases for Government office accommodation in buildings that are owned by Suncorp-Metway Ltd are as follows:
BUILDING—LEASE TENURE
 State Health Building, Brisbane—30 years from 16 July 1984
 Forestry House, Brisbane—30 years from 1 December 1987
 State Law Building, Brisbane—13 years from 14 December 1994
- (7) Determination of the tenures of all leases held by departments and statutory authorities would be a time consuming and resource intensive exercise. However, as far as the Department of Public Works is aware, the tenures of leases for Government office

accommodation in buildings which are owned by non-Government owners other than Suncorp-Metway Ltd are generally 10 years or less.

(8) A comparative study of all monetary rental terms of leases of all office accommodation of Queensland Government departments, statutory authorities, business units, Government-owned corporations and trust funded agencies in buildings that are owned by Suncorp-Metway and in buildings of a similar standard owned by other private owners, would be a time consuming and resource intensive exercise. However, in the experience of the Department of Public Works, the monetary rental terms for Government office accommodation leased in buildings owned by both Suncorp-Metway Ltd and by other non-Government owners are generally directly comparable.

(9) A comparative study of the monetary terms of leases from Suncorp-Metway Ltd and leases over properties of a similar quality and standard in the general property market would be a time consuming and resource intensive task. However, the monetary terms of leases from both Suncorp-Metway Ltd and from the general property market are generally directly comparable for properties of a similar quality and standard in the centres in question and are subject to the same market review.

714. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 582—

- (1) On what date was the requested Memorandum of Understanding finalised?
- (2) On what date was it distributed?
- (3) Will he table the copy requested more than a month ago?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98):

- (1) 30 October 1998.
- (2) 4 November 1998.
- (3) Since its completion subsequent to Question on Notice No. 582, yes, attached. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

715. TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

As part of his response to Question on Notice No. 496, he provided the following table:

Institute of TAFE—Deficit
Southbank—\$1.6m
Brisbane—\$2.7m
Moreton—\$1.3m
Barrier Reef—\$0.5m
Tropical North—\$2.1m
Southern Queensland—\$0.3m

In relation to each of the above institutes, will he explain the significant variation between the figures

quoted above and the June 1998 balances indicated in Attachment 1 of his answer to Question on Notice No. 613?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98): The financial status of TAFE Queensland and of each Institute as at 30 June 1998, as indicated in Attachment 1 to the answer to Question on Notice No. 613, includes:

- pre-payments against user choice and competitively funded contracts, and
- special supplementation and minor budget transfers considered to be "bail-outs".

These pre-payments and bail-outs mask the fact that a number of Institutes finished the 1997/98 financial year with an unadjusted cumulative expenditure deficit; the initial assessment of which was \$8.5m. This initial assessment was the basis for the response to Question on Notice No. 496.

By ignoring the commitments existing at 30 June 1998, the true financial position is obscured. By separating out the prepayments, budget transfers and special supplementation, a more accurate position can be determined. What this analysis reveals is a much worse situation than the initial assessment of \$8.5m, with eight Institutes actually carrying a cumulative deficit of \$10.6m. Details are at Attachment 1. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

716. Thuringowa, Police Station

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/10/98)—

With reference to the urgent need for a police station at the northern beaches in Thuringowa as this area is presently serviced by the staff from the Rollingstone Police Station which is a two man station, and as two policemen have suffered stress and required leave and one has left the force and the other is still not back at work—

As this area is too large and the police cannot cope, will funding be made available urgently to construct this station?

Mr BARTON (20/11/98): The Police Service purchased land at the corner of Veales Road and the Bruce Highway, Deeragun, in June 1998 for the purpose of building a police station. The Properties and Facilities Branch at Police Headquarters advise that there are currently no funds allocated in the 1998/99 Capital Works Program to allow the construction of the new police station at Deeragun.

However, initial project planning has commenced. I am advised that the Queensland Police Service are aware of the staffing situation at Rollingstone and have from time to time provided relief staff to the Rollingstone Police Station where necessary to meet operational policing requirements.

717. Petford Training Farm

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (22/10/98)—

With reference to the Cairns Post article regarding the Petford Training Farm—

Will she advise the outcome of the department's investigations as a matter of urgency?

Ms BLIGH (23/11/98): Yes.

718. Evidence Testing Facility

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (22/10/98)—

With reference to my letter to him on 8 October regarding the withdrawal of drug charges due to the non-performance of the testing facility which received the standard "detailed response in due course" reply—

Will he give an undertaking that, as a matter of genuine urgency, he will take some positive action to prevent the perversion of the justice system, due to the delays in testing of evidence?

Mr BARTON (20/11/98): As analysis of such evidence is conducted by Queensland Health Scientific Service. I am not the Minister responsible for testing activities.

719. Goat Milk

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (22/10/98)—

Is it the agenda of his Government to ban unpasteurised goat's milk on health grounds, so that the Government can invoke the blocking provisions of the cross-border agreements of the competition policy, in order to prevent unpasteurised milk coming into Queensland?

Mr BEATTIE (20/11/98): The sale of unpasteurised goat milk is currently legal under exemptions issued by the former Government. My Government, in the interests of allowing consumers access to the range of foods that they believe are needed to satisfy their dietary needs, has decided to extend the current exemptions for another 12 months from 1 January 1999. Consequently, the sale of unpasteurised goat milk will continue, under a strict monitoring scheme and Queensland Dairy Authority licences. Appropriate warnings are included with the sale of the milk.

In addition, the Minister for Health is asking the Australia New Zealand Food Authority to consider developing a national code of practice for production, monitoring and surveillance of unpasteurised goat milk.

720. Mount Larcom, QCL Leases

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (22/10/98)—

With reference to the QCL lease renewals at East End, Mt Larcom—

- (1) Is it intended to use the now dated DNR Position Paper for East End Mine and environs of February 1998 as a means of determining environmental impacts and community entitlements?

- (2) Is it the intention of the DNR and DME not to take into account the report of Professor Ray Volker whose August 1998 study, in conjunction with Dr Peter James' earlier research, identified the probability of wider mine induced impacts within the Hut Creek and Bracewell districts?

Mr McGRADY (23/11/98):

(1) The DNR report dated February 1998, is being used to ensure that people recognised at that time as being affected by the company's operations, have been provided with alternative water supplies. At the time the report was issued, my Department assured the community group that its acceptance of this report did not preclude future review of the groundwater situation, as additional information came to hand. In the normal course of events, such additional information would be evident in annual monitoring reports, which the company is required to submit to my Department or from independent monitoring by DNR.

(2) Dr James' report was taken into account by DNR in compiling its position paper. The issue of identifying the probability of wider mine induced impacts within the Hut Creek and Bracewell districts has been central to the dispute between the East End Mine Action Group and Queensland Cement Limited. The offer that I made to that group in your office early this month whereby I would meet the cost of a mediator to attempt to settle the dispute between the parties would provide an opportunity for all information in relation to the report of Professor Ray Volker in conjunction with Dr Peter James' earlier research to be thoroughly considered along with DNR's position paper.

721. State Government Employees, Attendance at NRL Grand Final

Mr HEALY asked the Premier (22/10/98)—

How many Ministers, Ministerial staffers or public servants attended the National Rugby League Grand Final in Sydney, either at Government expense or as guests of private companies, and in each case (a) what were their names, (b) what companies, if any, were involved and (c) what was the cost to Government or estimated cost of benefit bestowed by the host company?

Mr BEATTIE (17/11/98): Three ministers attended the National Rugby League Grand Final. I was in Sydney for official purposes prior to that weekend. I took one and a half day's leave at my own expense at the conclusion of my official business and prior to the Grand Final.

This was my first leave since becoming Premier.

I attended the National Rugby League Grand Final on an invitation by the National Rugby League. No staff or public servants accompanied me to the Grand Final. One staff member had accompanied me on the earlier official business. He then returned to Brisbane.

I am advised by Mr Elder that he was in Sydney from 25 September 1998 to 27 September 1998 on official business and at the invitation of the National Rugby League/Ariadne to attend the Grand Final. No staff or

public servants accompanied him in their official capacity or at public expense. There were no additional government costs associated with Mr Elder's attendance. Costs of Mr Elder's stay in Sydney were met personally by him.

Mr Mackenroth attended the Grand Final in a private capacity as a guest of the Broncos. No staff or public servants accompanied him. He met all travel and accommodation expenses personally.

I do not know what costs were incurred by the companies that invited Mr Elder, Mr Mackenroth and me.

722. Sunshine Coast, State Development Department Land

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (22/10/98)—

With reference to the 1,400 hectares on the Sunshine Coast which his department intends to preserve for industry—

- (1) Why has this amount of land been selected on the Sunshine Coast?
- (2) Where will the land be located?
- (3) What uses have been identified for this land?

Mr ELDER (19/11/98):

1. A study was undertaken by the Department in 1994 to identify industrial land requirements for the Northern Sub Region of South East Queensland as part of the SEQ2001 planning process.

The land required for the Northern Sub region has been estimated by methodologies developed by the then Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development (DBIRD).

DBIRD considered that, based on the Regional Framework for Growth Management (RFGM) 1995 population projections, there would be an increase of 20 970 jobs in industrial areas to 2011, and these jobs would require an additional 710 hectares of industrial land.

However, the working group undertaking the project agreed that as the population would keep growing beyond 2011, it decided that a 'safe minimum provision' of a further 700 hectares was necessary, making a total of 1400 hectares.

2. A number of candidate sites for future business and industry were proposed in 1994 following initial scoping studies, and these were adopted into the RFGM (1995). However, a recent review of these sites indicated that most of them are unsuitable due to location, topographical constraints and fragmented land parcels.

Further detailed studies on availability of industrial land are now being undertaken by Caboolture, Caloundra and Maroochy Councils in cooperation with my Department of State Development to identify suitable areas for future business and industry. Some suitable sites have been identified, but are yet to be agreed upon for inclusion in the planning schemes.

Potential sites will not be announced until they have gone through the statutory planning process. There are other sites my Department is negotiating to

purchase and these dealings are of a commercially confidential nature until concluded.

3. Land uses identified will broadly be value adding, warehousing and distribution and support businesses. The economy of the Sunshine Coast has been driven by population growth and consumption. There are opportunities for large scale food processing, distribution of goods as well as other value adding activities which will draw on the natural resources, locational attributes and workforce skills of the area.

723. TAFE

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to his avoidance of Question on Notice No. 612 of Wednesday, 16 September on the grounds that "to provide this information would result in an unreasonable divergence of departmental resources" and as the document required for each of the Goss Labor years is a routine, one page computer printout titled, "TAFE Queensland Budget Performance, 'N', 'E' & 'W' Funds Summation, June 19"—

On what factual basis has he formed his determination that the provision of this brief and routinely produced document would constitute an unreasonable divergence of resources?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98): This information would need to be extracted from the old QGFMS (Dun & Bradstreet) which has since been replaced with the new QGFMS (SAP R3). Furthermore the information would require reformatting to reflect organisational and chart of account changes in respect of the institutes.

724. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Capital Works Program

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to the following Question on Notice submitted prior to the Estimates Committee hearing which asked "What is the Capital Works Program for 1998-99 and how will it generate actual jobs?" and to his answer which states, in part "Private training organisations and agricultural colleges are also funded for capital developments"—

- (1) Will he indicate those private training organisations the Government has already funded since coming to office and those it intends to finance in the remainder of 1998-99?
- (2) In each instance, will he indicate the purpose and quantum of capital funding involved?
- (3) Excluding the funding for extension to the engineering workshop at Dalby, will he provide the information requested in (1) and (2) above, for each of Queensland's agricultural colleges?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98): Since this Government assumed office, one additional grant for the Building Industry Group Apprentice Training Inc

for \$1,427,619 has been approved to establish a Construction Skill Centre at Brendale. Funding is comprised of \$1,227,619 from the Industry Skill Centres program and \$200,000 from the Skill Centres for School Students program. The Centre will provide training in the building trades to pre-vocational and access program students; apprentices; and school students undertaking VET.

Within the Department's Capital Development Plan, this Government approved a further investment of \$4M for the Construction Industry Skill Centre (CISC) in the 1998-99 financial year enabling the Centre to comply with local authority regulations and commence operations. The previous Coalition Government approved funding of \$6.35m on 5 June 1997 for the Construction Industry Skill Centre (CISC) which was insufficient to enable it to commence training operations.

\$885,421 is provided for projects already approved by the previous Government including the Baking Industry (to establish a baking industry skills centre), the Rural Industry Training and Extension Inc (to establish a mobile skill centre for the grazing industry, based in Charters Towers), Mackay Region Apprentice Employment Limited (to expand skills training in the metals, retail, hospitality, office and warehousing industries) and GTA Human Resources Limited (Gold Coast).

An application from the hardware retail industry to support industry traineeships and product knowledge development is currently under consideration. This application is for \$286,860.

Other groups have been informed that new submissions will be considered early in the new year. I am not at this stage able to indicate who the Department may recommend or the amount.

725. TAFE

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to a recent Question on Notice his colleague, the Honourable Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources indicates: "The TAFE facility has guidelines for application of these substances (ie agricultural chemicals) and has advised that all statutory requirements are complied with"—

Will he table a copy of (a) the guidelines mentioned and (b) the advice furnished by TAFE to his Ministerial colleague?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98):

(a) The attached departmental procedures, which are based upon the Workplace Health and Safety Hazardous Substance Compliance Standards 1995, form the guidelines for the application, handling and storage of agricultural chemicals, pesticides and other toxic/hazardous substances. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(b) An officer from the Brisbane Institute of TAFE was contacted by telephone on 30 August 1998 by an officer from the Department of Environment and Heritage and asked about chemical usage at the Oxford Park site.

726. Public Housing, Proposed Expenditure

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/10/98)—

With reference to the \$139.6m public housing capital program in 1998-99—

What is the breakdown of the proposed expenditure for each State electorate by the following dwelling types and bedroom count (a) seniors' unit, (b) detached houses, (c) attached houses, (d) duplexes and (e) apartments?

Mr SCHWARTEN (17/11/98): The 1998/99 public rental capital works budget as per the 1998/99 Ministerial Program Statement (MPS) is \$139.6M. Of the \$139.6M total, \$93.090m has been allocated towards new construction, \$4.5m towards purchases of existing dwellings, \$39.010m towards capital works on existing dwellings, and \$3m towards land acquisitions and development.

With reference to the construction component of the public rental capital works program, expenditure as detailed in the 1998/99 MPS, consists of expenditure committed to 562 projects that were commenced during 1997/98 but are due to be completed this financial year. Also included in the construction budget is forecast expenditure on 833 dwellings due to commence during the 1998/99 financial year. A proportion of the 1998/99 dwellings will be complete in the 1999/2000 financial year, and expenditure committed to those projects will be budgeted for in the 1999/2000 financial year.

Departmental officers have advised that cash flows for the 1998/99 construction program in its entirety have been calculated and are reported in State Budget Paper 1998/99 Budget Paper No 3 by State Statistical Division. However, an additional electoral report of 89 State electorates, by dwelling type, would require cash flows to be produced on 1,385 dwellings. The cash flow calculations of 1,385 dwellings reflect dwellings that were commenced last financial year and yet to be completed, together with projects scheduled to commence this financial year. The preparation of these cash flow calculations would require approximately 15 working days to complete, and would place an undue and probably unnecessary burden on departmental resources.

Attachment 'A' provides a schedule by State electorate of construction costs by dwelling types of new construction commencements planned to commence during 1998/99. The schedule relates to project cost estimates of 1998/99 commencements and includes project expenditure that will occur in the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 financial years and cannot be compared to the 1998/99 MPS's new construction budget. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Excluding the construction component and spot purchase budget, the remaining allocation of the public rental capital works program of \$42.010m, consisting of expenditure on capital works on existing dwellings, land and development, is not reported by dwelling type and State electorate and is therefore not available.

The response provided contains more than adequate information, and has consumed considerable

departmental time and resources that would otherwise have been spent in providing housing outcomes for needy Queenslanders.

If the Member for Mooloolah can provide a valid reason for the 1998/99 public rental capital expenditure to be reported by State electorate and dwelling type, departmental officers will investigate the resources required to provide what appears to be unnecessary additional information.

727. Coorparoo TAFE Campus; Queen Alexandra Home

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to his attempt to avoid providing a meaningful answer to Question on Notice No. 545 of Wednesday, 26 August, he stated "The Government is currently considering the maintenance of the Queen Alexandra Home for student and community use"—

- (1) As the current Member and senior Labor Members made frequent, significant public commitments to maintain and expand TAFE and community use of this magnificent community facility, why is the Government merely "considering" the maintenance of this facility for TAFE and community use?
- (2) What is the outcome of those considerations that were under way in August?
- (3) What funding has been set aside in 1998-99 to honour the local Member's well documented commitments in relation to the Queen Alexandra Home?
- (4) Where in the Budget papers is this specific funding item to be found?

Mr BRADDY (23/11/98): I have provided an answer to this question in my response to Question on Notice No. 712.

728. Maryborough-Hervey Bay Rail Link

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/10/98)—

- (1) Will he outline the possibility of reopening the rail link between Maryborough and Hervey Bay, as this is one of the most common requests from the public in each of these centres and apart from providing increased convenience, especially for senior citizens, this link would be a big boost to commerce and job creation?
- (2) Is he aware of a recent positive study of a loop tourist route encompassing Hervey Bay and Maryborough (this rail link would facilitate that loop)?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/11/98):

(1) The link between Hervey Bay and Maryborough is provided by a bus service operated by Wide Bay Transit. More direct Trainlink services are currently being negotiated between the bus operator and Queensland Rail.

In addition there has been a study into the passenger transport needs of the Hervey Bay community. It

appears appropriate levels of service can be satisfactorily maintained with bus services.

(2) The Government works closely with the Tourism and development organisations of the area, and is aware of the road/rail/river tourism concept which proposes a rail link between Hervey Bay and Maryborough.

This and other regional development initiatives will be considered in the next development of the Wide Bay Integrated Transport Plan.

729. Warrego Highway, Upgrade

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/10/98)—

With reference to the poor standard of the Warrego Highway between Dalby and Ranges Bridge (about 18km to the west) and as this particular length of road carries an abnormal amount of heavy traffic because two cotton gins near Dalby depend upon this section of roadway and as cotton modules come from the west from either the Warrego Highway or the Condamine Highway, which joins the Warrego Highway at Ranges Bridge and to the east, cotton from the eastern downs is also delivered to gins via this road—

- (1) Is he aware of the poor state of repair of this road?
- (2) Is he aware of its strategic importance to the cotton industry?
- (3) Does he have the capacity to fund an urgent upgrade of the road because of its state of repair and the volume of heavy traffic it carries?
- (4) Will he press the Federal Government to give this section of the Warrego Highway the highest possible priority?

Mr BREDHAUER (12/11/98):

(1) I am aware that much of the National Highway System on the Darling Downs is old, carries very heavy volumes of freight and requires significant maintenance funding. In particular, the section west of Dalby has suffered as a result of unseasonal rain earlier this year and requires special attention.

(2) The growth in the cotton industry on the Downs and its strategic importance in the context of rural industry generally has been recognised by the Government.

(3 & 4) You would be aware that the National Highway System is Federally-funded and, currently there are many priority National Highway needs throughout the State which cannot be met from within available funds. I will continue to press the Federal Government for additional funding for Queensland's National Highway System. In the meanwhile, I will ensure that the section of highway west of Dalby is maintained to an appropriate standard, reflecting the heavy traffic it carries and its importance in the area.

730. Q-Build

Mr RAPPOLT asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/10/98)—

With reference to a letter to him dated 12 October from the Woree Primary School Parents and Citizens' Association concerning the costs associated with having to accept Q-Build prices for minor works—

Can an exemption be granted from directives in relation to using Q-Build's services where it can be demonstrated that more competitive prices for maintenance work can be obtained, therefore making better use of the limited funds available for such work?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/11/98): No, exemptions cannot be granted from using Q-Build. Q-Build is the government's maintenance provider and has a State-wide infrastructure which, in addition to enabling the provision of maintenance services anywhere in Queensland, also provides a State-wide disaster management capability and apprentice training opportunities. Q-Build requires an ongoing supply of work to ensure its State-wide infrastructure can be maintained intact.

On the matter of cost, I can list numerous instances where the pursuit of low prices by agencies not trained to procure trade services has led to non-compliance with statutory and legislative requirements, inferior work, and often unnecessary risk to government. Government has a responsibility to ensure the public's investment in built assets is protected and that the government's exposure to the risk of litigation is minimised. This outcome will be best achieved by Q-Build continuing to be the government's preferred maintenance provider.

731. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to his answer to Estimates Committee F non-Government Question on Notice No. 1 in relation to skills shortages—

- (1) Of the total number of (a) trainees and (b) apprentices that the Labor Government intends to train under its various job creation strategies during its term in office, how many is it planning to train in each of the areas that it deems to be of vital importance to the State's economic growth?
- (2) Will he indicate the annual target figures in each category?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98): (1 & 2) The initiative for the private sector is to focus on providing incentives for industries that have been identified as current or potential skill shortage areas. Budget has been provided for 7,500 apprenticeships and traineeships over three years (2,500 per year), but the take-up rate is market-driven without specific limitations on individual industries.

In respect to the Public Sector, apprenticeships will be aligned to the occupational grouping of individual departments and agencies. Traineeships will be in areas of skill shortage and where there are employment opportunities. They will be aligned to the business operation of departments and agencies, utilising successful trainees for future vacancies in

the organisations, and assisting others to find employment in the private sector.

732. Queensland Electricity Reform Unit

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (22/10/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Electricity Reform Unit (QERU)—

- (1) Is QERU still to be disbanded by 31 December; if so, how will any remaining reform projects be completed and by whom following the cessation of QERU?
- (2) Will QERU staff be relocated to the Department of Mines and Energy on the cessation of QERU; if not, what will happen to these staff?

Mr McGRADY (23/11/98):

(1) QERU's term expires on 31 December 1998 and the Reform Unit will be wound up at that time. QERU will have completed the vast majority of its reform projects by that date and arrangements are in place to ensure the transition of ongoing reform activities to the Department of Mines and Energy and, in the case of economic regulation projects, to the Queensland Competition Authority. These arrangements will ensure that work on important projects, such as preparation for the next tranche of retail contestability on 1 July 1999 and Queensland's participation in the National Electricity Market, continues to be effectively managed.

(2) QERU staff seconded from industry and Government Departments will return to their respective employers when QERU is wound up, and temporary employees will be reassigned. Staff returning to the Department of Mines and Energy and any continuing secondees will be available to assist with the ongoing management of electricity reform activities.

733. Kingaroy Special Education Unit

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Education (22/10/98)—

As there have been a series of funding cuts (on a per student basis), in relation to teacher aide hours at the Kingaroy Special Education Unit and in view of the very special needs of these children and the need to provide the best possible preparation for them to enter the adult world as independently as possible, will he give an assurance that he will (a) halt any further cutbacks in teacher aide hours at these schools and (b) reassess this situation as a matter of urgency with a view to providing a greater level of support for these children?

Mr WELLS (16/11/98): Prior to the inception of the 36 districts, the state was divided into 11 educational regions. Allocation of special education teacher aide hours occurred at a regional level. This led to inconsistencies between allocative methods between regions. In 1998, special education teacher aide hours have continued to be distributed by the regions.

Kingaroy Special Education Unit belonged within the Wide Bay Region and is now part of the South

Burnett District. In 1997, a total of 2519 special education teacher aide hours per week were allocated by the Wide Bay region. In 1998 these hours have increased to 2592 from January increasing further to 2741 hours per week from term 2, 1998. This equates to an increase of 222 hours per week within this region.

All students who have been ascertained as having specialist educational support needs enrolled at Kingaroy State School are supported by the Kingaroy Special Education Unit. Therefore hours for support of students with disabilities are allocated to the school rather than the unit for use with all ascertained students at the site.

The situation at Kingaroy State School in relation to the allocation of teacher aide hours for students with disabilities is as follows:

(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

The allocation of teacher aide hours to Kingaroy State School was made both in 1997 and in 1998 according to the model previously used for the Wide Bay Region of Education, as the aide hours for students with disability are still allocated jointly to the districts which are part of this former region. The allocation is a joint decision of the Principal Education Officers Student Services of Bundaberg, Isis Burnett, Fraser Cooloola and South Burnett Districts and is based on Student Ascertainment Database records and information supplied by each school regarding the level of support needed by each student.

Students ascertained Level 4, 5, and 6 with a high level of support need (eg those requiring assistance with mobility, toileting, etc.) are given the highest allocation, currently five hours. Those ascertained Level 4, 5 and 6 with moderate support needs (eg requiring some assistance with on task learning, communication or behaviour as part of a group) receive two hours, and those ascertained Level 4, 5 and 6 with a low level of support needs (eg requiring support for specific situations) receive one hour.

Because of increasing numbers of students being ascertained the current allocation per student has fallen because the total hours for all students across the four districts (whilst the total increased in 1998) has not kept pace proportionally with the increased demand. In 1997 the corresponding allocations were for high level of need: 5.5 hours, moderate need: 2.5 hours and low level of need 1.25 hours.

A small amount of commonwealth funding allows some further support for individual cases considered of exceptional need. In 1997 this time allocation was 9 hours allocated to 3 students and in 1998 it is currently 7 hours allocated to 4 students.

The provision of Teacher Aide time at Kingaroy School and Special Education Unit is consistent with allocations across the former Wide Bay Region.

Currently the allocative model to be used for teacher aide hours for students with disability in 1999 is under review in order to devise a process which is consistent across the state.

The department is currently reviewing the special education teacher aide allocative process with the

intent of developing a student based methodology for 1999 and future years. The aim of this model will be the equitable distribution of special education teacher aide time for students with identified special needs throughout the state.

As part of the Education for All initiative, from the beginning of 1999 there will be an additional allocation of 2858 special education teacher aide hours per week above the 1998 allocations throughout the state.

734. Queensland Principal Club

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (22/10/98)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Queensland Principal Club (QPC) is verging on power abuse by using the rules of racing, i.e., local rule 77, against participants at combined picnic race and family fun days?
- (2) Is he also aware that the QPC is loosely using the term "registered persons" to include thoroughbred breeders over whom the QPC has no jurisdiction?
- (3) Will he, in his position as Minister for Racing, advise the QPC on the correct interpretation of the rules, particularly LR 77?
- (4) Will he advise the QPC who are registered persons under their jurisdiction and who are not?
- (5) Will he direct the QPC to immediately lift the disqualification on those from the Kooralbyn meeting on 8 June over whom it had no jurisdiction?
- (6) Will he have the current rules investigated so that any deficiencies or "grey areas" of the rules can be amended so that any future misinterpretations or abuses can be avoided?

Mr GIBBS (13/11/98): The Queensland Principal Club is an independent body established under the Racing and Betting Act 1980 to administer the rules of racing. The Rules of Racing comprise the Australian Rules of Racing approved by the Principal Clubs of Australia as modified by any Local Rules of Racing. The administration of the Rules of Racing and the application of those rules are matters for the Queensland Principal Club to determine as the statutorily constituted Control Body for thoroughbred racing in Queensland. If the Honourable member has any concerns about the application of those rules, I suggest you address them to the Queensland Principal Club.

735. Families, Youth and Community Care Portfolio, Reviews, Committees and Inquiries

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (22/10/98)—

With reference to all the reviews, committees, inquiries and the like that have been initiated within her portfolio since the minority Beattie Labor Government came to office—

- (1) What was the date of establishment of each review, committee, inquiry and the like?
- (2) What is the name and function of each review, committee, inquiry and the like and is it internal (i.e., departmental) or is it made up of members from outside of the portfolio?
- (3) What are the full terms of reference for each review, committee, inquiry and the like?
- (4) Who is the chairman, or presiding officer, of each review, committee, inquiry and the like, what are their qualifications and which organisation do they represent?
- (5) Who are the other members of each review, committee, inquiry and the like, what are the qualifications of these people and which organisations do they represent?
- (6) What are the fees paid, being paid, or to be paid to each of the persons listed in (4) and (5)?
- (7) What is the total estimated cost of each review, committee, inquiry and the like?
- (8) Will each review, committee, inquiry and the like be expected to produce a report; if so, to whom and when?
- (9) Were expressions of interest called for membership of each review, committee, inquiry and the like; if so, where and when were these published?

Ms BLIGH (23/11/98): The question you have asked is a broad one.

Cooperation, discussion and collective decision-making is essential to the effective operation of my portfolio. A number of internal working groups and committees exist to progress the strategic policy and legislative agenda which I have set for my Department. Many of these are ongoing groups such as the Senior Management Team.

With this in mind, and based on the information which you appear to be seeking from the tone of your question, I have confined my answer to report upon only those 'reviews, committees, inquiries and the like' which have been established since the change of Government and which are characterised by one of the following factors—

they include representatives or members external to Government; or

any of the members are remunerated.

From time to time, my department commissions an external review of individual child protection cases. Details in relation to these consultancies are not provided here.

I have answered questions one through nine in relation to each body, for the sake of clarity.

Ministerial Reference Group—Disability Services

1. The Ministerial Reference Group had its initial meeting on 5 October 1998.

2. The Ministerial Reference Group is made up of members from outside the portfolio with one ministerial staffer and two departmental officers as ex-officio members.

3. The Terms of Reference are:

To provide advice to the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and the Minister for Disability Services on the strategic directions for disability services within Queensland, the roles of the government and non-government sector and other stakeholders in supporting these directions and the structure, function and leadership role of a Disability Services Agency.

In particular the Reference Group will:

consider options to ensure the Disability Services Agency planning mechanisms are responsive to the needs of people with a disability and families

identify options for ensuring the Disability Services Agency facilitates individualised consumer outcomes

advise on options for maximising stakeholder input to the policy and program development process of the Disability Services Agency

encourage feedback from individuals and groups on matters under discussion within the Reference Group

produce interim discussion documents using a variety of accessible media

provide an interim report to the Minister by end of February 1999 and a final report by no later than 30 September 1999.

4. The Chair is Dr Barrie O'Connor, Senior Lecturer in Human Services, School of Social Sciences, Queensland University of Technology.

5. The other members of the Reference Group are as follows:

Ms Deborah Miles, Social Policy Adviser, Local Government Association of Queensland

Ms Jan Dyke, Executive Officer, Queensland Parents of People with a Disability

Ms Julie Cosgrove, Client Services Manager, Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Association of Queensland

Ms Anne Cross, Director, Community Resource Unit

Ms Julie Walder, Community Services Manager, Townsville City Council

Mr Jim Runham, National Delegate to ACROD for Australia Parents Advocacy

Ms Doreen Hart, Chair, Apunipima Cape York Health Council

Mr Ron Joachim, Deputy Chair, Intellectually Disabled Citizens Council

Mr Michael Lynch, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Social Response

Ms Julie Simpson, Executive Officer, Fraser Coast Quality Lifestyle Inc.

Ms Sue Collins, Executive Officer, ACROD Queensland Division

Mr Kingsley Bedwell, Executive Director, Richmond Fellowship of Queensland

Mr Kevin Cocks, Director, Queensland Advocacy Incorporated

Mr Len Miller, Chair Woompera Housing Co-operative

Dr Kay Pearce, Senior Policy Adviser (Disability)—ex-officio

Mr Ken Smith, Director-General—ex-officio

Ms Roxanne Kelley, Senior Project Officer (Disability)—ex-officio

6. None

7. Approximate costs are \$20,000 in 1998/99 and \$10,000 in 1999/00. These costs are for airfare travel and accommodation for three members to attend meetings in Brisbane and other incidentals.

8. The Reference Group will operate for a 12 month period and will provide an interim report to the Minister by end of February 1999 and a final report by no later than 30 September 1999.

9. The Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services selected the individuals on the Reference Group because of their knowledge and understanding of service systems and their linkages to a broad range of people which will enable them to access a wide range of information and feedback on the future directions of disability services in Queensland.

Challinor Centre Relocation Project—Brisbane South and Ipswich Reference Groups

1. August 1998

2. Challinor Centre Relocation Project—Brisbane South and Ipswich Reference Groups

3. No formal Terms of Reference. Role involves providing input into the Project Control Group in terms of design and construction issues and will provide advice in relation to the development of service delivery in the Brisbane South centre. It is envisaged that the Reference Group will have a more active involvement in the initial stages of design and construction with the regularity of meetings reducing as the construction gets under way.

4. Ms Raeleen Bougoure, Senior Program Development Officer, Disability Relocation Team, Disability Program.

5. These Reference Groups are made up of the following people, who are mostly family members of people with a disability currently residing within the Challinor Centre:

Brisbane South Centre Reference Group—Ms Donna Sandstrom, Mrs Coral Webster, Mrs Shirley Murphy, Ms Beth McRobert, Ms Tracey Windsor, Mr Bryan Cave, Ms Lori Russell and Mr John Markwell;

Ipswich Centre Reference Group—Mr Harry Taylor, Mr Jim Bowers, Mrs Lyn Stevens, Ms Beth McRobert, Ms Dianne Slack, Ms Jo Biddle, Ms Beryl Rogers, and Mr John Markwell.

6. None.

7. Total cost will not exceed \$1,000 for both committees—including reimbursement of travel costs for family members within Brisbane area and catering.

8. No report will be produced—advice is provided on a regular basis in relation to the design and construction of centres at Brisbane South and Ipswich.

9. Expressions of interest were called for family representatives through the family newsletter of 14 August 1998.

Review into the Policies and Procedures Relating to Supervision of Residents of Basil Stafford Centre while Bathing/Showering

1. 15 September 1998.

2. This external review was established to review these policies and practices, following the death of a client at Basil Stafford Centre.

3. Terms of Reference were:

Consider the events surrounding the recent death of a Basil Stafford Centre resident and make recommendations that address issues with practices.

Analyse and review progress made in implementing the recommendations of a report into the death by drowning of Ms Leslie McDonald. Report on the extent to which recommendations relating to policies and procedures have been implemented and identify and recommend as appropriate, further work to improve these policies and procedures.

Consider whether a standardised approach to the support and supervision while bathing/showering of people with disabilities in supported accommodation services (institutions, hostels and group homes) is required and make relevant recommendations.

4. No chair or presiding officer.

5. The two members of the review team were:

Mr Geoff Rowe, Regional Manager, South Region—Adult Services, Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland;

Mr Peter Dautel, retired police officer.

6. Mr Geoff Rowe—Nil fees (negotiated with Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland); Mr Peter Dautel, \$350 per day for 2 days.

7. \$700

8. Yes. Report completed and submitted to Program Director, Disability Program, on 21 September 1998.

9. No.

Review of Support Arrangements of Individuals Supported by Uniting Church

1. Mid October 1998

2. Independent review of support arrangements of individuals with a disability supported by the Uniting Church (Qld Synod)—Child and Family Care Division. The Department has engaged two expert independent contractors from the disability non-government sector to review the proposed support arrangements for the 138 individuals identified by the Uniting Church

3. The Terms of Reference are:

In relation to those consumers identified by the Uniting Church's Lifestyle Support Services as "underfunded" or "unfunded":

Determine the hours of paid support needed by the identified consumers in relation to accommodation support and community access to ensure a safe and secure lifestyle (by

interviewing consumers, a range of staff and, where applicable, family members).

Document findings and reasons.

Provide status reports on a two weekly basis from 14 November 1999 and a final report to the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care by 19 December 1999.

4. No chair or presiding officer.
5. Ron Joachim, independent contractor; Bronwyn Maloney, independent contractor.
6. To be paid on a contract basis.
7. Total cost will be approximately \$25,000.
8. A full report will be provided to the Program Director, Disability Program by mid December 1998.
9. No.

Petford Evaluation

1. 01 September 1998.
2. The external review was conducted by management consultant, Mr Peter Daffen with the assistance of an indigenous person as a community representative on the review team.
3. The Terms of Reference are:

Draw conclusions in relation to the extent to which Petford Training Farm Aboriginal Corporation has met program and service objectives and requirements as stated in the Youth Development Program (Early Intervention) funding guidelines under which Petford is funded and in the signed Service Agreement between DFYCC and Petford Training Farm signed by Petford Board members on 3 March 1998, and provide advice on any areas of non-compliance with funding requirements and the Service Agreement.

Inform decisions regarding ongoing financial commitments to Petford by this Department detailing pertinent issues to be considered by the Department in making funding decisions.

Identify and provide recommendations for possible resolutions to issues of the program and its management.

Define "duty of care" responsibilities as they are and should be applied at Petford Training Farm.

Inform the development of indigenous youth programs by highlighting what communities and individuals have identified as desirable components of development programs for indigenous young people in remote communities.

4. Mr Peter Daffen is management consultant with Cooldari Pty Ltd and was previously the Deputy Director-General of the NSW Department of Youth and Community Services (1983-1989). He has conducted numerous reviews of public and private sector agencies, including reviews of indigenous organisations and programs.
5. Ms Caroline Munns assisted Mr Daffen. Ms Munns is an indigenous person. She is a Victim Support Worker with the Queensland Public Prosecutions Office and former Administrator for the Mt Isa

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Child Care Agency.

6. The total consultancy fee to Cooldari is \$25,000 made up of (i) \$7,500 paid to Cooldari as the first interim payment on 30 September 1998; (ii) \$17,500 upon submission of the final report payment which is currently being processed by the Department. Costs of up to \$5,000 were made available for project team costs. The Department is currently processing a payment of \$2,490 for Project Assistant Fees to Ms Munns and \$739.60 to Ms Munns for project related expenses (travel and accommodation).

7. A total of \$30,000 was made available by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care for the review of Petford Training Farm.

8. Mr Peter Daffen produced a report from the "Evaluation of the Service Provided to Young People Through the Petford Training Farm (Aboriginal Corporation)" at the end of October 1998 as required by the agreed evaluation timeframe. The report was provided to the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care which is now forwarding the report to the Chairman of the Petford Training Farm Aboriginal Corporation. The outcomes of the evaluation of Petford will be advised as soon as the Petford Management Board has had an opportunity to consider the report and its recommendations.

9. Expressions of interest were not called for consultancies to undertake the evaluation of Petford Training Farm as it was determined by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care that a genuine urgency existed and that there was a critical need to identify an appropriate consultant to commence the evaluation by the end of August 1998, an evaluation commencement date of only one month from the announcement that an urgent review would be undertaken.

Forde Commission of Inquiry

1. 13 August 1998.
2. The Forde Inquiry was established to make a full and careful inquiry in relation to any government or non-government institution or detention centre established or licensed under the State Children Act 1911, Children's Service Act 1965 or the Juvenile Justice Act 1992:
 - (a) whether any unsafe, improper, or unlawful care or treatment of children has occurred in such institutions or centres; and
 - (b) whether any breach of relevant statutory obligation has occurred during the course of care, protection and detention of children in such institutions or centres.

Terms of Reference are:

- A.(i) In relation to any government or non-government institutions or detention centres established or licensed under the State Children Act 1911, Children's Services Act 1965 or the Juvenile Justice Act 1992:
 - (a) whether any unsafe, improper, or unlawful care or treatment of children has occurred in such institutions or centres; and
 - (b) whether any breach of any relevant statutory obligation under the above Acts

has occurred during the course of the care, protection and detention of children in such institutions or centres.

- (ii) If a non-government institution, prior to being licensed under the Children's Services Act 1965, was registered under the Infant Life Protection Acts 1905 then statutory obligations under the Infant Life Protection Acts 1905 and such period of registration are also deemed to be within the scope of the Inquiry as prescribed by paragraphs A(i)(a) and (b) above.

B. In the context of the need to resolve these matters as soon as possible, to:

- (i) examine the outcomes of any previous investigations;
- (ii) be aware of and take into account the scope of any current investigations or proceedings by other authorities into matters falling within the ambit of paragraph A above; and
- (iii) receive information from the Children's Commissioner and examine any allegations in relation to these matters which have been made to date under the Children's Commissioner and Children's Services Appeals Tribunal Act 1996.

C. After such inquiry as the Chairperson deems appropriate, refer to the appropriate authorities any instances where there appears to be sufficient evidence to prosecute for a criminal offence, take disciplinary proceedings, or pursue a charge of official misconduct against any person under any Act in respect of such lack of safety, impropriety or unlawful care or treatment of children.

D. To make any recommendations as may be considered appropriate in relation to:

- (i) any systemic factors which contribute to any child abuse or neglect in institutions or detention centres;
- (ii) any failure to detect or prevent any child abuse or neglect in institutions or detention centres; and
- (iii) necessary changes to current policies, legislation and practices.

E. By 1 March 1999 make full and faithful report and recommendations in relation to the subject matters of inquiry and to transmit same to the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services.

4. The Chairperson of the Commission is Leneen Forde AC. Mrs Forde has substantial experience within the community and was a lawyer of long standing prior to her appointment as Governor.

5. Dr Thomason has a distinguished professional history in the area of health administration and reform, research and policy development, most recently as the District Manager for the Royal Children's Hospital and District Health Service in Queensland and as Associate Professor at the Australian Centre for International and Tropical Health and Nutrition, University of Queensland.

Mr Hans Heilpern has substantial experience in policy reform and implementation, including as a practising lawyer of nearly 30 years experience and former Director General of Community Services in New

South Wales. He is currently a Member of the Commonwealth Immigration Review Tribunal, the NSW Residential Tenancies Tribunal and the NSW Parole Board. He is the former Chairman and current part-time Deputy Chairman of the Commercial Tribunal of New South Wales.

6. \$1,100 per day plus actual expenses incurred.

7. \$2.8 million

8. The Terms of Reference require that a final report and recommendations will be forwarded to me by 1 March 1999.

9. No.

Project Management Workshops

1. 13 October 1998.

2. Project Management Workshops to provide specialist training to staff of Service Development and Planning.

3. No Terms of Reference as such.

4. The Consultancy Project Officer is Ms Pam Wormwell, Acting Regional Co-ordinator, Service Development and Planning, Brisbane South Region.

5. Mr Graeme Davies of Advantage Consulting Services Pty Ltd is a reputable and experience consultant previously used within the Department to deliver this form of training.

6. The total authorised fees under this Contract will not exceed \$3000.

7. The total authorised fees under this Contract will not exceed \$3000.

8. No.

9. Exemption from State Purchasing Policy requirements (to invite submissions of proposals from at least 3 consultants) was granted on the basis that Mr Davies is a reputable and experience consultant previously used within the Department to deliver this form of training, that the consultancy required was of a specialist nature, and that an urgency existed in having the first workshop delivered to Disability staff due to the tight deadlines around the first disability funding round.

Review of the Children's Commission and Children's Services Appeals Tribunal Act 1996

1. The Children's Commissioner and I jointly announced the conduct of this Review on 9 September 1998.

2. Review of the Children's Commission and Children's Services Appeals Tribunal Act 1996, by John Britton from Dispute Management Services

3. The Terms of Reference of the Review are to:

To review the Children's Commission and Children's Services Appeals Tribunals Act 1996 and to:

inquire into its scope and effectiveness in practice;

identify any gaps and anomalies; and

recommend any reforms which may be required to ensure that the legislation better protects and promotes the rights and interests of Queensland children and young people;

and in so doing:

to have regard to relevant law, practice and experience in other jurisdictions; and

to consult with the Children's Commissioner, Director-General and widely with agencies which provide services to children and young people, organisations which represent the rights and interests of children and young people, other relevant bodies, and interested members of the community.

4. John Briton is the principal consultant, consulting on behalf of Dispute Management Services. Mr Briton was previously the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, State Director of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission, and Deputy Public Advocate in Victoria's Office of the Public Advocate. Mr Briton was suggested as a suitable candidate by the Children's Commissioner, Mr Alford.

5. Mr Briton is assisted by Penny Gordon and Stephen Parker who provide specialist advice in children's services and legal matters respectively. Ms Gordon is a clinical psychologist with experience in government and non-government agencies. Mr Parker is Professor of Law at Griffith University and will shortly take up the position as Dean of Law at Monash University.

6. Dispute Management Services is being paid a total of \$65,000 to conduct this Review. This includes the costs associated with Mr Briton, Ms Gordon, and Mr Parker. The cost of this Review is being shared between my Department and the Children's Commission.

7. There are a number of other smaller costs associated with this Review, including the cost of provision of office space, administrative costs and some travel expenses connected with consultation occurring in regional areas. These costs are being met from within my Department's existing resources.

8. The Review has produced an Issues paper, which has been approved by Cabinet for release shortly. The Review will also produce a draft (and subsequent final) Report, which will be made available to me in February 1999. I intend to release this Report to the public also.

9. No expressions of interest were called for this Review. As the total cost of the Review was less than \$100,000, in line with the State Purchasing Policy, my Director-General exercised his discretion not to advertise the consultancy because it was his view that the consultancy is of a specialist or confidential nature and it is reasonable in all circumstances for it to be undertaken by one, or a limited number of consultants.

736. Capital Works Program

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (22/10/98)—

For each quarter of 1998-99, what are the estimated expenditure and associated person hours figures for the Government's total capital works program, by department?

Mr HAMILL (2/11/98): Budget Paper No. 3 provides information on the Government's total 1998-99 capital outlays program by policy area and the expected total contribution of the program to employment generation. Questions in relation to individual departments should be addressed to the relevant Ministers.

737. Fishing Industry

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (22/10/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Labor policy document "Let's Get Queensland Moving Again—Towards a Fishing Future for Queensland" and to an article in the June edition of the Sunfish magazine entitled "Labor Party's Fishing Policy—Toward a Fishing Future for Queensland"—

- (1) What timeframes does he have for the implementation of this policy?
- (2) Specifically, when does he plan to establish the single body to coordinate sustainable and environmentally sensitive fisheries management, research, monitoring, enforcement and industry development?
- (3) Will this body be established within the Department of Primary Industries, an extension of the Queensland Fish Management Authority (QFMA), or a new structure?
- (4) What will this mean for the DPI and QFMA and how will it affect their role?
- (5) Has he consulted with Queensland's fishing organisations and what is their view of this policy decision?
- (6) How will this single body be superior to the current arrangements?
- (7) What steps will he take to achieve the objective of improved consultation mechanism and introduce more effective management by the inclusion of the commercial and recreational fishing bodies, the community and other custodial agencies in the management process?
- (8) In what ways are the current arrangements, introduced by the former Labor Government, inferior in this regard?
- (9) How will the new single body be funded?
- (10) Will industry have to contribute to the funding of this body; if so, how will they contribute and how will these contributions vary from the current arrangements?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/98):

1. Within the first term of the Beattie Labor Government, I will promote the sensible and sustainable management of Queensland's fisheries through a consultative, inclusive multi-disciplinary approach.

2. I am committed to the provision of streamlined fisheries management through a single authority to be established following an appropriate period of consultation. This agency will deliver strengthened links between Government and industry and community groups and place fisheries management

at the forefront of scientific and technological advances.

3. An appropriate consultation process with commercial, recreational and traditional fishing communities will determine the most appropriate location for the single authority.

4. All existing responsibilities which are spread throughout the portfolios will be coordinated by this body. This includes fisheries management, research, compliance, enforcement and the development of aquaculture.

5. The document "Towards a Fishing Future for Queensland" was circulated to a range of fisheries organisations and groups. The responses which have been received have been positive.

6. I believe the creation of a single focus such as this makes administrative commonsense. We will ensure that the Government's involvement in the industry is focused and streamlined.

7. I will not develop industry policy without reference to those involved in the commercial industry. It is also important to include community and recreational interests as well as those involved in the management of the resource base within which the fisheries operate.

I recognise that industry representatives have significant expertise and understanding of issues affecting their industry and livelihood which must be taken into account in the framing of Government decision making. I will ensure that there is adequate representation from all sectors.

8. The current structure of management introduced by the previous Labor Government has generally proved successful, however, it will require increased efforts to ensure adequate community participation in decision making and to ensure effective and efficient management decision making and processes.

9. Appropriate funding sources will be identified.

10. See 9.

738. Nerang-Broadbeach Road

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/10/98)—

Following the information raised in Parliament on 21 October regarding the district director and the Nerang-Broadbeach Road—

What action has he taken or does he intend to take in relation to the allegations involving the Gold Coast district director?

Mr BREDHAUER (20/11/98): I refer to my ministerial statement of 10 November 1998. I believe the actions of the District Director and his staff in relation to the Nerang-Broadbeach Road have been appropriate.

739. TAFE

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to his responses to Questions on Notice Nos. 511 and 597—

As he is either unwilling or unable to provide the information required, on what factual evidence did he base his statement in the Parliament on 5 August?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98): The statement was based on the available budget figures for the State of Queensland for competitive funding and user choice.

In Queensland the level of VET funds under the Labor Government subject to competition were introduced in 1993/94 at \$2M, increased to \$8M in 1994/95 and reached \$21M in 1995/96. Under the Coalition Government this increased to \$125.4M in 1997/98.

Traineeships have always been subject to user choice in Queensland. The Goss Labor Government commenced a trial of User Choice in South East Queensland in 1996 restricted to 4 apprenticeship trade areas. By 1998, under a Coalition Government, this was expanded to full User Choice in all apprenticeship trade areas whilst other States have implemented User Choice at a much slower rate, a fact supported by data previously provided.

740. Youth Conservation Corps

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (22/10/98)—

(1) With reference to the Queensland Youth Conservation Corps, how many youths are currently partaking in this program, where are they based and on what projects are they working?

(2) When are these projects scheduled for completion, how many departmental staff have been allocated to the Youth Conservation Corps and where are they based?

Mr WELFORD (18/11/98):

1. Six Youth Conservation Corps projects involving 78 young people were completed in October this year. These projects took place at Bundaberg, Burrum Coast, Gladstone, Burleigh Heads, Caboolture and Mount French.

One new Youth Conservation Corps project involving 13 young people commenced at Mapleton Falls on 26 October. Nine new projects will commence in January 1999: one each at Logan, Caboolture, Burleigh Heads, Ipswich, Blackwater, Gladstone and Murgon, and two in the Bundaberg area. The total number of young people recruited for these projects will be 117.

In addition to the Youth Conservation Corps the Work and Labour Market Programs Unit of the Department of Environment and Heritage also contracts with the Commonwealth to administer Green Corps and Work For The Dole projects. These additional projects will engage a further 70 young people between now and the end of this financial year.

All projects comprise a variety of tasks in national parks and conservation areas including weed eradication, revegetation and the construction and maintenance of walking tracks and other visitor infrastructure.

2. All of the nine new projects are of 26 weeks duration and are therefore planned for completion in June 1999.

The staffing structure of the Work and Labour Market Programs Unit comprises 8.7 Full Time Equivalent officers: three in Central Office, Brisbane; three covering the South-eastern Region, based in Brisbane; and 2.7 covering the Central Coast Region, based in Bundaberg. Additional technical trainers and youth workers are appointed for specific projects.

741. Elective Surgery Waiting List

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (22/10/98)—

With reference to claims she had made in the media about a hidden "elective surgery waiting list"—

Where are the 36,000 outpatients located, what are the specialty areas they cover and how long have they been waiting?

Mrs EDMOND (11/11/98): Specialist outpatient data was collected in the 32 reporting hospitals and covers the 80 or more specialties and subspecialties on offer in Queensland hospitals. The data indicates that the waiting time for an appointment varies from less than one week in some specialties in some hospitals to greater than two years.

742. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, VERs

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (22/10/98)—

With reference to his answer to the Estimates Committee F Government Question on Notice No. 10 and to his reference to Voluntary Early Retirements (VERs), particularly those affected under the Coalition Government during 1997-98—

What salary savings will the department make in 1998-99 and the subsequent year as a consequence of the VERs which were affected in 1997-98?

Mr BRADY (23/11/98): The previous Coalition Government introduced user choice and competitively funded training at a rate faster and higher in Queensland than in any other State, reducing the Institute level of activity in courses and programs significantly. As a result of the haste, TAFE Institutes were left in a position of having staff surplus to requirements. In a crude attempt to balance the books the previous Government offered voluntary early retirement (VER) packages to any staff who would accept them. These VER packages were funded through a dubious Treasury loan of \$18.8M creating a debt problem for Institutes.

The requirement of the previous government for Institutes to pay back the \$18.8M Treasury loan, would not have allowed the realisation of any reduction in salary costs from the separation of the 500 staff.

It has been estimated that Institutes lost \$31.0M as a result of the haste to introduce user choice and competitively funded training. Institutes were not able to adjust staff numbers in accordance with changes to activity and funding levels and were

forced to carry the costs of staff surplus to requirements.

As a result there will be no salary savings for the 1998-99 or the subsequent year. Further, there are no plans to continue with the VER program introduced by the previous government.

743. Goat Milk

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (22/10/98)—

(1) Is he aware that as early as 1996, Suncoast Milk told the goat milk producers who supplied milk for pasteurisation that, and I quote, "the future of your industry now depends upon the future, or otherwise, of unpasteurised goat milk" (minutes of meeting of producers)?

(2) Is he aware that towards the end of 1997, the processor Suncoast Milk was considering its position as to whether or not they would continue to process goat milk?

(3) Is he aware that the Queensland Dairy Authority in their discussion paper (Review—Sale of Unpasteurised Goat Milk in Queensland, page 23), made the following comments, "pasteurised (goat) milk sales will only increase significantly if unpasteurised goat milk is banned", and "unpasteurised (goat) milk sales will always limit the volume of milk available for processing and the price that can be paid for milk", and "the improved viability of unpasteurised (goat) milk producers could be at the expense of the pasteurised industry which may find it impossible to compete"?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/98):

1. I am not aware of the specific 1996 goat milk producers' meeting details to which the honourable member refers.

2. My understanding is that Suncoast Milk has been keeping its pasteurisation of goat milk under review for several years as the volume is low relative to its main business.

3. I am aware of the discussion paper "Sale of Unpasteurised Goat Milk in Queensland" and the similarly titled options paper which were both published by the Queensland Dairy Authority in 1995. The text you quoted from the discussion paper is another statement of the general view that Queensland has been faced with a choice between producing pasteurised or unpasteurised goat milk for human consumption.

744. Alligator Creek, Construction of School

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Education (22/10/98)—

With reference to a parcel of land located at the corner of Allendale Road and Cordingly Drive, Alligator Creek which I have been led to believe was purchased for the purpose of the construction of a school some time ago, circa 1895 AD to be exact—

As the nearest school is 20km by sealed road each way, when will this school be built to address the needs of this fast growing community of

approximately 3,000 people as I am sure that you too would feel they have waited long enough?

Mr WELLS (18/11/98): The department has an obligation to plan schools in the spirit of the Integrated Planning Act of 1998.

Under this Act, a draft benchmark sequence of development has been prepared for the Townsville/Thuringowa area. This indicates preferred residential development directions over a fifteen year period. Mt Elliott/Alligator Creek is not included within this preferred sequence.

Departmental standards for the provision of new schools and their prioritisation across the state are based upon this concept of preferred residential development directions over time.

The Alligator Creek area is a lifestyle-focused commuter suburb of Townsville; ie part of the urban-rural fringe of this city. It is not, therefore, viewed as an isolated rural community but as requiring assessment as part of the urban area of Townsville, and thus subject to urban benchmarks.

The catchment represented by this community was estimated, at the time of Census (ABS Census of Population) as accommodating 139 state primary school attending students.

It was also estimated to comprise about 619 dwellings, or a total population slightly in excess of 2000.

745. TAB Publication

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (10/11/98)—

- (1) Is he aware of a booklet entitled "An introduction to Backing a Winner" which is available at TAB agencies and outlets?
- (2) What was the cost to the Queensland TAB to produce and print this publication?
- (3) Who is the author of the booklet?
- (4) Did the TAB consider any other proposal from any interested parties for a similar publication?
- (5) Does the TAB hold copyright on the publication?
- (6) Does the TAB have any intentions of producing any similar publications in the near future?

Mr GIBBS (9/12/98):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$20,355.
- (3) Mark Oberhardt.
- (4) The TAB has received unsolicited submissions from various promoters seeking to sell their services. These range from ratings systems to would-be authors looking to sell their betting guides for up to hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) No.

746. State Development Department, Sunshine Coast Land

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (10/11/98)—

With reference to the 1,400 hectares on the Sunshine Coast which his department intends to preserve for industry—

- (1) Why has this amount of land been selected on the Sunshine Coast?
- (2) Where will the land be located?
- (3) What uses have been identified for this land?

Mr ELDER (19/11/98):

1. A study was undertaken by the Department in 1994 to identify industrial land requirements for the Northern Sub Region of South East Queensland as part of the SEQ2001 planning process.

The land required for the Northern Sub region has been estimated by methodologies developed by the then Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development (DBIRD).

DBIRD considered that, based on the Regional Framework for Growth Management (RFGM) 1995 population projections, there would be an increase of 20 970 jobs in industrial areas to 2011, and these jobs would require an additional 710 hectares of industrial land.

However, the working group undertaking the project agreed that as the population would keep growing beyond 2011, it decided that a 'safe minimum provision' of a further 700 hectares was necessary, making a total of 1400 hectares.

2. A number of candidate sites for future business and industry were proposed in 1994 following initial scoping studies, and these were adopted into the RFGM (1995). However, a recent review of these sites indicated that most of them are unsuitable due to location, topographical constraints and fragmented land parcels.

Further detailed studies on availability of industrial land are now being undertaken by Caboolture, Caloundra and Maroochy Councils in cooperation with my Department of State Development to identify suitable areas for future business and industry. Some suitable sites have been identified, but are yet to be agreed upon for inclusion in the planning schemes.

Potential sites will not be announced until they have gone through the statutory planning process. There are other sites my Department is negotiating to purchase and these dealings are of a commercially confidential nature until concluded.

3. Land uses identified will broadly be value adding, warehousing and distribution and support businesses. The economy of the Sunshine Coast has been driven by population growth and consumption. There are opportunities for large scale food processing, distribution of goods as well as other value adding activities which will draw on the natural resources, locational attributes and workforce skills of the area.

747. Urangan Boat Harbour, Dredge

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/11/98)—

With reference to his letter dated 5 November regarding the purchase of a dredge for the Urangan Boat Harbour which stated "The purchase of a

dredge was considered but was not seen as economically viable for the situation at Urangan" and no other explanation was given—

Did he price a suitable dredge for the area, what was its cost and on what basis did he determine that it was not economically viable?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/98): The option to purchase a dredge for the Urangan boat harbour dredging project was considered by staff of Queensland Transport, but was rejected for a number of reasons.

The efficient dredging of Urangan would actually require two dredges—a large dredge for the entrance channel works and a smaller dredge to manoeuvre within the marina. The combined cost of two dredges would be in the order of \$2-3 million dollars.

In addition to the capital cost of the dredges, there would be significant additional operating and staffing costs.

I am advised that in South East Queensland, there are at least four suitable dredges, with trained, experienced crews which currently cannot find enough work.

The dredging works needed at Urangan harbour would average only a few weeks each year. This limited dredging need would make it difficult to justify additional dredges and crews.

It should be noted that there are only two port authorities in Queensland with their own dredges—Port of Brisbane Corporation and the Bundaberg Port Authority. This is justified due to the need to dredge quantities in excess of hundreds of thousands of cubic metres.

The relatively high cost of dredging works at Urangan is due largely to the problem of spoil disposal. A recent study was conducted into spoil disposal options. Once a permanent and suitable disposal option is put in place, the cost of future dredging will reduce.

748. Child Awareness Campaign

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (10/11/98)—

With reference to the child care awareness campaign launched on 27 October—

- (1) How many Queensland children are in child care?
- (2) What are the full details, including costs, of all aspects of this campaign?
- (3) How is information pertaining to this campaign to be distributed, in what quantities and at what cost?
- (4) Which child care organisations and operators were consulted in the formulation of this campaign?
- (5) When did the process of developing this campaign (a) commence and (b) conclude?
- (6) What processes are in place to ensure all the parents of all the children in child care are provided with this information?

Ms BLIGH (10/12/98):

1. According to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services Child Care Census 1996-1997, the total number of children attending formal child care services in Queensland at 30 June 1997 was 139,720.

2. The Understanding Child Care consumer awareness campaign is designed to raise awareness about the availability of a new child care information package. The package consists of five brochures and a poster. The brochures are designed to inform current and potential users of formal child care services in Queensland about:

What consumers can expect from formal child care services in Queensland;

How families can resolve any concerns they may have with their service;

How families can work in partnership with their service to ensure quality child care.

The total cost of production of the 484,000 brochures and 5,000 posters was \$37,260. This included the production of the following brochures:

137,000 Information for Users of Child Care

137,000 Choosing Child Care

110,000 Child Care Centres

50,000 Family Day Care

50,000 Outside School Hours Care

Understanding Child Care was launched on 27 October 1998 by myself at the Lady Gowrie Warry Street Child Care Centre. Parents and representatives from a range of peak bodies attended the launch.

The total cost for the launch was \$229 which covered the morning tea for the children, parents and invited guests. With an attendance of 67 persons, this equals \$3.42 per person.

Media kits were distributed State-wide to print and electronic media promoting the availability of the new information for parent consumers. The total cost of the kits was \$226.46.

An advertisement was placed in 28 print media outlets across the State notifying parents about the availability of the new information. This cost \$6,631.85.

A radio community service announcement was supplied to 68 radio stations across Queensland. The cost of the radio service announcement was \$2,859.

3. The 1,401 child care centres and community kindergartens throughout the State received a poster and the following brochures:

70 Information for Users of Child Care Services

70 Choosing Child Care

70 Child Care Centres

The 88 family day care schemes throughout the State received a poster and the following brochures:

150 Information for Users of Child Care Services

150 Choosing Child Care

150 Family Day Care

The 677 outside school hours care services throughout the State received a poster and the following brochures:

- 30 Information for Users of Child Care Services
- 30 Choosing Child Care
- 30 Outside School Hours Care

These quantities were calculated on the average number of child places in each respective child care service. The 394,740 brochures were distributed to 2,166 child care services throughout Queensland.

The total mailing cost was \$10,032.50 which is \$4.63 per service.

4. The campaign was formulated on the basis of reports and concerns expressed by parents through the Department's Child Care Information Service about the different types of services offered and general consumer issues. Consultation also occurred with child care operators in both the private and public sector at forums and other meetings.

5. The need for consumer information was primarily driven by consumers themselves. In meetings conducted by the Office of Child Care in 1997-98 with industry representatives, the Government's communication strategies and plans in child care were communicated. All sector representatives were supportive of the campaign. The campaign was first planned and announced by the Department in 1997. My Department will be following up with a formal evaluation in early 1999.

6. The information will continue to be distributed through my Department's Child Care Information Service and web site. The brochures have been distributed to all child care services in Queensland. Service providers have been asked to display the poster and to distribute a set of relevant brochures to each parent. The number of brochures distributed was based on each parent user receiving a set. Posters have been distributed widely in the community informing child care consumers, and potential consumers, of the availability of the information from their local child care service, Regional Offices of the Department and through the Child Care Information Service of my Department. Parents' Guides, Quality Child Care Checklists and similar material are also available from my Department to assist parents in making informed child care choices.

749. Queensland Biennial Festival of Music

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (10/11/98)—

Why is the Queensland Biennial Festival of Music not travelling to the Darling Downs, western Queensland, Rockhampton, Cairns, Gladstone or Wide Bay?

Mr FOLEY (10/12/98): Unlike the previous Government, the Beattie Labor Government is committed to the Biennial which is why it has been revived.

Under the artistic direction of Professor Simone de Haan and the board of the Biennial, a 1999 Queensland Biennial Festival of Music program is

currently being developed that is exploring a wide range of partnerships, collaborations and co-productions. Touring extensions between, and out of, the Festival's hub centres of Brisbane, Mackay and Townsville are also being investigated.

750. TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

Will he complete his answer to Question on Notice No. 593 of Tuesday, 15 September, by detailing to the House (as originally asked in Question on Notice No. 593) the distribution on an institute by institute basis, the 300 additional administrative staff he indicates were employed between 1 July 1996 and 1 July 1998?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): I suggest the member reads the answer to Question on Notice No. 711.

751. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 592 in which he provided five examples of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations' commitment to school based apprenticeships—

Was he unaware of these five arrangements when he indicated in his speech to the recent ANTA Conference that no arrangements are in place in support of school-based apprenticeships or national training packages?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): No comprehensive industrial relations arrangements are in place to support the application of national training packages or school based apprenticeships introduced as a result of these training packages.

752. ANTA National Conference, Speech

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

(1) When will he table the departmentally commissioned report from which he quoted in his speech to the ANTA Conference and which was requested of him through Question on Notice No. 586 on Tuesday, 15 September?

(2) Was a consultant commissioned to prepare this report; if so, who was the consultant and what was the total cost of the project (including departmental staff inputs)?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98):

(1) The findings of the report are under consideration.

(2) The report, commissioned by the former Government on 31 March 1998, was produced by Deborah Wilson Consulting Services at a cost of \$20,000.

753. TAFE

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to page 21 of his 1998 MPS which identifies a significant increase in the estimated average cost per student contact hour in Competitive Funding Programs to \$7.29—up from \$6.61 estimated and \$6.64 actual for 1997-98, and to his notes which state that the increase is due to the delivery of more expensive literacy and numeracy, engineering, printing and furniture courses and their delivery in regional and remote areas of Queensland—

What regional and remote areas are being targeted and what are the numbers expected to attend training in each of these areas, particularly in relation to printing and furnishing?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): In 1999, Competitive Funding Programs will target training in the regional and remote areas of Far North Queensland, Northern and North West, Central Queensland, Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast, and South West.

Until the 1999 evaluation process for Competitive Funding Programs is complete, the estimated numbers expected to attend training in each of these areas are not available.

754. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to the first sentence in the (undated) memorandum from the General Manager, Business Development Division of DETIR, to the Director-General of DETIR, on the subject, 'Options to Manage Displaced Staff'—

- (1) How many displaced staff were revealed through the survey mentioned elsewhere in the memorandum?
- (2) Will he table the communications between the SPSFQ, the department and him, pertaining to the 'relatively high number of staff displaced'?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98):

- (1) No survey is referred to in the memorandum.
- (2) No. Parliament is not in session.

755. TAFE

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to his assurances to TAFE Queensland staff prior to the election that he would protect them from increasing competition and commercialisation—

Why then does his first TAFE budget clearly show on page 16 of his 1998 MPS (a) that he intends decreasing TAFE's Vocational Education and Training administration staff from a 1997-98 actual of 1,767 to 1,099 and (b) that he intends to decrease

the number of teachers and tutors in TAFE's Vocational Education and Training Programs from a 1997-98 actual of 2,577 down to 1,880?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): As stated in the MPS, the TAFE Queensland budget of \$505.990m is constructed of \$296.591m direct appropriation and \$209.399m as Retained Revenue from commercial activities.

The staffing profile has been adjusted to reflect these elements. The figures demonstrate a more realistic allocation of staff to publicly funded and commercial activities respectively, than in previous budgets.

756. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to his answer to Government Question on Notice No. 10 (asked during the 1998 Estimates Committee hearings) and to his reference to Voluntary Early Retirements (VERs), particularly those effected under the Coalition Government during 1997-98—

What salary savings will the department make in 1998-99 and the subsequent year as a consequence of the VERs which were effected in 1997-98?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): I suggest the member reads the answer to Question on Notice No. 742.

757. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to page 8 of the transcript of the Estimates Committee F hearings in which he refers to a report produced by the consultant Dennis Long in which he clearly indicates that this consultancy was worth \$30,000—

Was this consultancy costing covered by the "Commercial-in-Confidence" principle; if so, will he apologise to Mr Long for breaching commercial confidentiality?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): There is no specific provision in the Agreement for the cost of the consultancy to be considered commercial-in-confidence.

758. Capital Works Program

Dr WATSON asked the Treasurer (10/11/98)—

What is the monthly breakdown of the actual capital expenditure and associated person hours figures for the Government's total capital works program, by department, so far in 1998-99?

Mr HAMILL (17/12/98): Questions in relation to individual departments should be addressed to the relevant Ministers.

759. TAFE

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to page 13 of his 1998 MPS, at which the actual cost per non-competitive funded student contact hour for 1997 is given as \$10.46, and page 21, at which the actual cost for a competitive funded student contact hour for the same period was \$6.64—

Does he agree that his commitment to the taxpayers to deliver quality training at the most competitive price should outweigh his ideological obligations to TAFE union leaders?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): I am committed to providing quality training to Queenslanders at the best possible price.

760. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to page 24 of his 1998 MPS which identifies an estimated reduction in training services full time equivalent staffing levels from 431 actual 1997-98 to 402 estimated for 1998-99—

Will he explain how this sits with the Government's philosophy of jobs—jobs—jobs?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): This is result of the restructure of the department under the previous Minister.

The reduction of 29 full time equivalent (FTE) staffing levels in Training Services is reflected in the increase of 163 FTE in Corporate Services.

The overall Departmental staffing level as shown on page 3 of the MPS states an estimated increase on 47 from 8,166 for 1997-98 to 8,213 or 1998-99.

761. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to Supplement 2 of his answer to non-Government Question on Notice No. 1 (asked during the 1998 Estimates Committee hearing) in relation to skills shortages—

- (1) Will he now indicate the total number of (a) trainees and (b) apprentices that the Labor Government intends to train under its various job creation strategies during its term in office, in each of the skill areas that it has now listed and indicated that it deems to be of vital importance to the State's economic growth?
- (2) As well as providing the overall target for each listed category, will he indicate the annual sub-targets?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): I suggest the member reads the answer to Question on Notice No. 731.

762. TAFE

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

With reference to page 16 of his 1998 MPS where he made great play of not wanting TAFE to be a commercial organisation—

Will he therefore explain his proposal for a 222 per cent increase of teachers and tutors in the area of commercial activities (from the 1997-98 actual of 487 to his 1998-99 estimate of 1,083)?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): As stated in the MPS, the TAFE Queensland budget of \$505.990m is made up of \$296.591m direct appropriation and \$209.399m as Retained Revenue from commercial activities.

The staffing profile has been adjusted to reflect these elements. The figures demonstrate a more realistic allocation of staff to publicly funded and commercial activities respectively, than in previous budgets.

763. TAFE

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (10/11/98)—

Will he table the document "Head Count and Full Time Equivalent for DETIR Employees (TAFE Program)" at 1 October 1998?

Mr BRADY (10/12/98): No. Parliament is not in session.

764. Public Housing, Waiting List

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/11/98)—

With reference to public housing at 31 October—

- (1) How many applicants were on the public housing waitlist in total and by area office?
- (2) What is the composition of the public housing waitlist by the family types (a) couple (without children), (b) couple (with children), (c) single (with children), (d) single (without children), (e) pensioner (couple), (f) pensioner (single) and (g) domestic violence (single) in total and percentage terms by area office?
- (3) What is the number of applicants on the public housing waitlist by wait time months (a) less than 6 months, (b) 6 to 11 months, (c) 1 to 2 years, (d) 2 to 3 years, (e) 3 to 4 years and (f) more than 4 years in total and by area office?
- (4) How many applicants were allocated housing between 1 November 1997 and 31 October 1998 in total and by area office?
- (5) How many applicants were allocated public housing during the month of October?
- (6) How many evictions of public housing tenants have occurred during the month of October?

Mr SCHWARTEN (16/12/98):

- (1) As at 31 October 1998, there were a total of 22,653 applicants on the public housing waiting list. See Attachment A for the breakdown of the waiting list by area office. (Tables and attachments may be

obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment B for the composition of the public housing waiting list by family type as at 31 October 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) See Attachment C for the number of applicants on the public housing waiting list by wait time in months, and by area office as at 31 October 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(4) See Attachment D for the number of applicants allocated housing between 1 November 1997 and 31 October 1998 in total and by area office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(5) See Attachment E for the number of applicants allocated public housing by area office during October 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) The number of public housing tenants evicted during October 1998 is five.

765. Public Housing, Vacancies

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (10/11/98)—

With reference to public housing at 31 October—

- (1) How many dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, were vacant for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office?
- (2) What was the vacant turnaround time for maintenance and for allocations of public housing premises?

Mr SCHWARTEN (16/12/98):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of dwellings, by dwelling type and bedroom number, vacant for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to 12 weeks and (c) more than 12 weeks in total and by area office as at 31 October 1998. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) For October 1998, the average turnaround time for maintenance was 8.8 working days. The average turnaround time for allocations was 10.0 working days. These figures do not, however, include properties in areas which do not have a current waiting list. A change to the methodology to exclude these properties was introduced in February 1998. If those properties are included, the average turnaround time for maintenance becomes 10.3 working days and the average turnaround time for allocations becomes 13.3 working days. These figures can be directly compared to typical turnaround times for public housing of 10 working days for maintenance and 7 working days for allocations up to October 1997. The increase in turnaround times can be attributed to the housing reforms introduced by the previous Minister, as applicants must now complete references. They are also more likely to reject offers of housing as a result

of the new waiting list zones. Many properties must now be offered to more applicants than previously, before they are accepted.

766. Freedom of Information

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier (10/11/98)—

As concerns have been expressed by the Information Commissioner at a lack of openness, accountability and responsibility in the FOI process (this in part he attributes to amendments to the Freedom of Information Act in November 1993 and March 1995) and given his Private Member's Bill tabled in the last term of Government has now lapsed, when will these problems, as highlighted by the Information Commissioner, be remedied?

Mr BEATTIE (9/12/98): The Government intends to fulfil its election commitment to have the Freedom of Information laws referred to an all-party parliamentary committee for review. Draft terms of reference for this review have been formulated by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in conjunction with my department. It is expected that the Attorney-General will be in a position to move the requisite motion in the House early next year. I have already demonstrated my commitment to the spirit of the legislation by making available to the Opposition all the transition-to-Government documentation and briefing notes from the Estimates process.

767. Rural Science Organisation

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (10/11/98)—

With reference to paragraph 8, page 2 of the Labor Party's policy document entitled "Labor's Commitment to Primary Industries" which states "Each division of the RSO will consult an advisory council, which will set research priorities for that division and monitor progress in the development of research objectives.", and also to his answer to my Question on Notice No. 518 and specifically to points 9 and 10—

- (1) As point 9 of the answer to Question on Notice No. 518 states "there will not be advisory councils to the Rural Science Organisation", how does this correlate with the above extract from the policy document?
- (2) If the two do not correlate, does his answer take precedence over Labor's policy document?
- (3) If there will not be advisory councils to the Rural Science Organisation, as per the answer to point 9, what are the advisory councils on which the institute boards will be represented, as per the answer to point 10?
- (4) If the institute boards are to be represented on advisory councils and these advisory councils operate as per the policy document extract above, does this usurp the role of the institutes?
- (5) When will the chief scientist be appointed?
- (6) When is the Rural Science Organisation to be established?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. The policy document "Labor's Commitment to Primary Industries" outlines the concept for a Rural Science Organisation. In consultation with Institutes and other Department of Primary Industry (DPI) staff this concept will be refined into an integrated and workable strategy that capitalises on the partnerships already established between the Department, industry and the scientific community.
2. Labor's Commitment to Primary Industries outlines the Labor Government's strategy to promote leading-edge technical innovation through world class RD&E for Queensland's primary industries.
3. The Institute boards will be represented on the Rural Science Council.
4. The role of the Institutes will not be usurped.
5. It is anticipated that the Chief Scientist will be appointed early in 1999 pending the selection process.
6. Initial groundwork has been laid and establishing the Rural Science Council and the Rural Science Forum will be a priority for the Chief Scientist.

768. Uranium Mining Leases

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (10/11/98)—

With reference to the Queensland Labor New Directions Statement that Labor will not grant a mining lease for the purpose of mining uranium and will not permit treatment of processing of uranium in Queensland—

Will he advise what action will be taken on leases already issued in the State?

Mr McGRADY (10/12/98): In response to the specific question made by Mr Mitchell, I can advise as follows:

Granted Mining Leases exist over the Ben Lomond deposit, west of Townsville, and over the Westmoreland and Redtree uranium deposits in NW Queensland.

The Mineral Resources Act 1989 (MRA) does not provide for resumption and compensation for mining tenures. Mining leases may only be cancelled if a holder fails to comply with the provisions of the MRA.

Implementation of the Labor New Directions Statement is being examined and the Government is considering holding discussions with the holders of current uranium mining leases to achieve a negotiated resolution.

769. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Resolution

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Health (10/11/98)—

- (1) Is she aware of the official meeting of the United Nations body called the Commission on Human Rights which met for six weeks in March and April and passed a motion which could

ensure that such groups as the North American Man-Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), a radical homosexual group advocating sex between adult males and minor boys, as well as paedophilia networks in Australia, could have unrestricted sexual access to our children and grandchildren in coming years?

- (2) Is it the intention of the Government to endorse this motion for child rape as well as accept the interference of the motion and Human Rights Commission resolutions that Government should not resist such brand-new human rights as the perceived right of minor boys to be sodomised by adult males and should in fact levy fines against anybody resisting this sickening perversion?

Mrs EDMOND (30/11/98): (1) & (2) The United Nations Rights of the Child Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/76 of 22 April 1998 comes under the jurisdiction of the Australian Federal Government.

770. Ipswich City Council, Rezoning

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (10/11/98)—

With reference to the Ipswich City Council which has recently approved a new planning scheme which changes the zoning of approximately 700 properties from rural to rural conservation—

- (1) Has the consultation undertaken by the Ipswich City Council with landholders been sufficient to meet the requirements of the Integrated Planning Act?
- (2) What effect is the rezoning expected to have on land values in the rezoned area?

Mr MACKENROTH (27/11/98):

(1) As the member should be aware, the consultation process conducted by Ipswich City Council was undertaken pursuant to the requirements of Section 2.14 of the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 (repealed), as preparation of the new planning scheme commenced prior to the introduction of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA). Section 6.1.9(1)(a) of the IPA allows councils to proceed with the preparation of its scheme as if the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act 1990 had not been repealed.

(2) Following further consideration the council has resolved to exclude privately-owned properties from the proposed Rural Conservation zone and return them to the rural zone. The Rural Conservation zone is intended to protect existing areas of significant remnant vegetation and conservation value. Existing use rights are not removed and private land owners who voluntarily agree to be included in the proposed zone will be able to take advantage of land management incentives being offered by the Council. This will assist in maintaining rural land quality, character and amenity and may enhance rural land values for those who choose to become involved in the council's program.

771. "Keep Left" Web Site; Mr K. Rudd

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (10/11/98)—

- (1) Is he aware of the notorious web site called "Keep Left" which is maintained by the "Socialist Left" faction of the Australian Labor Party?
- (2) Is he also aware that this web site is violently opposed to and critical of the former Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mr Kevin Rudd, who is the newly elected Federal Member for Griffith, and who in years past has earned the anger and hostility of public servants, who have given him the nickname of "Doctor Death"?
- (3) Will he comment upon and endorse the web page article entitled "Queensland Misogynists Keep on Trying" which makes the observation that "Staunch Labor voters despise Rudd", that they believe that Rudd was behind the Goss Government's vigorous pursuit of economic rationalist policies; that they report that he has talked about the need for a Chinese approach to politics in Queensland; that a few outspoken Labor voters had complained that they would have to quit the ALP if staying meant that they had to follow an ALP how-to-vote ticket and vote for Rudd?
- (4) Will he deny that what Rudd, who now occupies a responsible Federal position as a Member of the House of Representatives and is a close associate of the Premier, was in fact seeking as a "Chinese" solution was a Tiananmen Square-style solution to be used against job demonstrators, social equity seekers, or black rights campaigners?
- (5) With these public complaints of the Labor Party's "Socialist Left" in mind, will he comment on the faction's arguments for optional preferential voting in Federal elections, as well as the faction's demands for such a voting system in order to allow them as "staunch ALP supporters" to appease their conscience and validly cast their vote for an acceptable candidate without having to cast a vote for the despised Kevin Rudd?

Mr BEATTIE (9/12/98): (1 & 2) I am aware that many organisations use the internet as a public forum to provide information and express their views. I am unable to comment on the particular site referred to by Mr Feldman or the site's content.

(3) No.

(4) I am not in a position to know or comment on what may or may not be Mr Rudd's opinions.

(5) The voting system for the election of members of the Federal Parliament is a Federal matter not appropriate for this forum. However, my support for the freedom of choice offered by optional preferential voting is well known.

772. Land Valuations, Objections

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (10/11/98)—

Will he provide a breakdown (on a local Government basis) of all people who objected to their valuation notices issued this year, the date at which their valuation objection was received, the closing date for valuation objections to be lodged and any extension of that date that may have been granted?

Mr WELFORD (9/12/98): During 1997-98 my Department of Natural Resources received some 16,600 objections against new valuations. Most objections (more than 14,500) were against annual revaluations which issued for some 1.117 million properties in 76 local government in February and March 1998. A breakdown of these objections by local government and date of issue of the valuations is provided in the attached Schedule.

The remaining 2,000 objections during 1997-98 were received against new valuations issued for State land rental determinations or to maintain the valuation rolls for changes such as creation of new rateable properties.

Property owners may lodge objections within 42 days of receiving their valuation notices. Objections are lodged at my Department of Natural Resources' local offices.

Breakdowns of statistics on rental and maintenance valuations and on late objections accepted are not readily available. This would require a significant resource intensive effort to search more than 16,000 records located in over 30 offices across the State.

773. Nerang-Broadbeach Road

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (10/11/98)—

- (1) Is he prepared to accept the District Director for the Gold Coast misleading the public and going ahead with a "sham" consultancy when the decision to go ahead with the Nerang-Broadbeach Road option had been made, according to him, two years previously?
- (2) Does this also mean that the consultancy is irrelevant and not worth the paper it is written on?
- (3) Is he going to personally ensure that a further consultancy be undertaken; if so, when?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/98):

(1) This question does not make sense.

(2) No.

(3) No.

774. Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (10/11/98)—

With reference to ambulance response times—

Will she provide a breakdown of all ambulance response times on a regional basis for each month since January, including (a) the date and time a call was received, (b) the time at which the ambulance arrived at the scene and (c) the station from which the ambulance was dispatched?

Mrs ROSE (15/12/98): In relation to your question regarding ambulance response times, I refer

you to Standing Order No. 68 and express my disappointment that your question clearly does not meet the spirit of the Order.

To respond to your question in the detail requested would require an enormous allocation of time and effort throughout the State.

The QAS attends to approximately 450,000 incidents every year. To collate and present the amount of information you request for all those incidents would be a scandalous waste of ambulance resources, diverting time and effort away from the task of saving lives.

I am sure the people of Queensland would share my view that ambulance resources are better spent on responding to emergencies and patient transport.

775. Education Portfolio, Reviews, Committees and Inquiries

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (10/11/98)—

With reference to the reviews, committees, inquiries and the like which have been initiated within the education portfolio since the Beattie Government came to office—

- (1) What were the dates of approval and establishment?
- (2) What is the name and function of each review, committee, inquiry and the like?
- (3) Who is chairperson or presiding officer of each review, committee, inquiry and the like?
- (4) What are his or her qualifications for the task and who does he or she represent?
- (5) Who are the other members of each review, committee, inquiry and the like?
- (6) What are their qualifications for the task and who do they represent?
- (7) Were expressions of interest called for the membership of each review, committee, inquiry and the like; if so, where were they published; if not, why not?
- (8) What are the fees paid, being paid and/or to be paid to each of the persons listed above?
- (9) What is the total estimated cost of each review, committee, inquiry and the like?
- (10) Will each review, committee, inquiry and the like be required to produce a report; if not, which will and when, which won't and why not?
- (11) Which reports will be made public, which reports will not be made public and why not?
- (12) When will each report be released to the public?

Mr WELLS (9/12/98): The Director-General of Education initiated a review of the existing capacity of the Department to undertake strategic planning and develop major policy initiatives, its ability to provide a coordinated set of executive services and whether the current structure can deliver a range of external relations activities. Advice was also sought on how the Department might strengthen its performance measurement functions and the way

these could relate to an enhanced strategic planning and policy process.

1. 8 September, 1998

2. Review of the Strategic Planning and Policy Directorate as well as its relationship to the Performance Measurement Unit.

3. Mr Michael Kane

4. Mr Michael Kane is a senior officer in the External Relations Branch of Education Victoria

5. Ms Lesley Foster

6. Senior Victorian Public Servant

7. An invitation was extended to Mr Kane to conduct the review.

8. \$11,550 was paid to Education Victoria

9. \$18,580

10. A report was required as part of the review process.

11. The report "Towards a Strategic Centre" was made available to the public through the internet and the Education Queensland intranet.

12. October 1998

Two reviews have been initiated within the Human Resources Branch, Resource Services Directorate. There is a review of Recruitment and Selection processes for school promotional positions and A Diagnostic Study Related to "Staffing Allocation Processes"

Review of Recruitment and Selection of School Based Promotional Positions

The purpose of the review is to identify relevant research and contemporary best practise responses to the issues in like organisations as a basis for the development of a Departmental position on Recruitment and Selection processes for school based promotional positions.

1. Approval for this review was granted on 9 October 1998 by the Director-General of Education. The work of the review team started on 28 October 1998.

2. The purpose of the review is to identify relevant research and contemporary best practise responses to the issues in like organisations as a basis for the development of a Departmental position on Recruitment and Selection procedures for school based officers. This follows the identification of the issues identified in the joint Education Queensland? Queensland Teachers' Union review of departmental practices.

3 & 4. The project manager for the review is Mr Jim McGowan, Director, Human Resources.

5. The members of the review team are Mr Andrew Strickland and Mr Peter Norrie.

6. Mr Strickland and Mr Norrie were chosen for their expertise in the area. Mr Norrie was primarily responsible for the research in terms of world's Best Practise in recruitment and selection. Mr Strickland has the appropriate expertise to review the data prepared by Mr Norrie and to provide Education Queensland with recommendations for a preferred departmental position. Mr Strickland is from the Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work, University of South Australia and Mr Norrie is the

Managing Director, Australian Learning and Productivity Centre Pty Ltd.

7. Expressions of interest were not called for this particular review given the urgency in terms of the research into Best Practise in Recruitment and Selection as a consequence of industrial/political commitments provided to the Queensland Teachers' Union.

8. The fees paid for the review are:

Mr Strickland: \$800 per day for a period of approximately 4-5 days.

Mr Peter Norrie: \$750 per day for a period of approximately 8-10 days.

Reasonable travel, accommodation and incidental costs as approved are being met by Education Queensland. It is anticipated that as a result of further work required of the contractors, its anticipated that an additional 4-5 days will be required for its completion. It is noted that payment for this review has not occurred to date.

9. The total cost for the review will be approximately \$17700 for the contractors and \$4600 for travel and accommodation.

10. Mr Strickland and Mr Norrie are required to produce a report which is due before the end of November 1998.

11 & 12. It is expected that the report will be made public. It's date of release will depend on negotiations with the Queensland Teachers' Union.

A Diagnostic Study Related to "Staffing Allocation Processes"

To conduct a diagnostic scan of the practices and processes used in the development and application of the allocative methodologies used in Education Queensland to allocate staff (particularly teaching staff) to schools and other programs areas.

1. Approval for this review was granted on 12 October 1998 by the Director-General of Education and was started on 19 October 1998.

2. The name of the review is A Diagnostic Study Related to "Staffing Allocation Processes". The scan investigated the relationship between staffing processes and their linkages to departmental budget processes and the linkages between departmental process and those of Treasury in the development of Education Queensland's budget.

3 & 4. The project manager for the review is Ms Susan Rankin, Assistant Director-General (Resource Services).

5. The review was conducted by Dr Ron Cullen who was identified as an eminently qualified and experienced person with the appropriate knowledge and experience.

6. Dr Ron Cullen is the Managing Director Performance Management Solution and is familiar with the issues associated with allocative methodologies and the linkage to the budget processes.

7. Expression of interest were not called for this particular review given the urgency of the task and the relatively low cost.

8. The fees associated with the review: \$9000 to engage Dr Ron Cullen with reasonable travel and accommodation costs and incidental costs.

9. The total cost of the review is \$9,970 which has been paid.

10. A report has been produced and a project plan for the departmental actions arising from the issues raised is being developed by officers in Human Resources and Finance Branches and the Performance Management Office.

11 & 12. The report will be made available on the departmental intranet.

Joint Education Queensland/Queensland Teachers' Union Review of Departmental Recruitment and Selection Practices.

1. Approval for this review was granted at the beginning of August 1998 by the Acting Director-General of Education. Information was conveyed by memo to all schools on 7 August 1998.

2. The purpose of the review was to examine current recruitment and selection processes for school based classified officers according to terms of reference established jointly by Education Queensland and the QTU.

These included: the selection panel system, the assessment/selection process, acting in higher duties opportunities, time lines for appointment and training panellists.

3 & 4. The project manager for the review was Ms Susan Rankin, Assistant Director-General (Resource Services). The Chairperson was Mr Keith Hynes, Principal, Camp Hill SHS. Mr Hynes has considerable experience and expertise in the current departmental practices and is an experienced administrator.

5 & 6. The other members of the review team were from the department, Ms Annette Murray, Principal Personnel Officer HR Branch, Ms Anne Adams, Principal Personnel Officer HR Branch, representing the QTU were Mr John Alcorn, Principal, Goodna Special School and Stewart Rose, Industrial Advocate.

7. Expressions of interest were not called for this review as it was an internal joint review.

8. The fees associated with this review were the salary costs of each departmental officer, travel and accommodation expenses and hire of venues.

9. The total estimated cost of the review was \$24000 (this included approximately \$10341 for travel and accommodation \$13658 salary replacement of the two principals taken off line).

10. A final report of the findings was presented to the Director-General on 18 September 1998.

11 & 12. The report was to establish a position from which the Department was able to respond to recruitment and selection issues. The review team's report was provided to the Director-General and the General Secretary of the QTU. It is available on request.

776. Jaywalking

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/11/98)—

With reference to the recent "Jaywalking blitz" in Brisbane—

- (1) Who ordered this blitz?
- (2) How long will it last?
- (3) Will it expand to other areas; if so, where?
- (4) How much revenue was raised?

Mr BARTON (10/12/98):

(1) Operation J-Walker 98 was initiated at the instigation of Superintendent J. Richard and Inspector L. F. Roffey, Inspector (Operations) of the Brisbane City Police Division as the result of information supplied by the Metropolitan North Regional Traffic Co-ordinator, Inspector J. Sybenga, on accident statistics involving pedestrians in the Brisbane City Heart area. This information was brought to his knowledge through an Interdepartmental Committee, the Pedestrian Safety Working Group, concerned with accidents involving pedestrians.

(2) Operation J-Walker 98 ceased on Friday 27 November 1998.

(3) The Operation was confined to the Inner Central Brisbane District.

(4) A total of 174 traffic offence notices were issued with 167 issued for "Disobey Don't Walk Signal" and 7 offences for "Cross Within 20 Metres of Intersection". The total value of the fines imposed is \$1,705.

777. Townsville, Sentence Imposed on Rapist

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (10/11/98)—

With reference to the offender in the rape of a four year old girl in Townsville on 16 November 1997 who received 15 years and has now appealed the severity of his sentence—

Will the Beattie Government step in and ensure that this deviate serves his full sentence as handed down by the Courts?

Mr BARTON (10/12/98): It is the role of the Queensland Corrective Services Commission to ensure that prisoners serve sentences imposed by the courts. Under current legislation persons sentenced in relation to serious violent offences are required to serve a minimum of 80 per cent of any sentence imposed. It is the sole and appropriate province of the judiciary to impose sentences. Questions relating to sentence appeals should be directed to the Attorney-General.

778. Meat Processing Industry Task Force

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (11/11/98)—

With reference to the Meat Processing Development Initiative arising from the report of the Meat Processing Consultative Committee—

- (1) What is the membership of the Meat Processing Industry Task Force headed by the Deputy Premier and himself?
- (2) What are the terms of reference for the task force?

(3) When is the task force to report back to Cabinet and when will Cabinet enact the remaining recommendations?

(4) Will he provide ongoing briefings to industry and myself on the progress of the task force?

(5) Will all of the announced \$20m allocated to the Meat Processing Development Initiative be provided to the industry?

(6) What provisions or safeguards are in place to ensure the availability of funding to small, Australian-owned meat processors?

(7) What limitations have been placed on the provision of this funding to individual meat processors, including any restrictions on foreign-owned meat processors and maximum and minimum funding levels for individual meat processors?

(8) Will he provide evidence that the Borbidge Government failed to act on the recommendations of the Meat Processing Consultative Committee?

(9) Does he agree with his departmental officers that "abattoir closures are inevitable"?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. The Meat Task Force comprises officers of the Department of State Development and the Department of Primary Industries. The Task Force will involve industry and further officers from relevant Government Departments as required to progress specific projects.

2. The Meat Processing Industry Task Force is responsible for—

- (a) the effective delivery of the Queensland Meat Processing Development Initiative;
- (b) the exit from government ownership of the Queensland Abattoir Corporation;
- (c) facilitation of the establishment of alternative private abattoir facilities;
- (d) facilitation of the redevelopment of Queensland Abattoir Corporation sites at Cannon Hill, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Townsville and Bundaberg;
- (e) the finalisation of a long term strategy for the meat industry in consultation with industry stakeholders, and
- (f) actioning remaining recommendations of the Meat Processing Consultative Committee.

3. The Task Force will report back to Cabinet before the end of April 1999. The submission to Cabinet will report how the remaining Meat Processing Consultative Committee recommendations which relate to the State Government have been actioned.

4. Industry stakeholders will have the opportunity to interact with and receive information on the work and progress of the Task Force. I have advised the Task Force that briefings for the Shadow Minister will be provided on request through my Ministerial office.

5. This initiative will provide up to \$20 million to support viable projects over the next three years. The program specifically targets projects that aim to boost exports or value adding, or redevelop, relocate or expand meat processing facilities.

6. QMPDI funding is available to all existing and prospective meat processing operators. There is no minimum qualifying threshold on the value of projects or the number of jobs created. This will provide access to funding for viable projects put forward by small meat processors.

7. None. No minimum or maximum funding levels have been set to provide an opportunity for all worthwhile projects to be considered.

8. The fact that no action was taken by the Borbidge Government—with little or no progress on implementing the recommendations of the Meat Processing Consultative Committee being made—is sufficient evidence.

9. It is clear that the meat processing industry has been in trouble for some time. The Meat Processing Consultative Committee which comprised key industry stakeholders, concluded that a further 17 abattoirs could close over the next five years if a "do nothing" approach was taken. While I view with dismay the potential closures, I must also note that not one industry participant has cast doubt on the potential scenario outlined.

779. Mr J. Worrall

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/11/98)—

Does he have full confidence in his Gold Coast District Director, John Worrall?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/98): Yes.

780. Public Housing, Rental Arrears

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (11/11/98)—

With reference to public housing—

- (1) At 31 October, how many public housing rental accounts were in arrears in total and percentage terms of the total number of rental accounts by area office?
- (2) How many of these accounts were in arrears (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to less than 8 weeks, (c) 8 to less than 12 weeks and (d) 12 weeks and greater in total and by area office and what is the total monetary value of each of the above categories?
- (3) At 31 October, how many and what percentage of public households are paying full market rent?

Mr SCHWARTEN (16/12/98):

(1) See Attachment A for the number of public housing rental accounts in arrears in total and as a percentage of the number of accounts. For statistical purposes, only those accounts in arrears by four or more weeks rent are deemed to be in arrears. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) See Attachment B for the number of accounts in arrears for (a) less than 4 weeks, (b) 4 to less than 8 weeks, (c) 8 to less than 12 weeks and (d) greater than 12 weeks in total and by area office. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(3) The number of public households paying full market rent as at 31 October 1998 is 2,827. This represents 5.8 percent of the total of public rental households in Queensland.

781. Public Works Portfolio, Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (11/11/98)—

With reference to the Sales and Distribution Services Business Unit (SDS) within the Public Works portfolio—

- (1) What was the total revenue derived from sales (accrual based) in the month of October?
- (2) What was the total expenditure (accrual based) in October?
- (3) What was the value of the inventory on hand at 31 October?
- (4) What was the net profit/loss achieved by SDS for October?

Mr SCHWARTEN (19/11/98):

- (1) \$2.797 million.
- (2) \$816,000.
- (3) \$5.851 million.
- (4) A loss of \$177,000.

782. Disability Services

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Health (11/11/98)—

Does she recognise that non-Government organisations providing services to adults and children with a disability play a significant and integral role in the provision of health services in Queensland; if so, how does she reconcile this recognition with the fact that Queensland Health currently provides almost no financial support to non-Government organisations responsible for the delivery of therapy, equipment support and medical services and that the provision of these vital health services in Queensland is in great jeopardy because of increasingly difficult and unreliable private fundraising?

Mrs EDMOND (30/11/98): The role of non-government organisations in delivering health services is recognised. Queensland Health funds the Home and Community Care Program (HACC) which in 1998-99 has a record budget of \$135,682,000. Most HACC services are delivered through the non-government sector. Queensland Health also funds and administers specific services for people with disabilities, including residential care; therapy services; equipment to assist in daily living; and assessment services. Some of these services are delivered directly by Queensland Health, while others are delivered by local government or non-government organisations, which are fully or partially funded by Queensland Health.

In 1998/99, a record \$9.8 million recurrent funding was allocated to the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme and an additional \$1 million as a single purpose payment to reduce waiting lists for medical aids. The

Scheme provides individual applicants with medical aids to assist in daily living, including communication devices, continence and mobility aids, orthotics and oxygen. In addition, \$144,200 was allocated to the Independent Living Centre in 1998-99 for equipment support. People with disabilities are eligible for Queensland Health's full range of health and rehabilitation services.

The Commonwealth Government and the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care also fund disability services.

783. Cultural Centre

Mr BEANLAND asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (11/11/98)—

With reference to Stage VI of the Cultural Centre—

- (1) Why did he fail to deliver on the Labor Party's election commitment to "... (reprioritise) capital spending with \$15m of the \$40m allocated to the Cultural Centre Stage VI in 1999-00 being advanced in keeping with Labor's commitment to accelerate capital spending"?
- (2) Does this failure to deliver mean that Stage VI will not be completed in full and on schedule?
- (3) Does this failure to deliver, and the fact that the Capital Works Budget of the Labor Government for 1998-99 is actually \$25m less than that budgeted by the Coalition in its 1998-99 Budget, mean that Labor is not committed to accelerating capital spending?
- (4) How many jobs will not be created as a result of his failure to not advance this money?
- (5) Will he provide a complete breakdown of how any moneys have been spent on this project to date and how moneys are budgeted to spend on this project throughout the rest of 1998-99 and beyond?

Mr FOLEY (11/12/98):

- (1) The Government has maintained its commitment to the Queensland Cultural Centre 2000 project (referred to by the member for Indooroopilly as Stage VI) with an allocation in 1998-99 of \$4.028m. In keeping with the State Budget Ministerial Portfolio Statements, a review will be undertaken of the construction of the Queensland Cultural Centre 2000 project, which was costed by the former Government at \$320m but only provided for in the budget forward estimates period at a cost of \$100m.
- (2) The current review process will consider the scope, budget and timing of the project and enable consideration of how the project may be advanced in the context of the former Government's under-budgeting of the project.
- (3) The Government's 1998-99 budget for the Arts provides for a capital works program of \$48.976m, an increase of \$5.403m from the former Government's 1998-99 budget statement.
- (4) The Government's commitment to an enhanced capital works program will ensure that jobs for Queenslanders are increased.

(5) The allocation of \$4.028m in 1998-99 will provide for initial planning and development of the Queensland Cultural Centre 2000 project. The priority for allocation of funds beyond the current financial year will be informed by the review currently being undertaken of the project.

784. Chinchilla Hospital; Dalby Hospital

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Health (11/11/98)—

With reference to health services at Chinchilla and Dalby hospitals—

- (1) Will he list specific staff cuts proposed for these two hospitals?
- (2) Will he list specific staff re-allocation of duties proposed for these two hospitals?
- (3) Is it correct that the position of financial manager is to be abolished in these two hospitals?

Mrs EDMOND (30/11/98):

- (1) There are no staff cuts proposed for Chinchilla or Dalby Hospitals.
- (2) The position of Director of Finance and Administration at Dalby will be renamed 'Finance Manager' and will have an expanded district focus. The position of Director of Finance and Administration at Chinchilla will be renamed 'Human Resource Manager' and will also have an expanded district focus.
- (3) There has never been a position of Finance Manager at either Chinchilla or Dalby Health Services.

785. Coal Industry Fund

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Mines and Energy and Minister Assisting the Deputy Premier on Regional Development (11/11/98)—

With reference to the Coal Industry Fund, the use of which I understand is at his discretion—

Has he determined possible expenditure from this fund for 1998-99; if so, what are the details of this proposed expenditure; if not, when does he anticipate determining expenditure from this fund and what are the likely expenditure items?

Mr McGRADY (11/12/98): In response to the specific questions made by Mr Mitchell, I can advise as follows:

I recently received for my consideration an Agreement that is proposed between the State and ACMER (The Australian Centre for Mining Environmental Research Ltd) for the establishment of a Coal Minesite Rehabilitation Program utilising \$2.538m from the Coal Industry Fund. The previous Minister, Mr Tom Gilmore, had made the decision to allocate the funds to this program.

Under this proposal ACMER is to ensure that this application of the Coal Industry Fund gives priority to coal minesite rehabilitation research, unless otherwise approved by the State.

The details of the Agreement are currently being finalised.

786. Hong Kong, Drug Trafficking

Mr FELDMAN asked the Premier (11/11/98)—

- (1) Is he aware of the article in The Courier-Mail of 19 October which identified Hong Kong as the nerve centre of drug trafficking in the South-East Asia region?
- (2) Is he also aware of the detention of several Hong Kong men and the seizure in recent days of what has been described in the media as the country's "biggest drug haul"?
- (3) With this in mind, did he raise the illegal drug issue with the Chinese authorities during his tax-funded junket to Asia; if so, what response did he receive?
- (4) Since Hong Kong is described as the nerve centre of the illegal drug trade and Hong Kong has been incorporated into communist China, does he accept that communist China is now, and ever since the days of the Vietnam War was and has been, the nerve centre of the illegal drug trade in our region and, as such, is exporting death and injury as part of a billion dollar industry and is not just interested in tourism?
- (5) Will he assure this House that the Chinese Government will take all necessary steps to smash up this illegal trade in drugs and to remove the nerve centre of the drug trade in Hong Kong?
- (6) If he did not raise the issue with the Chinese authorities, will he explain to this House why he did not?
- (7) Will he assure this House that he will abstain from the Labor Party's traditional tendency to vilify and bad mouth anybody who raises such issues and instead stick to the issue at hand, the suppression of the illegal drug trade involving Asian crime syndicates working in Australia?

Mr BEATTIE (9/12/98):

(1-7): My commitment to the fight against major and organised crime involving the illegal drug trade is well known, as is my chairmanship of the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee which received briefings from the Criminal Justice Commission on this fight. I am aware that the illegal drug trade knows no boundaries and affects all countries. I found it necessary to go to Hong Kong and Japan after widespread international media reports on One Nation during the State Election. This followed previous publicity about Pauline Hanson making comments in Parliament that she believed Australia was in danger of being swamped by Asians; and on the Stan Zemanek show (8-10-96) that she believed it was a possibility that Asian people would take over Australia and she would be subservient to them. About 23,000 Queenslanders owe their jobs to the money Queensland earns from tourism and trade—including students being taught by Queensland institutions—involving Hong Kong and Japan. It was therefore essential to assure the people of Hong Kong and Japan that we were a friendly State, a great place to do business and a great place to visit. I urge Mr Feldman and anyone

else who doubts the damage done to Queensland's reputation and who may doubt the need for my visit to Hong Kong to read the highly-detailed 149-page report I compiled on the many meetings and interviews that I conducted on each day of my visit. I have read the Late City edition of The Courier-Mail for October 19, 1998, and cannot find the sort of article referred to by Mr Feldman.

This edition does contain articles which:

1. Referred to a \$12 million advertising campaign which had been launched in Queensland by Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation which was "aimed at reviving the inbound tourism industry's fortunes in the ailing Asian market". It said a severe downturn in arrivals from some key Asian markets in the past year has contributed to an expected 8.9 per cent drop this year in international visitors to Queensland. And it pointed out that the combined Asian and Japanese markets account for about 50 per cent of all arrivals. (Page 8)
2. Pointed out that "One of the bonuses of the federal election result is that Pauline Hanson's media star is fading fast". (Page 12)
3. Said that One Nation was receding "in the rear-view mirror of Australian politics". (P 13)
4. Featured the way in which Foster's Brewing had made a large investment in China. (P 17).

787. Gympie Hospital

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Health (11/11/98)—

With reference to the partial closure of the surgical ward of the Gympie Hospital—

Will she outline whether there will be further down grading of the services provided to the people of Gympie from this hospital; if so, is it their intention to redirect the patients to Noosa or Nambour?

Mrs EDMOND (30/11/98): There is no reduction in the quality or level of service provided at Gympie Hospital. The proposed change from a seven day to a five day surgical ward reflects the present use of beds in the hospital which is an average occupancy of 54.8% over the last 22 months.

788. Burdekin Region, Tourism

Mr KNUTH asked the Premier (11/11/98)—

With reference to a letter I wrote to the Premier in September asking for a \$3m grant to improve tourism in the Burdekin to which I eventually received a reply that there is no money available through Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation and the matter had been referred to the Minister for Tourism—

Considering the huge input into the State's economy the Burdekin provides, why is the Burdekin being left out and will he reconsider this decision?

Mr BEATTIE (9/12/98): As I outlined in my response to Mr Knuth, the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing does not have a funding scheme under which applications can be lodged for specific tourism related projects.

However, I provided Mr Knuth with a number of suggestions which can be pursued to provide assistance to the Burdekin region. They include:

- utilising the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation's cooperative marketing initiatives;
- funding from local councils;

- utilising the Commonwealth Government's Regional Tourism Program which is specifically designed to develop the tourism industry in regional and rural areas; and

- encouraging the Burdekin tourism industry to work closely with Townsville Enterprise to ensure they are able to take advantage of assistance available through the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation.

I advised Mr Knuth in my response that the Department of State Development administers a Regional Business Development Scheme. In this context, a copy of Mr Knuth's letter was forwarded to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development for his consideration and response to Mr Knuth.

Burdekin has been encouraged to utilise existing resources and opportunities for funding which are available to all regions throughout the State. For example:

- the Department of State Development employs a Regional Business Adviser for Burdekin and Bowen;

- the Regional Business Development Scheme expended \$60,000 last financial year, and will renew a similar contract in the region for around \$55,000; and

- from June 1997 to present, there have also been three other grants to the region as part of the Scheme: Burdekin Regional Capability Study (\$5,000); a feasibility study into a fruit growing operation (\$10,800); and a feasibility study into the establishment of a raw sugar factory (\$12,500).

789. Lotus Glen Correctional Centre Land, Use by Mareeba Rotary Club

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (11/11/98)—

Is he aware that the Rotary Club of Mareeba is currently trying to get some sort of tenure over land at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre that they have spent around \$400,000 on and is currently used for field days and a country music festival, both of which are highly successful and all the club wants is some sort of mutually beneficial lease so that there is some security for the large amount of publicly donated money that has been spent on improving this facility—

How can his department facilitate this much needed agreement between a rural service club and the Department of Corrections?

Mr BARTON (11/12/98): Yes.

I am advised by the QCSC that North Queensland Rotary Field Days has requested the QCSC to enter into a lease or some other form of agreement to

provide them with tenure in relation to use of the site. Such a lease has not previously been agreed to.

I am further advised by the QCSC, that the biannual Far North Queensland Rotary Field Days and the annual Walkamin Country Music Festival have, in the past, been granted approval to use the Lotus Glen Prison Reserve on an event by event basis, to conduct these activities. To support the conduct of the Field Days and music festivals the QCSC has permitted Rotary to construct a number of buildings on the Reserve and to provide power and water to the site.

Legal advice available to the QCSC indicates that Section 9 (2) of the Corrective Services (Administration) Act 1998 (the Act) allows the Commission, among other things to be capable of "granting and taking leases of land and other properties". However, the Commission is constrained by Section 69 of the Act, in entering into such a lease, which provides that the land provided to the QCSC shall be "for the purpose of Corrective Services in priority and to the exclusion of all other purposes".

A strict interpretation of the Act relating to the application of Section 69 in the case of the FNQ Field Days activity has previously caused the QCSC to refuse these requests for a lease arrangement.

The QCSC has preferred to consider the requests by Rotary on an event by event basis. This arrangement has allowed the QCSC to ensure that each decision is in keeping with the provisions of Section 18 of the Act relating to the Commission's functions, which require the Commission to develop and administer services and programs which assist a prisoner to reintegrate into society. During past events Low/Open security prisoners have been permitted to visit the event to improve their understanding of farming operations and they perform maintenance on the Rotary facility throughout the year.

Recent legal advice available to the QCSC indicates that the QCSC does have the power to grant a lease over Commission lands to a community group provided that there is some demonstrable benefit accruing to prisoners that can be linked back to the Commission's functions. However, this advice suggests that before such an arrangement is entered into, a more detailed specialist advice be requested from the Commercial and Property section of Crown Law.

I am in the process of obtaining that advice. When it is to hand I will advise the Member further.

790. River Heads, Sandfly/Midge and Mosquito Problem

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/11/98)—

With reference to the work that has been carried out in New South Wales decreasing the sandfly/midge problem by covering the inter tidal area with fine gravel—

What steps have been taken and what steps are proposed to be taken, to relieve the people of River

Heads of the sandfly/midge and mosquito problems that they are currently experiencing in extreme proportions and have been contending with for some time?

Mr WELFORD (9/12/98): The biting midge or "sandfly" pest problems experienced at River Heads are of a different complexity to those experienced in New South Wales. River Heads is a different environment and the problem midges are a different species (*Culicoides ornatus*).

My Department of Environment and Heritage has been liaising with Hervey Bay City Council with their investigations towards a biting midge pest solution. Technical advice has been sought from a variety of scientist and pest control manufacturers on all possible forms of midge control for River Heads. The advice is that there is no suitable product that would be effective for controlling biting larvae midges within the River Heads environment.

The dominant pest species of Mosquito experienced at River Heads is *Aedes vigilax*. Where controls may be deemed essential to reduce a serious human health risk, this control should be carried out in a manner that minimises environmental impact.

Hervey Bay City Council has proposed a runnelling program covering over 50 wetland locations that have been identified as significant breeding sites of the salt marsh mosquito (*Aedes vigilax*). Hervey Bay City Council has agreed to conduct a trial runnelling program at three sites in River Heads so that any problems or impacts can be assessed before applying the control technique to other wetland areas. Necessary approvals have been given and works are expected to commence soon.

791. Naturelink Cableway Project

Mr HOBBS asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (11/11/98)—

With reference to a publication by his department "State Development 2000+" which lists the Naturelink cableway project as one of 11 Queensland major projects—

- (1) What State Government approvals are required for the total project?
- (2) To date, what State Government approvals have been given and what approvals remain?
- (3) What consultation has occurred with relevant local authorities and the community?

Mr ELDER (11/12/98):

1. This proposal requires the same approvals as all proposals of this type submitted for the Government's consideration. The proponent must obtain approval for the environmental, planning, land tenure, technical and financial aspects of the proposal.
2. No State Government approvals have been given to date.
3. Until a detailed proposal is received, no formal consultation with either local authorities or the community can be initiated by the Government.

792. Burnett Region, Water Storage

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/11/98)—

With reference to the previous Government's commitment to prioritise and fast track the provision of "bags" on the Walla, Nucca and Jones Weirs to provide for much needed additional water storage to help overcome an acute water shortage in the Bundaberg, Burnett and Isis areas and as protracted, in depth environmental studies had been done prior to the construction of the Walla Weir, it was not envisaged that extensive environmental studies would be required and considering this and the severe hardship that is being caused by lack of available water to service farmers, industry and the community needs of the area—

- (1) What environmental studies does he require to be done before a decision to proceed with bags is made?
- (2) What is the envisaged time-table for environmental studies to be completed?
- (3) Assuming that the results of the studies are favourable, when can the Bundaberg, Isis and Burnett people expect the provision of the bags to (a) begin and (b) be completed?

Mr WELFORD (9/12/98):

1. To achieve good outcomes for the community it is essential that development decisions are based on rigorous planning and investigations into the economic, environmental and social consequences of such development.

I have endorsed a Departmental strategy for water planning development which is based on three principles. First, that every effort will be made to increase the efficiency of current water use; second, that we will make the best use of available waste water and recycling opportunities; and third, that we will embark on new infrastructure only if it is ecologically sustainable and economically feasible. All aspects of planning with related research and development will progress together. Decisions on proposals will be made in this context, and in the context of the water allocation and management plan (WAMP) for the Burnett catchment.

With regard to Walla, Bucca and Jones Weir proposals, the proposed raising of Walla Weir is by means of a 2 metre, rubber dam, a fixed crest alternative to a 2 metre rubber dam is being investigated for Bucca Weir and the 1.4 metre raising of Jones Weir is now proposed to be reinforced concrete rather than by a rubber dam.

In each case, independent consultants will be engaged to carry out an impact assessment appropriate to the potential significance of impact from each project. The assessment will lead to the development of a draft environmental management plan outlining how any significant factors can be managed appropriately.

Initial advice statements will be referred for comment by government agencies and interested parties including affected landholders, potential beneficiaries and community stakeholder groups.

A decision whether to proceed to construction could be considered when these assessments are satisfactorily completed.

Decisions on all future water infrastructure development proposals on the Burnett River system will also need to meet the State's obligations to the Commonwealth agreed under the terms of the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package funding agreement for Walla Weir Stage 1. These entail the undertaking of certain baseline studies and monitoring programs. These studies and programs are well advanced.

2. Consultants will be engaged to carry out the necessary studies for the raising of Bucca and Jones Weirs. Studies should be completed by March 1999 but may require further investigation.

It is intended that a consultant will also be engaged this financial year to carry out similar studies for the Stage 2 raising of Walla Weir, however the impact assessment process for this proposal will be more comprehensive and protracted due to the commitments arising from the approval of the Stage 1 development, and the potential significance of impacts on the receiving environment.

If the outcomes of the assessment processes are satisfactory and accord with the overarching WAMP, Government approval to raise Bucca and Jones Weirs could be sought mid year 1999.

3. If approved by the Government, both the raising of Jones Weir and the raising of Bucca Weir could be completed during next year.

With regard to Walla Weir, it is difficult to forecast possible timing for the Stage 2 raising until the planning and assessment process is further advanced.

793. Jones Weir

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (11/11/98)—

With reference to the proposed raising of Jones Weir at Mundubbera, an existing structure which needs to be raised by 1.5 metres to provide much needed water storage for district irrigators—

- (1) What is the envisaged starting date for construction work on this project?
- (2) What planning and design work specific to this project has been completed to date?
- (3) When was this work carried out?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of the project?

Mr WELFORD (9/12/98):

1. Construction work on raising Jones Weir by 1.4 metres is proposed to commence subject to satisfactory outcomes of environmental evaluations and negotiations with potential water users as to cost sharing arrangements.

2. Preliminary design work has been completed to a stage sufficient to allow initial cost estimates to be prepared and environmental evaluations to commence.

An initial Advice Statement describing the proposal has been prepared together with initial terms of reference for a consultancy to collect information to support the environmental evaluation.

3. This work was carried out from January to October this year.

4. The estimated cost of the project is between \$4.20m and \$4.23m.

794. Police Service, Body Armour

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (11/11/98)—

With reference to members of the Queensland Police Service being required to sign a waiver of claim when issued with soft body armour—

- (1) Will he confirm Queensland is the only State to insist on this waiver?
- (2) Does he regard this waiver as an act of discrimination against members of the Queensland Police Service?
- (3) Does he intend to continue this discrimination?
- (4) Is there any method of appeal by members of the Queensland Police Service against this waiver if injuries arise during use of this soft body armour?

Mr BARTON (11/12/98):

(1) Officers of the Queensland Police Service can access body armour through two sources: Service issue and private acquisition. For Service issued equipment the Service assumes full responsibility and no waiver is required. This applies both to external ("flak jacket") body armour and soft body armour.

Police officers are required to provide a waiver only when they personally acquire body armour. In this case the Service does not accept responsibility as it does not control the specifications or quality of the items. Such acquisitions are usually soft body armour worn under the clothing.

It is not known if such a waiver is applied by other police services in similar circumstances.

- (2) No.
- (3) This is an appropriate approach fully acknowledging the Service's responsibility for the equipment it provides and the safety of its officers. It is not discrimination against members of the Service. There is no need to discontinue this approach as officers can access Service issued body armour when their duties require.
- (4) No.

795. Gold Coast Health District, Cost of Providing Services to Interstate Visitors

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (11/11/98)—

- (1) What was the estimated cost to the Gold Coast hospital district for supplying health services to interstate visitors, particularly New South Wales residents, in 1997-98?
- (2) What was the amount that the New South Wales Government remitted to Queensland for these services?
- (3) How much of these funds have been returned to the Gold Coast Health District?

Mrs EDMOND (30/11/98):

(1) Under the Australian Health Care Agreement patients are required to be treated in public hospitals regardless of State or Territory of usual residence. Cross border patient activity is calculated on a Statewide basis, not on an individual hospital or District level. Figures for 1997/98 cross border activity will not be available until early 1999.

(2) Queensland is net funded by NSW for interstate border activity by approximately \$9.5m each year. Payments for each financial year are finalised approximately nine months after the end of the relevant financial year.

(3) The Gold Coast District Health Service yearly budget is calculated on historical activity levels and projected growth. Interstate patient activity is calculated into the initial yearly budget allocated to the Gold Coast District Health Service, as has been the practice for many years.

796. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to his statement in relation to the additional trainees and apprentices the Government claims it will employ and train which should require additional TAFE staff—

Why then has the Government budgeted for a cut of 138 equivalent full-time TAFE staff in its 1998-99 State Budget?

Mr BRADDY (11/12/98): Additional trainees and apprentices will be able to be included in current teaching programs staffed by existing teachers.

797. TAFE

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

Why does the Government expect a decrease of over 20 per cent in revenue from TAFE Queensland course/tuition fees from the 1997-98 actual of \$18.77m to \$14.64m?

Mr BRADDY (11/12/98): The main reasons are the impact of user choice and competitive funding introduced by the former government.

798. TAFE

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to his answer to non-Government Question on Notice No. 6 (asked during the 1998 Estimates Committee hearings) within which I requested the expenditure outcomes (deficit or surplus) for each TAFE Institute and TAFE Queensland as a whole and to his answer which partly reads, "the true financial position is not available because end of financial year reports on TAFE's Budget positions include prepayments against User Choice and Competitive Funding Contracts, and special supplementation and Budget

transfers considered to be 'bail outs' ..." and to the answer to a recent Question on Notice which I placed in Parliament, where he was able to tell me of the financial outcomes for those institutes which were over spent and by how much and as it has now been confirmed that there is a 149 page departmental document entitled "Budget position for TAFE Queensland, Executive Summary 1998" which sets out the budget position for TAFE Queensland, including each of its institutes at 30 June—

(1) Why can't he tell the Parliament the financial outcome for 1997-98 for all institutes including those which experienced surpluses and the quantum of each surplus?

(2) Will he provide this information today or during the next few days or will he again attempt to deprive the Parliament of information which he knows, and everyone else knows, should be very easily accessible to departmental officers?

Mr BRADDY (11/12/98): (1 & 2) I suggest the member refers to my response to Question on Notice No. 715.

799. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

Is he concerned at the extent of disorganisation and the lack of coordination and planning by his most senior departmental officers as illustrated by the e-mail of 28 July to the General Manager, Business Development Centre on the subject of "Issues needing Clarification following DETIR restructure" and the memorandum of 3 August to the Director-General DETIR from the Director, Workplace Services on the subject, "Realignment of Departmental Structure", wherein the Director-General's approval is sought, after the event, for the creation of the new structure he had already implemented?

Mr BRADDY (11/12/98): No.

800. Vocational Education and Training in Schools

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to a recent TAFE newsletter from the State Public Services Federation (Queensland) (SPSFQ) which indicates that the SPSFQ is opposed to the expansion of vocational education and training in schools and claims that the Queensland Teachers Union (QTU) is promoting VET in schools, where the QTU's real interests lie—

Does he plan to expand VET in schools in line with the QTU's agenda, or does he agree with the SPSFQ view that "if VET in schools is expanded it will be at the expense of TAFE programs"?

Mr BRADDY (11/12/98): The provision of vocational education and training in Queensland schools is the responsibility of my Cabinet colleague, Mr Wells, the Minister for Education.

801. TAFE

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

As competitive funding and full "user choice" have provided a full range of VET programs across the whole State in 1997-98, on what basis are the asterisked student contact hour costs in the table on page 21 of his 1998 MPS classified as being not comparable with these student contact hour costs indicated for TAFE Queensland?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): Training Services and TAFE Queensland use different units of cost for reporting purposes and this has been the practice under the former Government.

802. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to his response to Government Question on Notice No. 10 (during the 1998 Estimates Committee hearings) regarding a reduction of 9,500 in the estimated total number of enrolments for TAFE in 1998 and, in rationalising this reduction, he states "the doubts about apprenticeship and traineeships enrolments consequent upon the previous government's practice of funding off-the-job training for existing workers", in other words he is saying that this 9,500 reduction will be contributed to by an anticipated or feared reduction in apprentice and trainee numbers in Queensland—

Will he explain how this anticipated reduction will contribute to achieving his promise of creating an additional 24,480 apprenticeships, traineeships and job placements over his first three—not four—three years in office?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): Changes to the previous Government's Existing Workers Policy will take effect across the board from 1 January, 1999. However, the policy has been implemented within DETIR, including TAFE, and other public sector organisations through the latter part of 1998. Hence it is expected that TAFE enrolments for traineeships associated with existing workers will decrease.

The Beattie Government's "Breaking the Unemployment Cycle" initiative anticipate over 24,000 real apprenticeships, traineeships and job placements between 1998/99 and 2000/01. The majority of the effects of the apprenticeship and traineeship recruiting for 1998/99 will be felt in the first six months of the 1999 calendar year.

803. TAFE

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to page 6 of his Ministerial Statement of 5 August in which he made the statement, "\$1.2 million of the 1997-98 funds were even used to bail out one institute facing a budget shortfall. This was maladministration on a grand scale!"—

- (1) Has the director of this institute been moved?
- (2) What is his or her current task?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

804. TAFE; Mr K. Bannikoff

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to the final page of the memorandum of 16 July to the Director-General of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations from the Director, Workforce Services which is headed 'DETIR Re-alignment'—

- (1) Who is the 'independent consultant' referred to under the heading "TAFE Audit"?
- (2) Have the time-frames for completion of the re-alignment (mentioned on page 2 of this memorandum) been completed ; if so, what are those time-frames?
- (3) What is the cost of funding the issues listed as 4.1 and 4.2 and what is the total cost of this re-alignment project?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

1. Mr Kim Bannikoff
2. Yes
3. 4.1—Nil—this initiative did not proceed.
- 4.2—\$8233; Total costs \$8233.

805. Training Support for Employers

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

- (1) What impact will proposed policy changes (removing training support for employers) have on (a) the participation of women in the workforce especially at levels higher than entry level, (b) the creation of sustainable jobs at entry level and lower levels of the workforce, (c) the capacity of business, industry and the public service to absorb the "apprentices" at the completion of their training and (d) the viability of training programs (and RTOs) focusing on training in areas where such options were not previously available and accessible, e.g. teacher aides, agriculture and horticulture workers?
- (2) How does the proposed change address the real needs of business and industry to upskill the workforce and so generate more cost effective and productive enterprise capable of creating new entry level jobs?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

- (1) This Government is not proposing any policy change that removes training support for employers. We are proposing changes to the way in which the traineeship system is administered in relation to existing workers.
- (2) The effects of the proposed policy changes in relation to existing workers can be found in Hansard, pp. 3232-3233.

806. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to Labor's New Direction Statement—Breaking the Unemployment Cycle—which provides for an additional 9,000 apprenticeships and traineeships in the private sector over three years as follows (a) 7,500 from the private sector, (b) 600 from construction of public housing and (c) 900 from application of the 10 per cent rule on contracts, and to the release on 5 September 1997 by the Hon. Dr David Kemp MP, the Federal Minister for Employment, Education and Training of his "New Apprenticeship" National Campaign and as part of this, Queensland was to receive \$126m for more than 50,000 apprenticeships and traineeships over two years—

Does he consider 9,000 additional apprenticeships and traineeships over three years to be an ambitious target given Federal projections for 50,000 over two years and if he considers his 9,000 will be in addition to the 50,000 projected by the Federal Government, what will distinguish his 9,000 from the 50,000?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): I suggest the member reads the answer to Question on Notice No. 665.

807. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to Government Question on Notice No. 6 (asked during the 1998 Estimate Committee hearings) in relation to the Government's employment initiatives and to his answer in which he spoke of Queensland Public Sector once again employing large numbers of apprentices and trainees and ultimately offering them employment or assisting them in gaining employment on completion of their training period—

- (1) How many completing apprentices and trainees will receive permanent employment in the Queensland Public Sector, what time frame has he planned for the numbers identified, how many of these will be employed within his own department (DETIR) and what guarantees does he offer the House and these young apprentices and trainees of meeting the targets?
- (2) How does he define "assistance" in the gaining of permanent employment for apprentices and trainees who have completed their training?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

1. The offer of ongoing employment in the Public Sector will depend upon skills shortages and the vacancies existing in Public Service Departments, Local Government and State Statutory Bodies at the time when apprentices and trainees have completed training.

2. Where employment offers cannot be made in the Public Sector, the employing agency has the responsibility of assisting the apprentice/trainee to

find employment in the private sector. Assistance could be in the form of:

- direct brokerage on behalf of the individual;
- skills development in application preparation and interview techniques;
- linkage to job placement agencies; and
- brokerage to industry groups to fill vacancies.

808. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to my Question without notice on 21 October concerning the decision to incrementally abolish existing relieving arrangements within his department and to his response in which he twice indicated that he had received no submission from the union in relation to this matter, and to a document circulated by the General Secretary of the SPSFQ on 22 October which states, in part, "The SPSFQ has been negotiating with the previous and current Government about this matter" and in addition, a memorandum to the Director-General, DETIR from the General Manager, Business Development Division, on the subject "Options to Manage Displaced Staff" which commences with the statement "Concern has been expressed both by yourself and the State Public Service Federation (Queensland) regarding the relatively high number of staff displaced as a consequence of the recent realignment of priorities within DETIR and who are currently seeking permanent placement"—

How does he reconcile his assertion of no union submission with the two documents indicated?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): There is no contradiction. As at 21 October I had received no submissions from the union or staff on the matter. Any contact with the union took place at a departmental level.

809. Industrial Relations Task Force

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to his answer to non-Government Question on Notice No. 8 during the 1998 Estimates Committee hearings in relation to the Industrial Relations Task Force and particularly to the Budget item allocated against contractors totalling \$70,000—

Will he provide the names of the contractors and amounts being paid to each?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): The following contractors have been engaged and paid the following amounts:

Griffith University (salary costs for Professor Margaret Gardner while on leave to work full time as Chair of the Industrial Relations Taskforce)—\$40,250

Cameron Allen (assistance in research and drafting of the Issues Paper)—\$1,500

Michael Barry (assistance in research and drafting of the Issues Paper)—\$2,700

Diane Gee-Clough (assistance in the editing of the Issues Paper)—\$451

Vera McStay (clerical assistance)—\$250.

810. TAFE

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (11/11/98)—

With reference to the State Public Services Federation (Queensland) which has indicated in a recent newsletter that it has put a proposal to Government in relation to the next round of enterprise bargaining in TAFE—

Will he table that proposal and his response?

Mr BRADDY (11/12/98): The Government is unaware of any proposal in relation to the next round of enterprise bargaining in TAFE.

811. Springwood Electorate, State Schools

Mr MUSGROVE asked the Minister for Education (11/11/98)—

With reference to concerns raised with me at the Springwood Community Cabinet meeting on Monday 9 November—

Has he any plans to close any State schools in my electorate of Springwood?

Mr WELLS (9/12/98): No.

812. Stone Fruit Crops, Flying Fox Damage

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (12/11/98)—

With reference to the flying fox damage to stone fruit crops—

- (1) Is he aware that up to 80 per cent of stone fruit (peaches and nectarines) crops have been destroyed in the Lockyer valley by a plague of flying foxes and that while growers are aware that the abnormally warm winter has interfered with the flying fox breeding season, they need help and are willing to work with the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Environment and they would rather protect their crops than be forced to resort to wholesale slaughter of the flying foxes?
- (2) What financial assistance in the form of low interest loans are available to allow the erection of protective netting?
- (3) Why aren't loans to prevent such disasters available from Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) as loans of this type are available to the Stanthorpe growers against hail damage and, after all, both are natural disasters?
- (4) What research is currently being undertaken to repel flying foxes from such orchards?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. I am aware of reports of significant damage to fruit crops in the Lockyer Valley and elsewhere in south-eastern Queensland caused by flying foxes. I am also aware that growers are seeking to resolve how best to protect their crops, and that both my Department and the Department of Environment and Heritage are working closely with the horticultural production sector to find long term solutions to the problem.

2. Loans, to a maximum of 100,000 currently at the rate of 6 percent, over a maximum of 10 years are available to eligible producers for the erection of protective netting. These are provided through the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES) administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA).

3. As detailed in Question 2, PIPES loans are available through QRAA. With regard to natural disasters however, loans under the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements are available for eligible disaster events. Eligible events are cyclone, floods, storms, bushfires and earthquakes. They do not include plague pests like mice and locusts nor do they include flying foxes.

4. I am advised that some research is being undertaken at present to test deterrent systems to repel flying foxes, principally in north Queensland. This work is being conducted by the Department of Environment and Heritage and it would be most appropriate to seek details from my colleague, the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

813. Fish Stocks

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries (12/11/98)—

With reference to the stocking of inland impoundments with native fish which has provided a valuable recreational fishery for Queensland anglers—

- (1) Will this program of stocking inland impoundments continue?
- (2) Will the Government continue to support voluntary fish stocking groups working to stock inland impoundments?
- (3) How much has been budgeted for this program in the 1998-99 Budget?
- (4) How much money will be provided this year to maintain and improve the fish stocks in Cania Dam, Callide Dam, Waruma Dam and Jones Weir?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. Yes. The Department of Primary Industries is fully committed to the continuation of the Recreational Fishing Enhancement Program.

2. Yes. The fish stocking groups are an integral part of the fish stocking program and their contribution in terms of fingerlings stocked now outstrips that of the Department.

3. The total budget for fingerling purchase and stocking group support this financial year is \$148,000.00.

In addition, the Department allocates considerable staff and support resources to the program. This support program costs the Department approximately \$350,000.00 annually.

4. In order to distribute the Government purchased fingerlings as fairly as possible among the sixty-seven stocking groups, fingerlings are provided to individual groups every alternate year. This year the following allowances have been made:

Cania Dam—\$2,000.00 for the purchase of silver perch fingerlings

Callide Dam—\$4,000.00 for the purchase of golden perch

Waruma Dam—\$3,000.00 for the purchase of Australian bass

Due to the policy of provision of fingerlings for stocking by the Department in alternate years, this year, Jones Weir did not receive an allocation. However, last year \$2,000.00 was provided for the purchase of Australian bass.

814. Electricity Entities

Mr MITCHELL asked the Treasurer (12/11/98)—

- (1) As the voting shareholding Ministers of State electricity entities under the Electricity Act 1994, will the Ministers provide a categorical assurance that they are fully aware of, comprehend and are actively overseeing the management of all sovereign risk exposures arising from the international and interstate activities of all State electricity entities?
- (2) What is the present estimate by the shareholding Ministers of the amount of such sovereign risk exposures?

Mr HAMILL (17/12/98):

(1) The electricity corporations are operating in a new, competitive environment and this Government is keen that they act commercially and make sound decisions. The corporatisation of the government owned electricity industry under which the corporations act as commercial concerns and are exposed to commercial risks was also supported by the previous National/Liberal Government. It is our preference that the electricity corporations primary focus should be on providing reliable, low cost electricity to Queensland, but they also have to operate commercially. The Government recognises that Government Owned Corporations (GOCs) which operate outside of Queensland and outside of Australia are exposed to increased risk. As soon as this Government became aware of the potential exposures from overseas ventures being pursued by GOCs it took action. A moratorium was placed on overseas and out of state investments and I asked that Treasury develop proper, prudent guidelines for future GOC activities to ensure that the State's interests are protected.

Any sovereign risk exposures arising from international and interstate activities of State electricity entities were created prior to the term of this Government.

(2) As a result of this Government's decisive action the amount of sovereign risk exposure has been limited to projects approved prior to the term of this Government.

815. Cattle Branding

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (12/11/98)—

With reference to his announcement of Cabinet's decision to ban producers from branding on the cheek and rib positions and to his planned review of the Brands Act 1915—

- (1) Will Department of Primary Industries' stock inspectors be charged with actively enforcing this ban; if so, how will it be enforced?
- (2) What penalties will be imposed on cattle producers breaking this law?
- (3) What work has his department undertaken to develop a value-based marketing system for hides?
- (4) How can he ensure that the premiums obtained by processors for better quality hides are passed back to cattle producers?
- (5) What is his timetable for the review of the Brands Act 1915 and when does he plan to introduce a new Bill to the Parliament?
- (6) Who will be undertaking the review, including industry representatives?
- (7) Does the Government have a policy position on livestock identification; if so, what is it?
- (8) What is the progress of the development of the National Livestock Identification Scheme?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. The DPI and the stock squad will enforce the new requirements.

2. The existing penalties in the Brands Act 1915 will apply and it is the general requirement penalty of 8 penalty units.

3. The Department:

is supporting the National Hide Improvement Project.

is taking part in the national Storelink project which addresses value based marketing of cattle and cattle products. Storelink involves beef producer groups working together and with their customers on the issues and implementation of value-based marketing as well as best practice production to meet market specifications.

has conducted 20 marketing tours for producer groups, been involved in the development of industry standards to facilitate electronic transfer of data including hide feedback systems and conducted extension activities on analysis of hide feedback sheets through the Queensland Beef Industry Institute's Beef Marketing Project.

has supported a trade display at major beef expositions.

The Queensland Beef Industry Institute (QBII) has identified Product Enhancement Systems as one of its six program areas.

BIDAC members, from organisations representing all sectors of the beef industry, have raised awareness within their respective organisations of the opportunities for generating between \$30 million and \$60 million per year for the Queensland hide industry and cattle producers from a value-based market system.

4. Through this legislation the government is creating the framework to encourage the very necessary commercial linkages between producers and processors, such as value based marketing systems for cattle hides. Without this legislation this impasse between producers and processors over the rib branding issue would continue indefinitely.
5. It is intended to have the review completed next year.
6. The review will be undertaken by my department, in close association with Beef Industry Development Advisory Council which will be the main conduit for consultation with industry. Queensland Animal Health Council will also play an active role.
7. Queensland government supports the industry initiated National Livestock Identification Scheme.
8. Implementation of the scheme is currently being planned for the first half of 1999.

816. Jandowae State School and Bell State School, Instrumental Music Program

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Education (12/11/98)—

With reference to the instrumental music program which has enhanced the cultural development of children in Queensland's State Schools and as smaller rural schools still do not have access to this program, whereas some urban schools enjoy the services of up to three music specialists and bearing in mind his commitment to equity of opportunity—

Will he secure funding for an instrumental music program at Jandowae and Bell State Schools, both of which have high tops and are close enough to one another to share the one instrumental music teacher (at present both schools struggle with their own recorder groups and show a commitment to developing musical skills)?

Mr WELLS (11/12/98): Jandowae State School commenced the Instrumental Music Program on 12 August 1996 and is still in the program. The school accepted the program early in 1996 but staff was not available until August 1996.

Bell State School was not included at the time as it then had 131 students compared to 200 students at Jandowae State School and other schools being offered the program at that time.

The Music Coordinator for Darling Downs District has no record that Bell State School has requested entry to the instrumental music program.

Extension of the program to the Bell State School in 1999 will need to be negotiated within the two

districts. Bell State School could be serviced by the same teacher as Jandowae State School. It would require at least an additional half day allocation of time because of the travel time to and from the school whether serviced from Chinchilla (as for Jandowae State School) or from Dalby.

817. Goat Milk; Parmalat

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Primary Industries (12/11/98)—

- (1) Is he aware that the only major processor in Australia of pasteurised goats' milk is Suncoast Milk, a former Pauls QUF subsidiary, now owned by Parmalat?
- (2) Is he also aware that if the sale of unpasteurised goats' milk is banned in Queensland, Parmalat will process not only 70 per cent of the cows' milk processed in Queensland, but also 100 per cent of all goats' milk processed in Queensland?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. Yes.
2. At this stage, Suncoast Milk is the only processor licensed by the Queensland Dairy Authority to pasteurise goat milk in Queensland. However, there is nothing in the legislation to prevent further licenses being issued, providing the various protocols and standards required by that legislation were met.

818. Cerebral Palsy League

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Health (12/11/98)—

On the basis that she has been made aware of widespread recent concerns which have been expressed by service users of the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland that their therapy and other health services should be, but are not being, adequately supported by Queensland Health, and on the basis that it should not be considered to be good enough or appropriate for Queenslanders with disabilities to enter the new millennium with almost total dependence on charity for their essential health services, will she give a commitment that Queensland Health will meet these essential health services, currently provided to over 2,000 clients with disabilities by the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland, on a secure financial footing?

Mrs EDMOND (14/12/98): The Cerebral Palsy League's annual allocation of \$309,000 has been provided since 1996/97 to support adult therapy and social work services. Officers of Queensland Health are negotiating a three year service agreement till 30 June 2001. In 1997/98, "one-off" capital of \$8,000 was allocated for equipment, and a further \$5,000 was allocated to the League for the Australian Cerebral Palsy Association National Conference.

Funding from Queensland Health is only one contribution from Government to the Cerebral Palsy League. State and Commonwealth Government funding amounts to at least 68.1% of the Cerebral Palsy League's income (1997/98 Annual Report of the Cerebral Palsy League).

819. Hervey Bay, Orthodontists

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Health (12/11/98)—

What is the possibility of increasing access to orthodontist surgeons within the public health system in Hervey Bay?

Mrs EDMOND (14/12/98): A Queensland Health scholarship funded the training of an orthodontist to service Hervey Bay/Maryborough, Bundaberg and Kingaroy. This specialist dentist is now fully utilised in providing public orthodontic care for eligible patients in these centres.

820. Community Housing Grants Board

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (12/11/98)—

With reference to the Community Housing Grants Board and the 1998-99 financial year—

- (1) What is the total monetary value of grant recommendations from the board to him by program?
- (2) Will he detail the individual breakdown by organisation and associated monetary value of each recommended grant by program from the board to him?
- (3) Will he detail the individual breakdown by organisation and associated monetary value of each grant approved by him based on advice from the board?
- (4) As at 31 October, what was the total expenditure on behalf of or by the board for 1998-99?
- (5) Will he provide a detailed breakdown of board or board related expenditure in accordance with part (4) of this question?
- (6) How many recommendations of the board has he either not approved or returned to the board for further consideration?
- (7) How many of the recommendations contained in the response to part (6) of this question are either still pending further consideration by the board or are awaiting Ministerial consideration as of 12 November?

Mr SCHWARTEN (16/12/98):

- (1) As at 31 October 1998, the total monetary value of grant recommendations from the Community Housing Grants Board by program are, \$3,972,383 under the Long Term Community Housing Program—Youth Housing Initiative; \$56,000 under the Community Housing Sector Development Project—Best Practice; and \$33,000 under the Community Housing Sector Development Project.
- (2) A list of all grants recommended by the Community Housing Grants Board for the 1998/99 year up to 31 October 1998 is set out in Attachment 'A'. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
- (3) As at 31 October 1998, a grant of \$39,300 was made to the Queensland Community Housing Coalition based on advice from the Community Housing Grants Board. The grant made to the organisation included an additional \$6,300 to

incorporate costs of a Statewide departmental workshop in addition to the original recommended amount by the board.

(4) As at 31 October 1998, the total expenditure on behalf of or by the Community Housing Grants Board was \$85,886.80.

(5) A detailed breakdown of Community Housing Grants Board expenditure for the 1998/99 year up to 31 October 1998 is set out in Attachment 'B'. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(6) All 17 recommendations for grants to organisations and the contingency amount for establishment grants under the Long Term Community Housing Program Youth Housing Initiative (as outlined in Attachment 'A'), and the recommendation concerning the Mackay Regional Housing Association Inc, have neither been approved nor returned to the Community Housing Grants Board for further consideration. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(7) All of the recommendations contained in part (6) of this question were awaiting Ministerial consideration as of 12 November 1998.

821. Brisbane Markets

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries (12/11/98)—

With reference to the Brisbane Markets at Rocklea built back in the 60s and which now has passed that use-by date in providing a venue for sale of produce in the State—

- (1) Will he indicate what direction is intended with the marketing of horticultural produce which is now worth in the vicinity of \$1 billion and likely to double in the foreseeable future?
- (2) Does he believe the markets at Rocklea are ideally located for the future needs of the State particularly with the increasing emphasis on export.
- (3) As a high proportion of produce is delivered and removed by road transport is there any concern with traffic congestion that may occur in the Rocklea area as the State's horticultural industry expands?
- (4) With the Cabinet decision to corporatise the Brisbane Market Authority, what level of funding was allocated for this to occur in the development of a world class facility with the antiquated buildings on site?
- (5) If no funds were allocated by Cabinet, who will pay for any changes that will occur and what role does the Government have in corporatisation?
- (6) Now that Cabinet has made the decision to corporatise the markets at Rocklea, what is the brief of the inter-departmental committee and how would the result be affected if wholesalers are forced to move to more modern facilities?
- (7) Does he support competitive marketing through the use of agents and merchants or will the future of marketing in Queensland depend upon

transactions with the major consortiums that control 80 per cent of the retail trade in the country?

- (8) Is the area available at Rocklea sufficient for the needs of marketing in the next two decades without the requirement to relocate any part of the facility?
- (9) Was there support from all users of the markets to corporatise or was there support for privatisation?
- (10) As a result of corporatisation, will there be any increase in cost to consumers, agents, merchants and producers that depend on the Rocklea Markets?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. The marketing of horticultural produce is a commercial activity involving the participants in the industry, that is growers, wholesalers, retailers, exporters, etc. Government has a role in providing an environment conducive to business and regulating activity where necessary.

2. The location of the markets has served the industry well and still has many logistical advantages for the different sectors of the industry.

3. Traffic congestion and safety is an important issue at the market.

4. There has been no Government funding allocated for building development at the Brisbane Market.

5. It is envisaged that the new Brisbane Market Corporation will take a commercial approach to development of the Brisbane Market, including determining the funding of any capital expenditure. Government has a role in establishing the new Corporation, in accordance with the process set out in the Government Owned Corporations (GOC) Act 1993.

6. The interdepartmental committee, the Brisbane Market Authority Steering Committee, has been established to recommend an implementation process for the corporatisation of the BMA, in accordance with the process set out in the GOC Act 1993.

A reference group of industry stakeholders has also been established to maintain appropriate consultation with industry during the process of implementing corporatisation.

Wholesalers will not be forced to move from the Brisbane Markets.

7. There is a general recognition by the fruit and vegetable industry of the importance of maintaining a viable central market. This market must meet the needs of all users, wholesalers and retailers.

8. The use of the area of the Rocklea site in the best way to meet future marketing needs will be considered by the new Brisbane Market Corporation as part of taking a commercial approach.

9. There was support from fruit and vegetable growers for corporatisation, whilst wholesalers expressed support for privatisation.

10. The principles for operation of the new Brisbane Market Corporation are being determined by the steering committee that has been established, and

referred to in the answer to Question 6. The focus of the new Corporation will be on taking a commercial approach and achieving increased efficiency, not on increasing costs to users of the market.

822. Citizen's Right of Reply; Mr J. Worrall

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (12/11/98)—

- (1) Under "Citizens right-of-reply" what rights do employees of his department have in relation to comments made about them in Parliament?
- (2) In that he has been accused of lying, will his Gold Coast District Director, Mr J Worrall, be taking advantage of this "right"; if so, when; if not, why not?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/98):

(1) The conditions attaching to "citizens right-of-reply" are set out in a resolution of the Parliament of 11 October 1996.

(2) I have suggested to the Gold Coast District Director that he not further waste his time by responding to the Member for Nerang's ill-founded allegations.

823. Toowoomba Range Crossing

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (12/11/98)—

With reference to comments by former Federal Transport Minister, Mark Vaile, in the Toowoomba Chronicle of 22 September, that the State Government had to enact legislation for the new Toowoomba range crossing corridor to form part of the national highway system before the Federal Government injects any additional funding—

- (1) When will this legislation be enacted?
- (2) What is the proposed commencement time frame for the construction of the project?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/12/98):

(1) The comments made by the former Federal Transport Minister were, as usual wrong, no new State legislation is required to permit this project to proceed.

(2) The project will be part of the National Highway System and will need to be funded by the Federal Government, who therefore determine when and if the project will proceed.

824. Gold Coast Hospital; Nambour Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (12/11/98)—

Under the casemix formula, what funding would the Gold Coast Hospital and Nambour Hospital be entitled to and how does this compare to the funds allocated by this Government in the 1998-99 Budget for these hospitals?

Mrs EDMOND (14/12/98): For the 1998-99 financial year, as in previous years, District Health Services have been allocated global budgets. Districts allocate individual hospitals' budgets from within this global allocation. District Health Services

are not allocated discrete hospital budgets, either on a casemix or historical basis.

Districts' activity targets are being negotiated between the Districts and Corporate Office. Until these targets are finalised it is not possible to compute casemix budgets, as these budgets are based on targeted levels of hospital throughput.

825. Prof. Viviani

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

- (1) Will he table the framework for developing the relationship between the institute and the department, produced by Nancy Viviani?
- (2) Was this work produced as a consultancy project; if so, what was the total cost?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

- (1) Professor Nancy Viviani's report is currently being considered by the government.
- (2) See answer to Question on Notice No. 697.

826. Construction Industry Skills Centre

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

On what specific items will the additional \$4m provided via the State Budget to the Construction Training Skills Centre at Salisbury be spent?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): The funds will provide site works to support the workshop and classroom facilities developed in Stage 1, the development of an outdoor site suitable for the provision of training for civil engineering, plumbing and drainage, earthworks and trenching and shoring, landscaping of the surrounds, the provision of off-street car parking and facilities to provide client services, centre administration, recreation, support and learning resource areas.

827. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

With reference to the first paragraph on page 4 of the memorandum of 21 August to the acting Deputy Director-General of DETIR from the acting General Manager, Workforce Services, on the subject of the regionalisation project—

- (1) Why is there a planned transition to a matrix management model when the adoption of such a model was revealed, through a \$40,000 research project conducted by Griffith University for the department, during the Goss Labor era, to have caused many problems in TAFE Queensland including increased staff stress, uncertainty and bureaucratic inertia and paralysis?
- (2) Are the officers planning this transition to a matrix model aware of this research and its implications?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): (1 & 2) The matrix reporting arrangement for the department's regionalisation model was initially recommended in December 1996, and was introduced as part of the restructure implemented by the Borbidge Government in February 1998.

828. Industrial Relations Task Force

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

With reference to his answer to non-Government Question on Notice No. 8 during the 1998 Estimates Committees hearing in relation to the Industrial Relations Task Force and to the Budget Information for Building Services totalling \$50,000—

- (1) What does this item refer to?
- (2) Does it refer to the rent of office space; if so, where is this office space situated?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

- (1) Rent of office space, office cleaning, electricity and hire of plants.
- (2) 199 Charlotte Street, City until 4 December 1998 and at 75 William Street, City from 7 December 1998.

829. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Minister

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

With reference to the "Description of Services Provided" and "Program Performance Assessment" comments within his 1998 MPS which are reflective of those which appeared in the Coalition's MPS for the 1998-99 budget—

Does this mean that he has lost his ideological zeal, or does it reflect his endorsement of Coalition Government policies and strategies?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): No.

830. Emergency Services Advisory Council

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (12/11/98)—

With reference to her statement that Emergency Services will save money by putting in place a 14 member Emergency Services Advisory Council as an alternative to the Queensland Ambulance Service Board and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Boards—

- (1) How many times per year will the council meet?
- (2) How will the members be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses?
- (3) What remuneration will the members receive?
- (4) Where will the council meet?
- (5) Which community representatives will constitute the advisory council?
- (6) Which community representatives will not be eligible for selection to the advisory council?

Mrs ROSE (14/12/98):

- (1) It is proposed the council will meet four (4) times per year.

(2) Members will be entitled to normal out-of-pocket expenses which will be reimbursed by the Department.

(3) The Governor-in-Council will set the remuneration to be paid to members. As the Governor-in-Council has not considered the issue it would be premature to answer this question. However, the council members, having an advisory role only, would be expected to be paid less than the \$360.00 meeting fee paid to Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Board members. It is estimated that a saving of up to \$300,000 per annum will be achieved. The savings achieved from the abolition of the boards will be redirected into QFRA and QAS frontline operations.

(4) The council will decide where it will meet and would presumably meet in a location considered to be suitable after taking in to account the location of members and any particular issues the council was considering.

(5) As the members have not yet been appointed by the Governor-in-Council it would be premature to reply to this question.

(6) No community representatives will be ineligible for appointment.

831. TAFE

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

With reference to page 2 of the minutes of the meeting of the DETIR—BDD, TTL at which the Director-General and Deputy Director-General raised the point that the Victorian model is providing a basis on which to formulate a working model for TAFE Queensland—

- (1) Is the attempt to base Queensland TAFE on the Victorian model a consequence of personal experience of the Victorian system by some departmental staff and consultants?
- (2) What would be wrong with having a Queensland TAFE model?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

- (1) There was no attempt to base TAFE Qld on the Victorian model.
- (2) Nothing.

832. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

With reference to a series of e-mails between senior officers in DETIR on 31 August and 1 September which refer to a 'freeze' on advertising departmental positions—

- (1) Why was this 'freeze' implemented?
- (2) What was its duration?
- (3) Was it sanctioned by OPS?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

(1) There was a temporary restriction placed on advertising positions to allow for consideration of staff movements arising from the realignment. Advertising in non-metropolitan areas was not restricted.

(2) August-September 1998

(3) There was no need to consult with OPS.

833. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

With reference to an introductory paragraph of a memorandum of 6 July from the Manager, Office of the Board, to the Director-General of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, in which the Manager refers to a request to her from the Director-General—

Will he table a copy of this request as it may help explain why staff of the Office of the Board made the spontaneous, lemming-like decision which the Director-General reported to all staff in his memorandum two days later on 8 July?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98): No. Parliament is not in session.

834. Agricultural Colleges

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (12/11/98)—

With reference to the answer he provided to Government Question on Notice No. 2 during the Estimates Committees hearing, where he stated that agricultural colleges, quote, "are also funded for capital developments"—

- (1) What is the quantum of capital development grant funding being provided to agricultural colleges in 1998-99?
- (2) What is the quantum he considers necessary to maintain or replace existing capital infrastructure to a reasonable standard?
- (3) What is his explanation of the differences in his amounts, if indeed a difference exists?

Mr BRADY (11/12/98):

(1) Agricultural Colleges will receive \$1.165m for minor works in 1998-99. Over the past five years Agricultural Colleges have also expended from their annual grant an average of \$2.249 million each year on interest and redemption payments. Interest and redemption payments are a proxy for capital expenditure.

(2) A recent meeting between the Chairs of the Agricultural College Boards, College Directors, the Chair of VETEC and senior officers of the Division of Training, considered the capital infrastructure needs of the Agricultural Colleges over the next four years. I am awaiting recommendations from both the Department and VETEC.

(3) Not applicable.

835. Local Governments, Natural Disaster Relief

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (12/11/98)—

With reference to many local authorities which have experienced infrastructure damage due to extreme weather conditions throughout the State and as there is no doubt some of these local authorities were in declared natural disaster areas and other local authorities were not as fortunate to be in the declaration area, however incurred comparable levels of infrastructure damage—

- (1) What are the names of the local authorities that received financial assistance for infrastructure damage who were outside declared natural disaster areas?
- (2) What was the amount of assistance provided to each local authority outside the declared area?
- (3) What was the criteria used to allocate the assistance to each local authority outside the declared area?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/12/98):

(1) To the best of the Department's knowledge, only one local authority which was outside a declared natural disaster area has received financial assistance for infrastructure damage. This was the Burke Shire Council, which received assistance towards the restoration of flood damage to Escott Causeway and the Salt Water Barrage which occurred in December 1996 as a result of severe flooding in the Nicholson River causing a breach in the eastern abutment of the weir and damaging sections of the concrete causeway. In this instance, it is understood a natural disaster area was not declared by the then Minister for Emergency Services due to the isolated nature of the event.

(2) As water supply damage is not usually eligible for assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief Fund, special consideration was given by the former Minister for Local Government and Planning for assisting this project through the Smaller Communities Assistance Program. A grant of up to \$1,150,947 was provided to the Council under the Smaller Communities Assistance Program towards the estimated cost of \$1,300,947 to restore the damage.

(3) The financial impact on ratepayers in the area (in particular water consumers) if assistance was not provided.

836. Police Beats

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (12/11/98)—

With reference to his statement in the House that "Police Beats" were an initiative of the Labor Government—

Will he investigate the facts and confirm the following (a) the first "Police Beat" was an initiative of the Queensland Police Service and CJC during the 1989 National Party Government, (b) it was opened by the then Minister for Police, Mr Vince Lester, (c) it was sited in Cavill Mall, Surfers Paradise, (d) it was

later closed by the then Police Minister, the Member for Chatsworth and (e) after further consideration it was re-opened by the Member for Chatsworth?

Mr BARTON (14/12/98):

- (a) The first Police Beat commenced operation in May 1993 in Toowoomba.
- (b) No.
- (c) No.
- (d) No.
- (e) No.

837. Gladstone Hospital

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Treasurer (12/11/98)—

With reference to proceeds from the sale of land to the Mater Hospital for co-location which were allocated to two projects at the Gladstone Hospital (a new morgue and refurbishment of necessary accommodation) and given the current morgue fails to meet most health and workplace standards and accommodation is needed to ensure stable services provision—

When will the funds be released for this critical work?

Mr HAMILL (15/12/98): Current Government policy is for funds from the sale of assets (including land) to be returned to the General Budget to meet overall Government spending priorities, including Health. No Departmental documentation or records are available confirming a commitment or arrangement the previous Government gave to link the proceeds from the sale of Gladstone Hospital land to the above projects (a new morgue and refurbishment of necessary accommodation). If, indeed, such a commitment was provided in some way by the previous Government, it was not an undertaking given by the (present) Government prior to the election.

It is certainly recognised that improvements to Gladstone Hospital are needed and worthy of further detailed consideration. In this regard consultations will occur between Treasury and Health to fund these important projects as soon as is practical.

838. Literacy and Numeracy

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (12/11/98)—

With reference to his decision to table the 1997 and 1998 reports of the Queensland School Curriculum Council (QSCC) on the Year 6 assessment of student literacy and numeracy levels in 1995, 1996 and 1997—

- (1) Isn't information of this nature prescribed as 'exempt' under Queensland's freedom-of-information legislation?
- (2) Does he believe that it is appropriate to release material which Parliament has ruled should be exempt from public scrutiny; if so, does he plan to table any other FOI-exempt material such as OP scores, for example?
- (3) Does he intend to seek Cabinet approval to amend the FOI provisions exempting this

and/or similar aggregate student data, so that it is no longer exempt?

- (4) Does he intend to release the QSCC report on the recent Year 5 test (replacing the Year 6 test) as soon as it becomes available?

Mr WELLS (11/12/98):

1. Section 5(1)(j)(ii) of the Freedom of Information Regulation 1992 states that the Freedom of Information Act 1992 does not apply to the Queensland School Curriculum Council in relation to individual and aggregate student data about approved tests within the meaning of the Education (School Curriculum P-10) Act 1996. This means that access to this data is not available to persons under the provisions of the Freedom of Information legislation.

2. The Freedom of Information Act 1992 is not intended to prevent or discourage other publication of information or the giving of access to documents (including documents containing exempt matter or exempt documents). As such, Parliament has not ruled that such information be exempt from public scrutiny, merely that access is not made under the provisions of this legislation. Schools already make OP information and other aggregate student data available in their annual reports under policies established by the previous Minister for Education. Aggregate OP and other student data have been tabled in Parliament for many years in the Annual Report of the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies. For many years, old aggregate student data have been made available for public scrutiny through the Annual National Report on Schooling in Australia.

3. No. At this stage I am not aware of any reason to request any amendments to the Freedom of Information legislation.

4. The results of the 1998 Years 3 and 5 Literacy and Numeracy Testing Program are currently being analysed by officers of the Queensland School Curriculum Council. Following this analysis, the Council will prepare its report on Statewide performance of students in aspects of literacy and numeracy in Queensland 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998. When I have received the report I will give careful consideration to the most appropriate strategies to be adopted in order to publish its findings and recommendations.

839. Beerwah Police Station

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/11/98)—

- (1) Was any study or consultation process conducted prior to the recent decision to establish a major police station at Beerwah rather than Landsborough; if so, did the study take into account (a) the population distribution around the two towns (giving details), (b) the response times to towns serviced by the current station (giving details) and (c) the crime statistics for the area being served by the current station (giving details); if not, why not?
- (2) Was consultation with local people carried out in such towns as Landsborough and Mooloolah; if so, what was the result; if not, why not?

- (3) Was the current location of the Landsborough Court House taken into account?

Mr BARTON (17/12/98):

(1) A policing needs analysis which documented such factors as the crime rates for Landsborough Division and the major townships in that Division, the calls for service frequencies, types and times in various suburbs and the population growth trends in various areas within the Division was undertaken between April and June 1998, during the term of the previous Government. The report based on the Coalition Government's needs analysis is dated 3 June 1998.

(a) In terms of the population distribution around the two towns, I am advised that the previous Government's needs analysis provided information which is easily summarised by the following two tables. As Table 1 indicates, Landsborough, Beerwah, Mooloolah and Peachester were expected to experience the most growth (117%) between 1996 and 2011. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane) Although it was not possible to obtain accurate population projections to determine how much growth each of these individual suburbs will experience in the future, their individual growth over 1986 to 1996 was examined (see Table 2) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane). This examination indicated that, based on Census Info provided by the Caloundra City Council, Beerwah recorded the largest population in 1996 (the last census period). Beerwah's population growth over 1986-1996 was also 40% larger than Landsborough's over the same period.

(b) I am advised that the response times to towns serviced by the current station did not play a major part in the previous Government's analysis, as it was not deemed at the time to be an adequate measure of the need for a police station in the area. Crime data, calls for service and population trends were considered more relevant to determining the police resources required in the area. However, measures of the distances and travel times from Beerwah and Landsborough to each of the nearest major police stations were taken (Caloundra and Caboolture Stations).

(c) Crime statistics, and more importantly, calls for service figures (which I am advised give a better indication of community needs) were analysed. It was considered that both of these sources of data suggested that Beerwah had a greater need for increased police resources than Landsborough (see Tables 3 and 4) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

(2) I am advised that community interest, in relation to policing in the Landsborough/ Beerwah area, was one of the factors that generated the Coalition Government's needs analysis. I have also been advised that the former Minister, Russell Cooper

MLA and your former parliamentary colleague, Neil Turner carried out a series of public meetings in Beerwah throughout 1997 and early 1998 to discuss policing needs in the area. The needs analysis was subsequently carried out in order to gain an objective view of whether a new police station was needed, and if such a need were identified, where it should be located. I am unable to provide advice on the reasons why the previous government did not hold similar meetings in Mooloolah or Landsborough at that time. The previous Government's intention to establish the new police station at Beerwah was made clear, however, in a press release dated 14 May 1998, which read—

"Mr Cooper said the budget also made provision for relocation of the Mooloolaba shopfront to a more appropriate site, acquiring land at Beerwah for a new station and ..."

(3) The current location of the Landsborough Court House was considered by police management following the results of the needs analysis.

840. Families, Youth and Community Care Department, Capital Works Program

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/11/98)—

With reference to the capital works Budget of her department—

- (1) Will she list all capital works projects to be funded directly and indirectly by the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, or other portfolio agencies, during 1998-99?
- (2) What is the expected cost and the estimated commencement and completion date of each project?
- (3) What is the intended purpose of each project and the electorate in which each is to be constructed?
- (4) How much is expected to be expended each quarter on capital works by her department and other portfolio agencies?
- (5) How many jobs are expected to be created through this capital works program?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98):

1. See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
2. See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
3. See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
4. See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
5. See attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

841. Challinor Centre; Basil Stafford Centre

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/11/98)—

With reference to her announcement that a centre for a maximum of 24 people from the Challinor Centre will be constructed in Loganlea and given that the Ministerial Portfolio statement for the Department of Families, Youth and Community Care states that of the 59 people still residing at Challinor, 43 will move to new centres in south east Queensland regions and that the remaining 16 will move to community-based accommodation—

- (1) What is the expected cost of the new centre and the estimated construction timetable?
- (2) To where and when will the remaining 19 people moving to new centres be relocated and at what cost?
- (3) To where and when will the remaining 16 residents moving to community-based accommodation be relocated and at what cost?
- (4) What are the immediate plans for the Basil Stafford Centre and its residents?
- (5) What is the expected cost of implementing these plans?
- (6) Will the Basil Stafford Centre be used as a transitional centre or will available spaces be filled on a permanent basis?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98):

1. The new centre is expected to cost approximately \$2.5m to construct and will be completed and ready for occupancy by July 1999.
2. The remaining people will be placed at a centre to be built in the Ipswich area with negotiations currently under way with the Ipswich community over a potential site. The cost of the Ipswich centre is not clear at this point but would be expected to be similar to the cost of the Loganlea centre.
3. All but three of the 16 people have now relocated to their new homes in the community. The three people who have not relocated are now living in interim accommodation at Eight Mile Plains until their purpose built house is ready in the Ashgrove area. The total cost of relocating all 16 people will be approximately \$1.2m.
4. As indicated in the Budget papers for the 1998-99 Budget, it is intended to provide the opportunity for people living at Basil Stafford Centre to relocate to community based accommodation over the next three years. Funding has been provided for up to 55 people to relocate from the centre which will leave some 30 to 40 residents in the centre.
5. An amount of \$11.46m has been allocated over four years to relocate the 55 people from Basil Stafford Centre.
6. The Basil Stafford Centre will continue to provide long term accommodation for the existing residents. The only variation to this is that 15 people from Challinor Centre are currently living in interim accommodation at Basil Stafford Centre while waiting for the Loganlea and Ipswich centres to be constructed. It is not planned to fill any vacancies at

Basil Stafford Centre caused by the relocation of the 55 people over the next four years.

842. Auburn Road Upgrade

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/11/98)—

With reference to Auburn Road running north from Chinchilla, which is a designated State road and which beef producers who use this road assert the overly wet winter and spring of 1998 have caused extensive damage to this road they use to access markets and services—

- (1) What short term funding is to be spent on this State road for repairs?
- (2) What long term funding is to be allocated to the upgrade of the Auburn Road?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/98):

(1) This road is maintained by Chinchilla Shire Council for Main Roads under a Road Maintenance Performance Contract. Approximately \$75,000 is allocated for routine maintenance for the year, most of which will provide for maintenance of the unsealed sections. To date, \$40,000 has been spent on repairs. Officers of both Council and Main Roads will determine which works are necessary and whether additional funding is needed to provide maintenance to an appropriate standard. In addition, approximately \$80,000 will be spent on resealing approximately 14 kilometres of the sealed section of road this financial year.

(2) The Roads Implementation Program 1998-99 to 2002-03 provides for funding to extend the sealed length of the road. \$100,000 has been provided in the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme in 1999-2000, with indicative funding of \$250,000 beyond that. This funding will be matched with an equal contribution from Chinchilla Shire Council.

The Roads Implementation Program also provides an indicative forward allocation of \$600,000 in 2000-01 to 2002-03. The indicative allocations will be re-evaluated annually as priorities and needs are reviewed consistent with funds available.

843. Disabled Citizens, Motorised Appliances

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/11/98)—

Will she investigate the need for subsidising motorised scooters for the disabled, thus enabling them the freedom to have equal opportunities and improve their quality of life and the elimination of the 22 per cent sales tax which they attract?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98): I have received a number of representations recently concerning the funding of motorised wheelchairs and scooters. Clearly, I am keen to ensure that, wherever possible, people with a disability can have full access to the community. However, funding for these aids needs to be considered in the light of other funding priorities. It may be that some motorised appliances will be funded by my Department as part of an

individual's Adult Lifestyle Support packages funded through Labor's record \$126.2m commitment over four years to unmet need within the disability sector. Funding packages under this Program will be made available on the basis of priority of need across Queensland to ensure that those most in need are supported. I will continue to work to enhance access for people with a disability.

In relation to the possibility of a stamp duty exemption, the Member should direct his question to the Treasurer, who is responsible for sales tax issues.

844. Gympie Hospital

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Health (17/11/98)—

- (1) As it is becoming increasingly apparent that the downgrading of the Gympie Hospital is imminent, requiring patients to be transferred to Nambour or Noosa, what measures will be put in place to alleviate the problem of reduced access to families and loved ones in their time of crisis?
- (2) Does she accept that there is added risk to patients, including a significant number of elderly patients travelling the 70 plus kilometres of dangerous highway?
- (3) With the Labor Party's posturing on jobs, jobs, jobs, will she guarantee that there will be no permanent or casual job losses amongst hospital staff, which is a major source of employment to the Gympie community?

Mrs EDMOND (14/12/98):

(1) There are no plans to downgrade services at Gympie Hospital and there will be no impact on Gympie Hospital patients, their families or loved ones.

(2) As services will not be reducing there will not be any added risk to Gympie Hospital patients with regard to additional highway travel.

(3) I have stated no permanent employees at Gympie Hospital will lose their jobs.

845. Tablelands, Road Upgrades

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/11/98)—

What is the current situation with regards to road upgrades in the Topaz area of the Tablelands?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/98): Officers of the Department of Main Roads recently met with a group of residents from the Topaz area to discuss their concerns regarding Topaz Road. After site inspections, Main Roads agreed to carry out the following works:

additional slashing/herbicide of grass on shoulders to enhance visibility;

installation of additional signage and guide posts to improve delineation of the roadway; and

progressive extension and or repair of culverts to provide a consistent formation width.

846. Ipswich, Disabled Citizens Centre

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/11/98)—

With reference to a public meeting held in the suburb of Brassall, Ipswich on 14 November where the people overwhelmingly declined to have a centre for handicapped people built on vacant land off Workshops Street—

- (1) What steps will she now take to stop this proposal for the purchase of land for a Challinor Centre?
- (2) What other locations has she given consideration to?
- (3) When does she intend making it public to settle the unrest in the Ipswich West community of Brassall?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98):

1. There has been no decision taken to acquire land in the Brassall area. Staff of my Department have been engaged in a thorough and genuine process of consultation with the Ipswich community, including the Ipswich City Council. I have recently released a media statement in the Ipswich area which has indicated that I am intending not to finalise my decision in relation to Brassall until I am sure that the local community understands the proposal and has made an informed decision about the proposal.

2. A number of local community members appear to have made statements that are incorrect or misinformed and I have taken steps to attempt to correct this situation through the release of a Fact Sheet. The people with disabilities who are to live at the Ipswich centre are long term residents of the Ipswich community and I have recently agreed to a taskforce being established with the Ipswich City Council to identify a suitable site and a welcoming community. Staff of my Department have considered a total of some 12 sites in the Ipswich area in areas such as Yamanto, Silkstone, Bundamba, Raymonds Hill and Raceview. I have agreed with the recommendations that none of these other sites wholly meet the needs of this group of people to be part of the local community and have ready access to local shops and public transport.

3. I am concerned that this proposal has caused such unrest in the community but would hope that the local residents will recognise that the people with disabilities concerned are not a risk to the local community in any way and that the establishment of this centre will not affect local real estate values.

847. Maryborough Base Hospital; Mr T. Aitken

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Health (17/11/98)—

With reference to Mr Thomas Aitken of Mungar who, on 8 September, had a colostomy at the Maryborough Base Hospital under a general anaesthetic at a cost of \$154 and awoke unattended, on a folding chair, in a room he described as a closet just big enough to hold three chairs and two trolley beds—

- (1) Is this considered good, responsible medical practice?
- (2) Is this the standard of medical care pensioners such as Mr Aitken can expect from our redeveloped, upgraded hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (14/12/98):

(1) It is inappropriate to comment on the specifics of Mr Aitken's case. With modern day medical practice, patients undergoing colonoscopies are not given a general anaesthetic but are sedated with short acting and short duration medications. Also, day only patients are seated in a chair while awaiting treatment. After the procedure the patients remain in the recovery room until they are alert and their observations are stable. The patients are then placed in a recliner chair in a designated room within a ward until able to be discharged. The ward is appropriately staffed.

(2) Day only procedures are provided at Maryborough Hospital using the main operating theatres. Allocation of a bed depends on the patient's post-operative condition. If the patient's post operative condition warranted that he/she be allocated a bed, one would have been made available.

848. Hervey Bay-Maryborough West Rail Link

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/11/98)—

With reference to the proposed train link between Hervey Bay and Maryborough West Railway Station where the bus is ready to go, is in Queensland Rail colours and has been built to train link specifications and the people of Hervey Bay are anxious to have this service operating—

- (1) What is the reason for the hold up in having this vital service operational?
- (2) Is the service only waiting on approval from his office?
- (3) Are processes already in place for this train link to be operational?
- (4) When will the operators of the bus be given approval to commence the service?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/98):

- (1) There has been no hold up.
- (2) Introduction of any trainlink service is a commercial matter for Queensland Rail and does not require Ministerial approval.
- (3) The service commenced on 7 December 1998.
- (4) See (2).

849. Jimboomba, Respite Centre

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (17/11/98)—

With reference to her decision to reverse the commitment by the previous Government to construct a respite centre at Jimboomba and to correspondence to the Community Care Committee at Jimboomba in which she has advised that she has received advice from Crown Law that because

recurrent funds were not allocated the Government will not build the centre—

Will she provide correspondence between her department and Crown Law regarding this matter?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98): The Member will be aware that it is not accepted practice to release Crown Law advice in relation to any matter whatsoever, on the basis that the legal privilege in relation to that document, and other Crown Law documents, can be eroded through such action. However, I can assure the Member that I acted on the basis of Crown Law advice which unequivocally stated that a capital funding agreement for the proposed centre was unable to be finalised in the absence of recurrent operational funding. Such funding was not identified as a priority for the Jimboomba area by the Department while you were the responsible Minister.

850. Mulgrave Electorate, Railway Level Crossings

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/11/98)—

- (1) How many railway level crossings are there in the electorate of Mulgrave?
- (2) With the advent of the diesel train travelling at 170km/h, how many of these crossings are to be upgraded and how many will require closure?
- (3) As no Budget has been allocated for safety upgrading for this project, when is it anticipated that any safety upgrades will begin?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/98):

(1) There are currently 86 public level crossings in the Mulgrave electorate of which 7 are equipped with flashing light protection. In addition there are 49 occupation crossings for the private use of adjoining land owners.

(2 & 3) Level crossing safety is an ongoing issue with current train services, and upgrading of protection by way of improving visibility and providing active protection (flashing lights or boom gates) is constantly reviewed on a statewide priority basis. This is also undertaken in response to specific rail service initiatives, such as the Rockhampton Tilt Train project and current projects to increase freight and coal train speeds south of Townsville and on the coal systems.

At this early planning stage, prioritising of level crossing upgrades has not yet commenced, and it is not determined which crossings, if any, in the Mulgrave electorate will be upgraded. Rationalising of existing crossings will also be investigated in consultation with local authorities, adjoining landowners and other stakeholders.

Train speeds are limited to an assessed safe speed in all circumstances, in accordance with the level of protection at road crossings.

851. Greenhouse Strategy

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (17/11/98)—

- (1) What is the timeframe for the development of a Queensland Greenhouse Strategy?
- (2) Which Government departments are involved in its development?
- (3) What will be the key components of the strategy?
- (4) What are the estimated costs associated with implementing a Queensland Greenhouse Strategy?

Mr ELDER (15/12/98):

1. The 1998 National Greenhouse Strategy was launched at Parliament House in Canberra on 26 November 1998. Queensland has endorsed the National Greenhouse Strategy, which provides a comprehensive nationwide framework for action to tackle greenhouse issues in Australia. Queensland is now obliged to develop an Implementation Plan, to be called the Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy, to outline the measures Queensland will implement to abate greenhouse gas emissions and fulfil our obligations under the National Greenhouse Strategy.

Queensland's Response Strategy will be finalised by June 1999.

2. The Departments of Environment and Heritage (chair), State Development, Treasury, Mines and Energy, Communication and Information and Local Government and Planning, Natural Resources, Primary Industries, Transport, Public Works, and Main Roads are represented on the Taskforce.

3. and 4. Responsibility for preparation of the Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy lies with the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources. It is more appropriate that questions in relation to the Strategy and its implementation costs be directed to the Hon. Rod Welford MLA.

852. Local Government, Draft Protocol

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/11/98)—

With reference to a draft protocol developed between regional managers of the Department of Environment and the Local Government Reference Group—

- (1) When will the draft protocol be released for public comment?
- (2) What is the timeframe for public comment on the draft protocol?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98): The Protocol was developed in 1994 and renegotiated in 1996 to establish the roles and responsibilities of local government and State Government in managing Queensland's environment and implementing the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The Protocol has been developed in consultation with the Local Government Association of Queensland, representative Councils and representatives of the Department of Environment and Heritage. It is my intention to forward the draft Protocol to the Local Government Association of

Queensland for comment and for distribution to all Councils for their comment. As the Protocol is purely an administrative arrangement it is not intended to conduct public consultation on this matter.

The Protocol will be available early in the new year for Councils to comment upon.

853. Grain Growers, Drought Assistance

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (17/11/98)—

With reference to the review of the State's drought policy which started during the week commencing 15 November and to the calls by Darling Downs grain growers for the application of exceptional circumstances—

- (1) Which shires of Queensland remain drought declared (State and Federal) and what is their seasonal outlook?
- (2) Is the drought declaration status of these shires under review?
- (3) What are the terms of reference and the timeframe for the review of the State drought policy?
- (4) What assistance is available to producers under the Natural Disaster Relief Scheme and exceptional circumstances assistance?
- (5) Does he and his department support the calls for exceptional circumstances assistance to the Darling Downs grain industry?
- (6) On what basis does he support their calls; if not, why not?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. The following Shires and part Shires currently are officially drought declared under State processes:

Belyando, Calliope, Duarina, Eidsvold, Emerald, Esk, Fitzroy, Kilcoy, Kilkivan, Livingstone, Monto, Mount Morgan, Murgon, Nebo, Peak Downs, as well as that part of Banana Shire north of the Dawson Highway, that part of Broadsound Shire west of the Connors Range and that part of Flinders Shire south of the Great Northern Railway line.

The following Shire and part Shires are officially declared under Commonwealth Drought Exceptional Circumstance processes, effective from the dates indicated:

October 1994—Nebo, Belyando, Broadsound, Peak Downs, Emerald, Livingstone Fitzroy, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton City, Banana, Calliope, Monto and Eidsvold.

Reinstated 28 August 1997—Crows Nest, Esk, Kilkivan, Kingaroy, Murgon, Nanango, Rosalie, Wondai, and that part of Wambo Shire north east of the Warrego Highway.

Reinstated 8 April 1998—The area within Flinders Shire south of the railway line; the area of Winton Shire north of the Landsborough Highway between Chorregon and Winton and east of the Winton to Hughenden Road; and the area within Aramac Shire west of the Aramac-Torrens Creek Road.

Reinstated 7 July 1998—The portion of Duarina Shire north of the Capricorn Highway (through the towns of Blackwater and Duarina).

With the exception of the Gulf Country and Far North West, much of the State experienced useful rainfall during October and November to date.

Some serious surface and underground water storage deficiencies remain.

The average Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) for October was +11.16 while the average SOI for the last thirty days (ending 22 November) was strongly positive at +14.47. Use of the Australian Rainman package indicates that the probabilities of obtaining median rainfall during the November-January period are generally sixty to eighty percent in the Eastern States of Australia. However, parts of North-western and Central-western Queensland have probabilities of about fifty percent.

2. The drought declarations of shires declared under State processes are constantly being monitored. There will be formal assessments undertaken by Local Drought Committees when they consider there has been sufficient rain to meet the criteria for revocation of drought status.

With respect to the Commonwealth Drought Exceptional Circumstance declared areas, these will be reviewed by the Rural Adjustment Scheme Advisory Committee at the discretion of the Federal Minister for Primary Industries.

3. A committee, known as the Queensland Drought Policy Review Working Group is undertaking a comprehensive review of Queensland's 1992 Drought Policy Paper, titled "Drought—Managing for Self-Reliance". An important component of that document was a commitment by the Government to review and evaluate the policy after a reasonable period of time. This Review is being conducted in line with that commitment.

The Committee, which comprises both industry and Government representatives, will consider and report on the appropriateness, performance and future direction of Queensland's Drought Policy. The Review process will involve widespread consultation with stakeholders and interested parties, including primary producers, producer organisations, the rural sector and Government agencies.

Following analysis of the submissions, it is planned that the Working Group will present its report to Cabinet in mid 1999.

4. Under the Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (NDRA), primary producers in declared disaster areas are provided access to concessional loans (currently at 4.0% per annum) for carry-on, restocking and restoration purposes. This relief measure is designed to assist in meeting the needs of primary producers to recover following natural disasters of substantial magnitude. The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority administers this measure.

Concessional loans are also provided to producers under Individual Disaster Stricken Property declarations. These occur where a disaster area

declaration is not warranted due to an isolated or small area only being affected.

There is also provision under NDRA measures for the Department of Primary Industries to administer freight subsidies for the movement of livestock, fodder, water, building and fencing materials and machinery and equipment. This is only invoked where losses have been substantial and the need is demonstrated for that additional form of assistance, outside the standard measures.

The forms of assistance provided under the Commonwealth Exceptional Circumstances (EC) provisions include—

Exceptional Circumstances Relief Payment (an income support payment equivalent to New Start Allowance for the period of declaration, as well as a twelve month recovery period;

special access to Health Care Card and Family Payments;

special assessment provisions for AUSTUDY eligibility by the exclusion of on-farm assets from the assets test; and

interest subsidies of up to 100 percent have been provided under EC provisions of the Rural Adjustment Scheme for carry-on finance, debt restructuring and productivity improvement. These are to be phased down from 100 percent in 1998-99 to fifty percent in 2001-02 when it will be reviewed.

5. I have indicated in my press release of 12 November 1998 my support for recognition of an exceptional circumstance event for grain growers as a result of the exceptional rain events over the last four months and the devastating impact of the rains on the winter crop harvest.

6. My Department currently is assessing rainfall recordings, cropping data and the financial position of producers in the grain growing areas of Southern and Central Queensland against the Exceptional Circumstance (EC) criteria.

Industry is collating data, particularly information on the impact to farm finances.

Following a thorough assessment of meteorological, financial and crop yield data against the eligibility criteria for an EC declaration, I will be expediting a joint Government and industry submission to the Commonwealth for consideration by the Rural Adjustment Scheme Advisory Council.

854. Maroochy Road Upgrade; Mr R. Marshall

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/11/98)—

How much money has been spent to date in legal fees by this Government associated with the fighting of the compensation claim by Mr M R Marshall in relation to the flooding of his property in 1992, subsequent to the Maroochy Road upgrade, Bruce Highway to the Sunshine Motorway over Eudlo Creek?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/98): On 1 February 1986, an area of 5555 square metres was resumed from Mr Marshall's property, described as Lot 2 on RP 182906 Parish of Mooloolah.

A claim for compensation of \$4,532,692.00 was submitted by Mr Marshall on 21 April 1986, including an allowance for drainage work he considered necessary as a result of the resumption.

On 5 January 1987, an assessment of compensation of \$20,250.00 was prepared for the Department of Main Roads. A second opinion obtained for Court purposes increased this figure to \$31,000.00.

Numerous conferences were held in an unsuccessful effort to settle the matter out of Court

In August 1996, a hearing commenced before the Land Court. Mr Marshall amended his claim to \$1,253,904.24 and Main Roads defended a figure of \$31,000.00.

The Court decision, in the sum of \$348,446.00 plus interest and fees, was handed down on 20 February 1998. Mr Marshall appealed the decision to the Land Appeal Court and, on advice from Counsel, the Crown has lodged a cross appeal.

855. Moggill Road Upgrade

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/11/98)—

With reference to the Road Implementation Program 1998-99 to 2002-3 and, in particular, page SE-11—

Why has the duplication of Moggill Road from (2) two to (4) four lanes in the areas of Rafting Ground Road to Pullenvale Road and Kenmore Road to Pinjarra Road been deferred/extended from the period 2000-01 out to 2002-03?

Mr BREDHAUER (17/12/98): Dr Watson would be aware that Brisbane City Council has a number of very significant trunk water mains, some of which are older than 100 years, in the Moggill Road reserve between Kenmore and Pinjarra Roads. For the Rafting Ground Road to Pullenvale Roads section, there has been extensive negotiations with Council and considerable design effort to minimise the impact of road construction on these mains, which are very expensive to relocate. Agreement has been reached with Council, which has advised that relocation of the affected water mains will commence next year. Because of the need to complete the relocations first and the long lead times for Council to purchase the water pipes, road construction on this section of Moggill Road is unable to commence until mid 2000.

In the previous Roads Implementation Program, the remaining sections of Moggill Road between Kenmore and Pinjarra Roads were in the second section of the program; that is, indicative forward allocations for projects which are being considered for construction but which are re-evaluated annually on a needs basis. In the current program, these projects have been retained in that section and I can advise the Member for Moggill that planning on these projects is continuing.

856. Environment and Heritage Department; Natural Resources Department

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (17/11/98)—

What internal restructure is proposed for the departments within his portfolios, how is this restructure to be achieved (by administrative direction, regulation or legislation) and what accountability streams are proposed?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98): Establishing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is one of the major platforms of this Government's environmental policies.

The EPA will provide for integration of environmental protection with planning, resource management and infrastructure development.

Other functions will deal directly with the sustainable development of the State of Queensland, including facilitating establishment of new businesses in fields of waste management, land rehabilitation, sustainable energy and energy conservation, transport, communication, training and environmental research and technology. Growth in these fields will increase employment opportunities and offer long term prospects in sustainable industries.

It is proposed that the EPA will be a Government department. Arrangements for establishing the EPA will be determined by the Office of the Public Service. As a Government department, the EPA will be headed by a Director-General who will be the accountable officer for finance, audit and other statutory requirements.

It is also proposed that a Government entity will be established, as a part of the EPA, to administer protected areas, including national parks and marine parks.

857. Mundubbera State School

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Education (17/11/98)—

With reference to the overcrowded situation at the Mundubbera State School which currently only offers classes to grade 10 level—

- (1) As Mundubbera is a growing community, what plans are in hand to overcome the current overcrowding at the school?
- (2) Is it appropriate or satisfactory for students completing grade 10 at Mundubbera to travel 48kms on a bus to Gayndah to attend years 11 and 12?
- (3) What criteria does Mundubbera State School need to meet to have the available classes extended to offer grades 11 and 12?
- (4) Given that students at Eidsvold have very limited access to senior subjects and no access to a bus to other schools, will the students at Eidsvold be counted when numbers are being evaluated for a senior school at Mundubbera?
- (5) When a senior school is established at Mundubbera, will a bus service be provided from Eidsvold?

Mr WELLS (11/12/98):

1. As at August 1998, 118 Years 8 to 10 students were enrolled at Mundubbera Secondary Department. Peak enrolments occurred in this section of the school in 1975 when 140 students

attended Years 8 to 10 classes. Thus, this school has catered for higher enrolments than those existing at present. Consequently, Departmental officers have not identified the need for additional accommodation.

2. By travelling from Mundubbera to Gayndah, students in Years 11 and 12 have access to a wider curriculum choice than Education Queensland would currently be able to provide if senior secondary classes were established at Mundubbera State School.

3. At this time there are no plans to extend Mundubbera to Years 11 and 12. More recent planning guidelines for primary and secondary education focus on the service structure of the rural areas rather than exclusively upon student numbers.

4. Senior secondary classes were established under earlier planning guidelines to assist students in a relatively isolated area such as Eidsvold. The inclusion of these students in forecasts for Years 11 and 12 classes at Mundubbera would be one of a number of options which could be considered in relation to any extension to include senior secondary education at Mundubbera. This scenario would require the closure of the existing senior years in Eidsvold.

5. All secondary students living in excess of 4.8km from their nearest state secondary establishment are eligible for subsidised transport. The Department of Transport would investigate the most appropriate means for this.

858. Computers in Schools

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Education (17/11/98)—

With reference to the increasing use of computer/information technology (IT) in our schools—

- (1) What consideration is the Government giving to help schools defray the costs of on-going maintenance of their IT systems?
- (2) What consideration has the Government given to help schools with on-line help if they are experiencing difficulties in operating their IT systems?

Mr WELLS (11/12/98):

1. Under the Schooling 2001 project, all schools receive funds each year for the repair, maintenance, upgrade and replacement of learning technology resources. Expenditure guidelines for these grants allow schools to expend these funds in areas such as extension of local area networks, technical support and ongoing maintenance. Schools decide on the most appropriate way of allocating these funds. In 1998/99, maintenance funds of \$12.375m were provided to schools through the Schooling 2001 project.

In addition, all schools will receive a technology enhancement grant in one of the three years of the Schooling 2001 project. These funds can be used by schools to improve the student-computer ratio and to establish or extend school networks.

The Schooling 2001 grants are not the only source of funds that schools may access to help maintain their IT Systems (technology) in schools. As the use of technology impacts on the learning of all students in all curriculum areas, general school grants allocated to these areas also may be used.

2. Under the Department's District Office structure, schools have access to dedicated, skilled technical support, through the District Systems Technicians that are available to provide assistance to schools with regard to administrative and corporate IT systems. Likewise, Education Advisers (Learning Technology), have a role in assisting teaching staff to enhance their learning and teaching through the use of technology.

Through the enhancement and development of the Department's IT systems, and major IT roll-out programs of the Connect-Ed Project, the School's LAN project, the School's Information Management System (SMS) Project, and the Year 2000 Compliance Project, that are directly targeted at Schools, dedicated and responsive IT Help-desks (support services) have been established to provide assistance and guidance to support Schools.

In addition, the Department is currently establishing a New Technologies Steering Committee, and within the scope of this activity is the intent to assess the needs of IT support within Schools and develop proposals to provide appropriate IT skills and technical support across Schools, within current and emerging technologies, and affordable and attainable best practice standards.

859. Liquor Licensing Fees

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (17/11/98)—

- (1) As liquor licensing fees are no longer directly payable by all hospitality businesses purchasing alcohol in Queensland, why must it remain necessary for businesses to maintain a liquor purchases register, which is a costly administrative burden (particularly for small business)?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking that he will immediately review this practice?

Mr GIBBS (9/12/98):

(1) The register was introduced to maintain an audit trail which could be used to ensure that the Liquor Subsidy Scheme was being correctly applied by wholesalers. The previous Government supported an amendment to the Liquor Act 1992 which had the register in place until July 1999.

(2) The liquor purchases register will be reviewed as part of the National Competition Policy review of the Liquor Act 1992.

860. Electricity Entities

Mr MITCHELL asked the Treasurer (17/11/98)—

- (1) What is the total amount of dividends the Shareholding Ministers have requested (by direction under section 159(4)(b) of the

Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 or otherwise) all State electricity entities, under the Electricity Act 1994, to pay for the financial year ended 30 June 1998?

- (2) What is the total amount of all tax equivalents all State electricity entities, under the Electricity Act 1994, have been required to pay for the financial year ended 30 June 1998?
- (3) What is the total of any other amounts (other than dividends or tax equivalents), if any, all State electricity entities, under the Electricity Act 1994, have been required to pay since 30 June 1998?
- (4) If payments of any other amounts have been required to be paid, (a) what are these payments for and (b) by what authority have these payments been required to be paid?

Mr HAMILL (17/12/98):

(1) Shareholding Ministers have not issued any directions under section 159(4)(b) of the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 to State electricity entities.

(2) Government Owned Corporations (GOCs) are not subject to federal income or sales taxes. Instead, under the tax equivalent arrangements, they pay to the State amounts equivalent to the income and sales taxes that they would be liable for if they were subject to federal taxes. The amount paid by each GOC is determined in accordance with the Income Tax Assessment Act and the State has no authority to require a GOC to pay a particular amount in income or sales tax.

Based on their reported financial results for 1997-98, State electricity entities:

have paid a total of \$9.55 million in sales tax equivalents; and

are expected to pay a total of \$18.48 million in income tax equivalents.

(3) Since June 30, 1998 State electricity entities, under the Electricity Act 1994, have been required to pay a total of \$316.33 million in amounts other than dividends or tax equivalents.

(4) (a) The amount of \$316.33 million comprises:

\$60.70 million in retail surplus. This relates to the excess profit that the Southern Electricity Retail Corporation accumulates as part of the statewide uniform tariff structure over an interim period before all customers become contestable. This payment was made in the form of \$38.848 million dividend and \$21.852 million income tax prepayment;

\$23.63 million in interest in relation to the delayed payment of \$850 million capital repayment by electricity entities required by the former Borbidge/Sheldon Coalition Government; and

\$232 million payable by the former Queensland Generation Corporation (Austa). This amount comprises \$168 million in forgone dividends in 1996-97 and \$64 million in a wind-up dividend.

(b) The above payments have been required under Section 299 of the Electricity Act 1994.

861. TAFE; Overseas Students

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/11/98)—

With reference to the money and effort expended by TAFE Queensland International staff and their organisation to attract full fee-paying international students—

How does he believe his recent attacks on the quality of VET teaching, both by TAFE and by private training providers, will stimulate the demand from overseas students to study in Queensland?

Mr BRADY (17/12/98): My concern, and the concern expressed in the Smith Report, is not with the quality of individual teachers but with the consequences of the staffing policies of the Borbidge Government that have significantly decreased the number of highly trained professional teachers in our Institute who have the skills to assist students with significant learning needs.

862. TAFE; Teaching Standards

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/11/98)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement of 11 November in which he claimed that teaching standards may be in decline—

On what evidence (rather than opinion and anecdotes) does he base this claim?

Mr BRADY (17/12/98): The rapid deterioration in completion rates for apprentices and trainees over the past few years tells us that something is going very wrong. One possibility is that the current teaching mix is not able to adequately provide the level of professional learning support required by students.

The Smith Report highlights the consequences of the former Government's staffing policies that have decreased the number of highly trained professional teachers in TAFE Institutes who have the skills to assist students with significant learning needs.

863. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/11/98)—

Will he table copies of the ten research papers cited in the departmental report "Apprenticeships and Traineeships : Queensland Trends"?

Mr BRADY (17/12/98): The ten literary sources cited by Dr Smith are fully referenced on pages 1 to 4 of his report. All but eight of these documents are on the public record. The other two documents have been prepared in my department. They are:

"Meeting the Language, Literacy and Numeracy Training Needs of Queensland Apprentices and Trainees"; and

"Literacy Skills Audit—Apprentices from Furnishing and Construction Faculty—Plumbing Department".

864. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/11/98)—

With reference to an apprentice or trainee, employed through a group training scheme who rotates or is likely to rotate through several host employers, being classified as an "additional" apprentice or trainee with some of these host employers but not with others—

How will the Government's incentive bonus be apportioned between the group training scheme and possibly multiple host employers?

Mr BRADY (17/12/98): The employment subsidy is paid to the employer who signs the Training Agreement and, in this case, it would go to the group training company.

865. TAFE; Overseas Students

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/11/98)—

With reference to the Government's concern in relation to the impact of the Pauline Hanson phenomenon on the attitude towards Australia of our near Asian neighbours—

What strategies has his department put in place since they have come to Government in order to attract overseas students to TAFE Queensland and other training institutions within the State?

Mr BRADY (17/12/98): TAFE Queensland is undertaking the following actions—

presence in Asian markets through in country attendance at Education recruitment exhibitions and seminars;

servicing key international educational recruitment agents, providing assurances of TAFE Queensland's commitment to service and support International students;

reviewing agent commission rates to be more market competitive and provide incentives to direct students to Queensland, and Australia;

reviewing product offerings to ensure they meet the needs of the international students;

introducing a CD-rom as a marketing tool for international agents and students, with emphasis on the quality of lifestyle of Queensland;

recognition that the Asian economic crisis is a cause of a decline in student numbers also, and positioning TAFE Queensland in other markets to ensure overall results are maintained in the short term, with growth potential in the medium to long term. These markets include Europe and South America;

supporting TAFE Queensland Institute in forming alliances with universities and private organisations to identify and exploit synergies that will assist market growth; and

maintaining close relationships with Education Queensland to ensure that Queensland markets itself effectively as a united force.

866. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/11/98)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement of 11 November, in which he makes the claim that there is evidence that traineeships are used as wage subsidies for existing workers—

Will he table this evidence?

Mr BRADY (17/12/98): The report by Dr Larry Smith, to which my statement of 11 November referred, states that an issue "that should be investigated as a matter of urgency is the possibility that some employers might be using traineeships as wage subsidies for existing workers." The evidence that this statement was based upon included anecdotal evidence that was presented to Dr Smith during the preparation of the report. This evidence has been supported by evidence provided by regional departmental officers. The similarity in evidence warrants an immediate investigation of the issue.

867. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (17/11/98)—

In each of the years 1994-1998, what was the fall in new apprentice approvals in each of the following trade areas: (a) electrical/electronic, (b) mechanical and fabrication engineering, (c) automotive and (d) food?

Mr BRADY (17/12/98):

	1994-95 to 95-96	1995-96 to 96-97	1996-97 to 97-98
(a)	N/A	149	N/A
(b)	70	51	1
(c)	208	116	73
(d)	121	N/A	6

868. Proactive Intelligence Network

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (17/11/98)—

What are the details of charges laid and convictions recorded as a result of investigations carried out by the Coalition Government's inspired Proactive Investigation Network?

Mr BARTON (17/12/98): The Proactive Intelligence Network (PIN) was implemented to focus on the development of intelligence information. It was never intended that police personnel at PIN conduct investigations nor multiple arrests.

The unit was designed to amalgamate police and correctional resources to harness the expertise from both disciplines in order to obtain maximum benefit from information gathered and generated within the correctional arena.

Since 1 January 1998, intelligence information gathered by PIN and the correctional centre intelligence officers has resulted in a total of 120

persons being arrested in connection with 194 charges.

Examples of arrests include fraudulent entry to correctional centres, assault, deprivation of liberty, possession of drugs and implements, supply drugs, possession of prohibited articles, prepare to escape and trafficking in dangerous drugs.

Results of charges are numerous ranging from fines to terms of imprisonment and in many cases matters are yet to be determined before the Courts.

869. Ambulance Service Subscriptions

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services (17/11/98)—

With reference to the Government providing free ambulance service to pensioners, Seniors Card Holders and their dependants which will extend to more than 800,000 people, most of whom would be subscribers—

- (1) How much will the subscription increase be for subscribers left in the system to cover the shortfall in revenue?
- (2) If subscriptions are not going to increase with the shortfall having to be met from taxpayers funds, what services will be cut to cover this shortfall?
- (3) Has she factored in the increased use of the Ambulance Service because of its now free status, and how will she ensure that specialised vehicles will not be tied up in non-urgent applications when an emergency arises?

Mrs ROSE (17/12/98):

(1) The subscription rates for subscribers will remain the same from 1 January 1999, the date when the Government's initiative to provide free ambulance service to pensioners and Seniors Card holders and their dependants takes effect.

Subscription revenue that was previously provided by approximately 350,000 seniors and pensioners, amounting to \$16.4m per annum, will be provided to the Queensland Ambulance Service from consolidated revenue.

(2) The Queensland Ambulance Service will provide the same quality pre-hospital emergency care ambulance services and non-urgent patient transport services after 1 January 1999 as it has been providing prior to this date.

(3) This Government's initiative has no impact upon the demand by Queenslanders for emergency care ambulance services. Allowance has been made for increased use in non-urgent patient transport services. Specific purpose consolidated revenue funding has been provided to assist with additional operating costs from this expected increased usage.

In 1998/99 financial year an additional 28 Ambulance Transport Officers are to be employed and 12 additional specialised patient transport vehicles acquired to cater for increases in non-urgent patient transport services. This will assist the Queensland Ambulance Service in providing specialised ambulance vehicles to emergency cases. As is the case at present, patients requiring non-acute transport will require authorisation from their medical

practitioner. Bookings for non-acute transport will need to be made the previous day, as is now the case.

870. Education Department, Freedom of Information Applications

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (17/11/98)—

With reference to freedom-of-information applications concerning education—

- (1) How many applications have been lodged since 26 June?
- (2) On which dates were they lodged?
- (3) By whom were they lodged?
- (4) What was the nature of information sought?
- (5) Which applications have been finalised and when?

Mr WELLS (11/12/98):

1. 77 applications have been lodged between 26 June and 20 November 1998.
2. Please refer to attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
3. Please refer to attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
4. Please refer to attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)
5. Please refer to attachment. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

871. Gympie, Bruce Highway Upgrade

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/11/98)—

With reference to the appalling accident history of the Bruce Highway intersections in the section through Gympie, especially the Monkland Street intersection which is the main arterial road to the large residential area of Southside—

Are there any plans for a major upgrade of this dangerous section?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/12/98): The Bruce Highway through Gympie is a National Highway and all works require Federal approval and funding. The National Highway Forward Strategy Report for Queensland for 1998-99 to 2001-02 was forwarded to the former Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Development on 21 August 1998. The report includes a request for funding for rationalising existing intersections and accesses between Cooroy and the Tiaro Shire boundary just north of Gympie, including the Monkland Street intersection.

872. Hervey Bay, Industrial Land and Unemployment

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (18/11/98)—

With reference to industrial land and unemployment in Hervey Bay—

- (1) Is he aware that there are over 20 blocks of industrial land in Hervey Bay that have remained unsold and unused for over 10 years and that the Government is only trying to sell these blocks of land for above expected retail sale prices?
- (2) Is he also aware of the unemployment rate in Hervey Bay (about 28 per cent) and is he prepared to do anything with this unused land to help create employment in Hervey Bay?
- (3) What steps has he planned to reduce unemployment in Hervey Bay?

Mr ELDER (15/12/98):

1. The Department's Hervey Bay Industrial Estate is one of several estates within the Hervey Bay area developed by government, Council and the private sector to cater for industry.

Departmental research has found that there have been few recent sales of vacant industrial land within Hervey Bay. However, on the evidence available, there is no indication of a substantial downturn in market values. The Department's Property Services Group is closely monitoring concluded sales within the region to determine whether any reduction in its level of values is required. In considering this option, the Department is keenly aware of the impact that any substantial reduction in land values may have on established industry already located in the area, with adverse impacts on those seeking finance and tendering their properties as security.

2. and 3. I am aware of the unemployment rate in Hervey Bay. The Department, through the Maryborough State Development Centre, has initiated projects or assisted proponents seeking to develop projects, that are specifically targeted at reducing unemployment at Hervey Bay.

One of these projects is aimed at establishing a game fishing industry at Hervey Bay and developing Australia's first specialised school of game fishing in cooperation with the University of Southern Queensland. As a result of this initiative there are now four game fishing boats based at Urangan Boat Harbour. Although the school will not commence until March next year, there are already 50 applicants for courses and many more are expected. Some of the applicants are from South America, Hawaii and the South Pacific islands. In conjunction with the school, the University is also establishing a Marine Studies and Interpretation Centre which is expected to be under way at the end of 1999.

The Department, with support from the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, is working cooperatively with the Hervey Bay City Council to establish a new tourism industry sector based on disabled tourism. Estimates define that market at \$472 million. There is currently no destination in Australia targeting this market and the topography of Hervey Bay lends itself well to such an opportunity.

In addition, the Department's office in the area has initiated a project in cooperation with the Commonwealth to review the structure of the Hervey Bay economy and develop a strategy to start

building on opportunities to create jobs. The first stage of this project will be completed end of February.

The Maryborough State Development Centre, in cooperation with the Fraser Coast Development Council, is also supporting a site assessment study for an enlarged airport in the area, capable eventually of taking large aircraft to underpin development of tourism infrastructure. On completion of this study, a cost benefit analysis to test financial viability, will be discussed with the Fraser Coast Development Council.

In February 1999, the Department will commence compilation of an International Trade Action Plan for the Hervey Bay/Fraser Coast region. The purpose of the initiative is to increase international trade and related employment opportunities in the region. In consultation with regional stakeholders, the Department's Export Division and the Maryborough State Development Centre will compile an action plan to help local business to exploit international trade opportunities and overcome identified trade barriers. The International Trade Action Plans for the Hervey Bay/Fraser Coast region will be completed by the end of May 1999.

The Government is committed to assisting firms grow and meet the challenges of today's highly competitive market.

On 26 November 1998, I launched the Queensland Industry Development Scheme which provides financial assistance to firms to develop new markets and products, improve profitability and develop world class business systems. This program's key aim is to generate sustainable jobs.

In addition DSD provides a comprehensive range of services to small business as well as assisting individuals considering entering into business with advice and confidence to make commercial decisions.

In creating the Department of State Development, the Government has brought together the key economic agencies within Government to provide a comprehensive service to all business.

873. Casual and Part-time Employment; Family Care and Support Program

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/11/98)—

With reference to the Queensland work force which is becoming increasingly casual and part-time and families are receiving lower wages causing stress within the family environment resulting in breakdown of the family unit—

What is the Government doing to protect families?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98): The State government, through my Department, provides a significant range of preventive, intervention and therapeutic child and family support services across Queensland. My Department provides these services directly through its area offices, its five regional offices and its central Program areas. The department also works collaboratively with a very large number of community based agencies, peak body

representative groups and local government throughout Queensland in its efforts to identify individual, family and community needs and to implement appropriate service response strategies.

These response strategies range from specifically targeted domestic violence intervention services, juvenile crime prevention services and crisis accommodation services to more generalist family support, child care, ageing and child abuse prevention services. I would draw the Member's attention to the department's recently published Annual Report for further information on the department's very broad involvement with Queensland families.

I will however take this opportunity to highlight several specific areas of departmental activity.

Firstly, services which are funded under the Family Care and Support Program. This umbrella Program which incorporates the Family Support Program, the Family Support Worker Program and the Rural Family Support Program assists approved organisations to provide a broad range of support services for families and children through a network of 90 funded services across Queensland. In excess of \$5.25 million in recurrent funding is directed to these services, many of which are located in the state's rural and remote communities.

Secondly, a new Parent Education program on which Departmental staff have worked collaboratively with the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, will initiate a parent education program targeting vulnerable Queensland families. As part of this program, 166 family support workers from non-government organisations throughout Queensland will be trained to enhance their existing work as parent educators. Training will be completed by April 1999 and workers will then commence parent education sessions in their local communities. A notable feature of this initiative is the involvement of the Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Committee in the development of a parent education package for indigenous families. This training package will assist indigenous parents in remote areas across the North Queensland and Gulf communities.

874. Families, Youth and Community Care Portfolio, Budget

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/11/98)—

With reference to the 1998-99 Budget—

- (1) What is the nominal Budget increase for each program and sub-program within her portfolio (including statutory authorities)?
- (2) What is the real Budget increase for each program and sub-program within her portfolio (including statutory authorities) after carryovers from 1997-98 have been deducted?
- (3) What is the total carryover from 1997-98?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98):

1. The nominal budget increase for each program and subprogram is: (Tables and attachments may be

obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

2. The real budget increase for each program and subprogram less 1997-98 carryovers is: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

3. Total carryover for 1997-98 into 1998-99 for Department of Families, Youth and Community Care was \$21.025m.

875. Disabled Citizens, Residential Accommodation

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/11/98)—

With reference to the provision of residential accommodation for people with a disability—

- (1) What is the average cost per person of providing residential accommodation for people with a disability, in each category of need and facility?
- (2) For each of the categories listed above, what is the average cost of providing residential accommodation for people with a disability in (a) facilities owned and operated by the Government, (b) facilities owned and operated by non-Government community organisations and (c) facilities owned and operated by private organisations?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98):

1. The information requested has been sourced from the 1997 Commonwealth/State Disability Agreement Minimum Data Set. There is no category of need information recorded in this document.

2. The average cost of providing residential accommodation for people with disabilities by both government and non-government services is as follows: (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Data in relation to the running of private accommodation is not collected by my Department.

876. Police Resources

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/11/98)—

- (1) What is the criteria the Government has adopted for the provision of police services in a community?
- (2) What is the number of people required before a police station is provided?
- (3) What numerical scale is used to determine the number of police allocated to a community?
- (4) What other factors are taken into consideration when addressing police servicing needs for individual communities?

Mr BARTON (18/12/98):

(1) The Government has given an undertaking to lift police numbers to 9,100 by the year 2005. This is to be achieved by the recruitment and training of an average of approximately 600 recruits each year to

meet growth and attrition. The planned net growth in police numbers through to the year 2005 will result in an average increase of about 325 police officers per year being allocated throughout the State, comparing favourably with net increases under the Coalition Government of just 160 in 1996/97 and 267 in 1997/98.

The ten year plan has been based on the strategic plans developed by each region and focuses on the delivery of policing services to the community. This has been achieved through environmental scans which provide an analysis of population growth and movement, crime and traffic, demographic and social characteristics of the population, urban and suburban residential development, and the impact of commercial activity such as tourism. This forms the basis for the provision of new police stations and the replacement or upgrading of existing stations.

(2) The provision of police stations across Queensland is achieved through the Capital Works Program which is a rolling program reflecting the needs of all police facilities over a ten year period. These needs comprise new and replacement police stations and district offices, special facilities for units such as the Water Police, the upgrading and extension of existing facilities, the upgrading or replacement of watchhouses, and land acquisition.

The program incorporates all regional proposals and priorities together with arising government initiatives and known corporate needs.

There is no specific population target required to justify the construction of new police station. In common with the provision of police staffing resources, community need for a new police station, is determined by a complex mix of factors, including local crime and traffic.

(3) The Queensland Police Service utilises a Regional Allocation Model to determine appropriate strengths for each region, district and division. The model takes into account the crime, population and traffic statistics related to each Division, as well as service delivery and specialist support requirements. The following characteristics are taken into account: population total and demography (youth, Aboriginal, tourist); crime (against the person, against property, other); traffic incidents; domestic violence; extraneous factors; isolation of area and service delivery and specialist support service requirements.

These factors allow an equitable distribution of sworn staff on the basis of the relative needs of Districts and Regions as determined by a comparison of factors which are common to all Regions.

The various factors and formulae contained within the Regional Allocation Model have been endorsed by the Police Service's Board of Management and Senior Executive Conference on a number of occasions. The methodology used also has the support of the Queensland Police Union of Employees.

(4) As outlined above, the Queensland Police Service uses the Regional Allocation Model for the distribution of staff. The model utilises crime, traffic and population statistics and takes into account service delivery requirements which include community policing, the existence of shopfronts, 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.

877. Queensland Events Corporation; Mr B. Stalder

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (18/11/98)—

- (1) When the Queensland Events Corporation negotiates to stage a major event, what process takes place to award contracts for such things as fireworks displays?
- (2) Who is responsible for awarding these contracts?
- (3) What position does Mr Bruce Stalder hold within the Queensland Events Corporation?
- (4) Does the QEC have a preferred contractor for such things as fireworks displays?

Mr GIBBS (9/12/98):

- (1) Queensland Events Corporation does not stage any events. The QEC supports the staging of major events held by various organisers and organisations.
- (2) QEC does not organise events and therefore does not award contracts.
- (3) None.
- (4) The QEC does not stage major events and consequently does not have preferred contractors in this area.

878. Regional Community Forums

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (18/11/98)—

- (1) Will he detail the specific dates and places for Regional Community Forums being conducted by the Government?
- (2) Who will be invited to attend the forums?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/12/98):

- (1) Specific dates have not yet been decided for the Regional Community Forums. The first round of Forums will be held in the first half of 1999, following a series of Regional Community Conferences to be held in each of the eight regions early next year. The Regional Community Conferences will launch the Regional Communities Program in each of the eight regions.

The venues for Forum meetings will vary over time as the intention is to hold Forums in as many larger centres as practicable within each region.

- (2) Forum representatives will be elected by their communities at the opening Regional Community Conferences.

879. Asian Honeybee

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (18/11/98)—

With reference to the recent detection of an outbreak of Asian honeybee (*Apis cerana*) in the Northern Territory—

- (1) What progress has been made in the monitoring and control of this outbreak?
- (2) What assistance has been offered to the Northern Territory Government by his department and has this assistance been accepted?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of controlling and/or eradicating this outbreak?
- (4) Is this cost to be shared between the States; if so, on what basis; if not, why not?
- (5) What action is being taken to prevent the spread of this bee and associated diseases to Queensland and protect the health status of the Queensland bee industry?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

- (1) On Sunday 14 June 1998 an incursion of Asian honeybees was detected in Darwin. The identification of this exotic pest was confirmed and the nest destroyed on the same day. A thorough examination of the nest revealed no evidence of the Varroa mite which is often associated with these bees.

The public has been encouraged to report nests, hives and swarms of bees in the greater Darwin area. All reports have been investigated and, in addition, up to four teams of sweep netters have been catching foraging bees for identification. No further *Apis Cerana* have been detected.

A standstill of beehives and bee equipment was put in place by Northern Territory authorities on 18 June 1998, covering the Darwin suburbs, Palmerston and the Darwin rural area. Exit from the area is covered by 24-hour road check points which were initially established for exotic fruit fly control.

- (2) The Department of Primary Industries has offered the services of a highly experienced apiary inspector and a veterinary officer experienced with these bees on northern Torres Strait islands. The services of the inspector may be used in training NT field staff.

- (3) The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries has proposed an eradication program running for 12 months until June 1999 (as required by Ausvetplan). The total cost of the program has been budgeted at \$285,418.

- (4) Eradication of the Asian honeybee is not included in the cost sharing agreement between the Commonwealth and the States for the control of animal disease outbreaks. However, due to the national significance of the incursion the NT Government is putting a case to the Subcommittee on Agricultural and Resource Management (SCARM) that, in this case, cost sharing should be invoked. If SCARM agrees to this Queensland would pay its share in proportion to the value of our honey industry.

- (5) As an additional safeguard to the standstill imposed in Darwin by the NT authorities, on 6 August 1998 the Apiaries Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 1998 was introduced prohibiting the introduction of Asian honeybees into Queensland. Also the

movement of bees, bee equipment and anything else that is likely to spread this pest or a bee disease from the Northern Territory requires a certificate of approval issued by the chief executive.

880. Giru Daycare Association

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Families, Youth and Community Care and Minister for Disability Services (18/11/98)—

With reference to my letter to her on 2 October concerning the Giru Daycare Association which is suffering financial hardship to the point of having to close down and as they currently receive a Disadvantage Rural Grant of \$2,500 per month but need at least another \$1,000 per month to keep open and being an isolated area with a large working population at the Invicta Sugar Mill, the closure would leave working parents with nowhere to send their children as Ayr to the south is approximately 40 kilometres away and Townsville to the north is approximately 60 kilometres and parents would have to travel long distances to drop and pick up their children—

Has she considered this matter; if so, what form of financial assistance could the Giru Daycare Association access to keep afloat a much needed service to the parents of Giru?

Ms BLIGH (17/12/98): The Giru Daycare Centre was developed as an innovative response to the child care needs of the families of Giru. Capital funding to modify the building to its current form was provided by the State and Commonwealth Government under the National Child Care Strategy. This facility was specifically designed to meet changing needs, in particular the influx of itinerant workers during peak sugar crushing periods at the local sugar mill.

Operational funding to centres such as this was ceased by the Commonwealth Government on 30 June 1997. The Giru Daycare Centre currently receives a Disadvantaged Area Subsidy from the Commonwealth Government.

My Department is responsible for the licensing of the centre under the Child Care Act 1991 and the provision of any resourcing support. I have been advised that meetings with staff of the centre and the Giru Daycare Association have already occurred and a plan is being developed to support the ongoing viability of the service.

It is recognised that since Commonwealth funding changes, in particular, the withdrawal of operational subsidies to community based child care services, many of these centres have experienced difficulties maintaining quality and viability. Under the proposed Child Care Equipment and Facility Funding Program, funding will be available on a priority needs basis to assist child care services with facility and equipment upgrades. Eligibility for funding is currently being considered by my Department.

As with all other centres across Queensland, the operations of this service will be closely monitored by my Department. My officers will continue to liaise with officers from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services regarding the Giru Daycare Centre.

881. Lockyer Creek, Levee Banks

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/11/98)—

With reference to the illegal construction of levee banks along the Lockyer Creek and, as he is aware, officers from his department at Gatton are conducting a survey of levee banks constructed on the banks of the Lockyer Creek which has resulted from a number of farmers concerned at the prospect of inundation by flood waters as a direct result of these levee banks, many of which have been constructed without permission and as an interim measure, his officers have instructed farmers who have illegally constructed these banks to breach the banks every 50 metres to allow flood waters to escape, and as personal inspection of these banks shows that the "breaches" are of a superficial nature, e.g. about 0.5-1 metre deep on a 3-4 metre high bank and not as regular as his officers instructed—

- (1) Will he reinstruct his officers to inspect these interim "breaches" to ensure that they are deep enough to ensure no extra flooding of neighbouring farms (I suggest the breach should be to the original bank level)?
- (2) Will his department expedite their investigations as Queensland's wet season is nigh?
- (3) If these illegal banks cause major flooding and damage to neighbours, who will be held responsible—the department, who has been warned of the danger, or the farmers?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98):

(1) Two property owners recently constructed unauthorised levee banks on their properties adjacent to Lockyer Creek. Following a number of complaints, officers of my Department of Natural Resources interviewed the owners, and requested that these be breached pending the determination of licence applications for these works. Both owners agreed to comply with the request.

Further complaints have revealed that the property owners have not complied fully with the specifications attached to the request.

Formal 'Notices to Remove Works' have been served on the offending landholders giving two weeks within which to comply with my Department's direction. Penalties apply for non compliance with such Notices.

(2) My Departmental staff are unaware however, of any 3 to 4 metre high levee banks in this vicinity; most are of the order of 0.3 to 0.8 metres above the high bank of the river. I suggest you write to me in relation to those you claim to have inspected which may be higher than those inspected by my departmental officers.

These levees are but two of a number of similar unauthorised structures that have been constructed along Lockyer Creek over many years. This recent incident prompted my Department to conduct a survey of all levees both licensed and unlicensed to provide baseline data for a floodplain study of this part of Lockyer Creek. This study is being conducted by the Lockyer Catchment Coordinating Committee in conjunction with the relevant local bodies governing this area.

The inventory of these levees will be completed as quickly as possible. No removal actions are proposed until the study is finalised and the recommended course of action has been agreed. Departmental staff have not issued instructions to any other landholders to breach levees, and will await a clear recommendation from the study.

(3) My Department is presently addressing an issue that has been present for a number of years.

Liability for damages caused by flooding would be a matter for the Courts to decide.

882. Caboolture, King Street Upgrade

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/11/98)—

Will he outline what Main Roads works have been approved for the section of lower King Street, Caboolture from Charles Street to the Bruce Highway, the cost and duration of this work and a completion date given that, if works are not commenced and completed in the near future, the serious traffic congestion already occurring will back up onto the Bruce Highway, seriously affecting the flow of traffic travelling north on the Bruce Highway and traffic incidents and possibly serious incidents may occur?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/12/98): The section of the D'Aguilar Highway comprising King Street in Caboolture has been recognised as an area in need of attention due to traffic congestion. Planning for the Northern Caboolture Bypass, which will relieve through traffic from King Street, is well advanced.

The Roads Implementation Program 1998-99 to 2002-03 includes an allocation of \$40 million, with the bulk of the funding over the years 2000-01 to 2002-03 for construction of the Caboolture Northern Bypass.

Recognising that the intersection of King and Charles Streets is of the highest priority intersections for attention, the Roads Implementation Program also includes an allocation of \$3 million in the 1999-2000 year for upgrading this intersection and approaches, which will improve traffic flow on this section of road.

883. Mount Molloy, Rifle Range

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/11/98)—

With reference to his parliamentary colleagues' representation and questions in this House while in Opposition, and indeed while in Government, with regard to the issue of the rifle range on the community recreation reserve at Mt Molloy which requires urgent resolution so that shooters can pursue their sport of target shooting without unnecessary restriction and the general community can enjoy the reserve for its recreational, conservation and economic value without interruption or danger—

What steps are being taken to resolve this issue and when, after several years of departmental investigations and conflicting decisions, will the issue be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98): This reserve comprises about 191 hectares on the northern outskirts of the Mount Molloy township. It was gazetted as a reserve for recreation on 29 March 1980 under the trusteeship of Mareeba Shire Council. The Far North Queensland Sports and Pistol Club Incorporated is now conducting its activities on about 30 hectares of the reserve under a trustee lease from the Council. This trustee lease was issued under section 57 of the Land Act 1994 and was approved by my Department of Natural Resources and registered on 11 June 1998.

The trustee lease allows Pistol Club activities between 11.00am and 5.00pm five days a week (Sundays and Thursdays are excluded). The Club may also conduct special events at any time on up to four other days per year with the written consent of the Council. For safety reasons, public access to the leased part of the reserve is restricted but only during these times. The Club requires prior Ministerial approval before making any further improvements on its leased area. Also the Council as trustees oversee the Pistol Club's compliance with relevant provisions of the Weapons Act 1990.

However, some related issues are still being addressed. These include the North Queensland Land Council Aboriginal Corporation's application under Commonwealth legislation (the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984) for protection of heritage values. I am advised that this matter is being addressed by the Commonwealth Minister (Senator Herron) who has appointed Mr George Menham to mediate with various stakeholders. Also, my Department of Environment and Heritage is conducting noise assessments on properties adjoining the reserve; and, the Mareeba Shire Council's management plan for the recreation reserve is currently being reviewed in line with current planning guidelines.

The Beattie Government has taken decisive action over the past five months we have been in office to produce the best possible outcome for all concerned. The inference you make in your question that I have somehow stalled progress on this issue is completely untrue and offensive. Good government and good representation is about finding balanced solutions to issues such as this one which involves competing community interests.

884. Cania Gorge National Park

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (18/11/98)—

With reference to the Cania Gorge National Park—

- (1) What is his department's estimate of visitor numbers to this park last year and what is the trend of these numbers?
- (2) What plans does his department have to improve the facilities at Cania?
- (3) How much is budgeted to be spent in 1998-99?
- (4) What are the department's priorities for Cania Gorge National Park?

- (5) Are there any plans to reopen the very spectacular Castle Mountain walking trail and why was it "closed"?
- (6) What is the estimated cost of reopening this trail?
- (7) What are the consequences for the department and park visitors of the on-going usage of this walking trail despite its "closure"?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98):

- (1) An estimated 61,065 people visited Cania Gorge National Park in 1997. The estimate for 1998 is 63,920. The average for the past six years is 52,613 visitors per year.
- (2) Plans to improve facilities in the park include:
 - upgrade and maintain the existing walking tracks;
 - formalise the Cedar Creek track; and
 - redevelop the existing picnic area.
- (3) \$86,629 is budgeted to be spent in 1998-1999.
- (4) Priorities for the management of Cania Gorge National Park are:
 - to ensure that park users enjoy the natural attractions of the park in safety;
 - to minimise damage to the park's environment from recreational use; and
 - to achieve best practice resource management.
- (5) The Castle Mountain walking track will be reopened in the future, once repairs and protection work can be carried out. The track was closed for public safety reasons and to reduce further degradation of the track until repairs can take place.
- (6) The cost of the necessary repair and protection work is estimated to be between \$200,000 and \$400,000. The actual cost within this range will depend on the standard of track decided upon.
- (7) People who continue to use the closed track risk serious injury. Its ongoing use could also cause further deterioration. In consequence, the Department has taken active measures to encourage compliance with the track closure and these measures appear to be having the desired effect.

885. Marburg Bypass

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/11/98)—

With reference to the construction of the Marburg by-pass of the Warrego Highway—

- (1) At what date will the construction begin?
- (2) What is its completion date?
- (3) What is the forecasted costing of the construction of this by-pass?

Mr BREDHAUER (18/12/98):

- (1) At present, planning and preliminary design, including public consultation, are in progress and this phase will be completed early next year.
- (2) A precise completion date cannot be given until a contract has been awarded and approval given to the contractor's program of works.

- (3) As detailed design has not yet been carried out, an itemised estimate of cost is not yet available.

886. Police to Population Ratios

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (18/11/98)—

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 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. 907 (21 August 1997) to Mr Cooper?

Mr BARTON (18/12/98):

- (1) As at 30 June 1998, the estimated national police to population ratio average was 1:464.
- (2) As at 1 November 1998, Queensland's estimated police to population ratio was 1:498.
- (3) As at 1 November 1998, the estimated police to population ratios in all police regions and districts were as follows:

Far Northern Region—1:455

Cairns—1:488; Innisfail—1:536; Mareeba—1:479

Northern Region—1:482

Mt Isa—1:248; Townsville—1:591

Central Region—1:564

Gladstone—1:602; Longreach—1:232;
Mackay—1:694; Rockhampton—1:552

North Coast Region—1:738

Bundaberg—1:823; Gympie—1:584;
Maryborough—1:701; Redcliffe—1:842;
Sunshine Coast—1:745

Southern Region—1:623

Charleville—1:203; Dalby—1:585;
Ipswich—1:676; Roma—1:379;
Toowoomba—1:816; Warwick—1:576

South Eastern Region—1:657

Gold Coast—1:630; Logan—1:740

Metropolitan South Region—1:727

Oxley—1:753; South Brisbane—1:668;
Wynnum—1:1002

Metropolitan North Region—1:571

Boondall—1:1124; Brisbane City—1:69;
Clayfield—1:766; Ferny Grove—1:1108;
Fortitude Valley—1:196; Indooroopilly—1:1266;
Petrie—1:836; Sandgate—1:799.

887. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to the Departmental Report "Apprenticeships and Traineeships: Queensland Trends"—

How does he reconcile the quote, taken from a Victorian office of Training and Further Education report, that "early school leavers (are) increasingly locked out of structured training arrangements", with Queensland data which indicates that "there has not been a dramatic change over time in the proportion of apprentices in each age group" and that though the proportion of trainees in each age group has changed, there are now approximately 1,000 more 15-16 year old trainees (early school leavers) than there were in 1994-95 and in fact the number in this category has increased about five-fold?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98): With respect to apprentices, I refer you to p. 16 of the Smith report, TABLE 1: Percentage of apprentices by age, and in particular the first column of that table which shows a decreasing percentage of 15-16 year old apprentices.

With respect to trainees, in 1994-95, there were 273 trainees in the 15-16 year old category. This constituted 10.9% of the available traineeship places.

In 1997-98, following an eightfold increase in the total number of traineeships, there were 1361 trainees in the 15-16 year old category. This constituted 5.1% of the available traineeship places.

Access to available traineeship places by 15-16 year olds halved in 4 years.

888. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to Dr Smith's conundrum "Queensland simultaneously has both one of the nations highest apprentice completion rates and the nation's highest apprentice cancellation rate" and to the politically sensitive explanations advanced by Dr Smith to explain this conundrum are that the high cancellation rate is due to declining quality of teaching and the high completion rates are a product of policies, mechanisms and actions that originated around 1994—

What are these 1994 policies, mechanisms and actions that have so positively influenced the current high completion rate?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98): Dr Smith refers to activity across a three to four year period. The sentence quoted reads in full: "The current good completion rates, therefore, are a product of policies, mechanisms and actions that originated around 1994, not just those that were in place in 1997-98".

889. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to the departmental report "Apprenticeships and Traineeships: Queensland Trends"—

What is the statistical basis for the statement, on page 12, "The total number of apprentices commencing training in Queensland (having removed the 'new apprentices' that have been included in some published statistics) has shown a consistent downward trend since 1995", when the graph labelled figure 5 (page 11) and a statement referring to apprenticeship new approvals does not indicate a consistent downward trend and a statement on page 10, referring to statistics from which new apprenticeships have been purged, indicates that, "in reality, therefore the increase in apprenticeship new approvals during 1997-98 was of the order of 8 per cent"?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98): You have made a significant mistake in reading the report.

The statements on page 10 and graph on page 11 refer to new approvals only. The statements and graph on page 12 refer to the total number of commencing apprentices. New approvals and total commencements are two very different statistics. You will find the difference between these two terms explained on page 12 and in the glossary of the report.

890. Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Department, Report

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

Does he believe that a 30-page departmental report which devotes, in total, more than a page to numerous, serious criticisms of persuasive problems with the consistency, validity and reliability of the data on which it is based and which makes significant use of anecdotal material, forms a consistent, valid and reliable basis for policy formulation?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98): The question fails to identify the subject report.

891. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

In view of its many unsound generalisations based on admittedly inconsistent, invalid, unreliable data, inapplicable Victorian models, anecdotal data and research of unknown scientific rigour (some dating back to 1977) and its self-contradictory propositions, will he arrange for independent analysis of the report "Apprenticeships and Traineeships: Queensland Trends"?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98): It is a nonsense to suggest that the Report should be reviewed, particularly when all it does is highlight the areas warranting further research. It will be the subject of public discussion in early 1999.

892. Dalby, TAFE Institute

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

As he now has had time to read and consider the report by the consultant Dennis Long concerning the need for a dedicated TAFE college at Dalby, will he now honour the budget commitment the Coalition gave to build the necessary facility in Dalby?

Mr BRADDY (18/12/98): The body of the report refers to a range of issues, most of which relate to the management and operation of the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE or of the Dalby Agricultural College. These issues need to be addressed, but they do not require the construction of a new facility.

To the extent that current facilities are inadequate, my Department and Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE are investigating such needs.

893. Apprentices and Trainees

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to the recommendations on page 30 of the departmental report, "Apprenticeships and Traineeships: Queensland Trends"—

- (1) Given the importance attributed in the report to inadequate literacy and numeracy standards and the negative effects of this on apprentice and trainee completions, why is there no recommendation regarding the improvement of literacy and numeracy?
- (2) Does he accept the most unusual recommendation that there should be a 'balance' between the number of trainees and the number of traditional apprentices when the report itself states, "the areas that are contributing most to traineeship growth are not generally ones that could be argued to be replacing traditional apprentices"?

Mr BRADDY (18/12/98):

- (1) I refer to the first recommendation of the report on page 30, and the discussion on pages 25 and 26. The issue is given a high priority.
- (2) The recommendation does not call for a 'balance' between trainees and apprentices. Rather, it calls for a policy review which is currently being considered by my Department and VETEC.

894. TAFE; Vocational Education and Training

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to his failure to promote vocational education and training efficiencies within his department—

- (1) Does he acknowledge that delivery costs per Annual Hours Curriculum (AHC) for the Queensland VET system significantly declined in 1997 and under the former Government were planned to further decline significantly in 1998?
- (2) Does he acknowledge that the hours to be delivered in 1998 would have cost over \$30m more under the 1996 cost structure and over \$15m more under the 1997 cost structure?

- (3) Why has he not acknowledged that the growth of competitive funding delivery in recent years and the fact that delivery costs under that approach were consistently \$2 to \$3 per AHC lower than the average VET unit cost indicate, that the staged progressive increase in competitive funding was contributing significantly to the overall decline in VET unit costs?
- (4) Given that the proposed staged growth in competitive funding would have led to a further reduction in unit costs, enhanced diversity of supply, improved provider responsiveness to the needs of industry and greater quality of outcomes, why has he moved to deny Queenslanders those advantages?
- (5) Why has he not acknowledged that the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) estimated that under the former Government, the annual efficiency improvement for 1998 would have been 4.4 per cent?
- (6) Has he committed to providing those Queenslanders wanting vocational education and training a similar efficiency dividend in 1998; if not, why is he hiding the inefficiencies within his department and what efficiency dividend will he deliver in 1998 and 1999?

Mr BRADDY (18/12/98):

(1 & 2) Based on the 1997/98 and 1998/99 Ministerial Program Statements, no.

(3 & 4) The growth of competitive funding promoted by the former Government was conducted at the expense of TAFE Queensland, the public provider. The Beattie Government's 10 Point Plan for TAFE will reinstall quality training services to Queenslanders.

(5) The 4.4% efficiency target for 1998 was an unrealistic projection by the former Government.

(6) In 1998, a revised efficiency target of 1.1% was set with a 1% target for 1999. This is in keeping with the Government's commitment to safeguard the substantial public asset of TAFE Queensland and to provide Queenslanders with a sustainable and effective VET system.

895. Longreach Pastoral College

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With the approach of summer, what effort has the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations made to alleviate the sauna-like situation which has characterised the male dormitories at Longreach Pastoral College for far too long?

Mr BRADDY (18/12/98): A recent meeting between the Chairs of the Agricultural College of the Longreach Pastoral College, the College Directors, the Chair of VETEC and senior officers of the Division of Training, considered the capital infrastructure needs of the Agricultural College over the next four years. I am awaiting recommendations from both the Department and VETEC.

896. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to page 27 of his departmental report "Apprenticeships and Traineeships: Queensland Trends", in which it states that the situation in Queensland, where there are now more trainees than apprentices is not mirrored anywhere else in the country—

As NCVER statistics for 1996-97 indicate that there were more commencements of trainees than apprentices in every State and Territory, on what basis is the above claim in his departmental report made?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98): The question is flawed. I refer you to the glossary in the Smith Report for an explanation.

The NCVER data you quote applies only to new commencements. Dr Smith is reporting the actual number of apprentices and trainees in training, which includes continuing students, newly commencing students, and recommencing students.

897. Apprentices and Trainees

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to the month that elapsed between the Estimates Committees hearings on 7 October and 7 November—

- (1) How many traineeship new approvals were processed by his department?
- (2) Did any of these traineeships involve workers who were already in employment; if so, how many?
- (3) How many of the trainees listed here are in each of the following age groups (a) 15-16, (b) 17-18, (c) 19-20, (d) 21-24 and (e) 25+ years?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98):

- (1) 3745.
- (2) 1,429 under the previous Government guidelines which are to change as of 1 January 1999.
- (3) (a) 233; (b) 494; (c) 461; (d) 526; (e) 2031.

898. Burdekin Agricultural College

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to the section headed "Training or existing employers" in the Annual Report of the Burdekin Agricultural College—

What is his department doing from (a) a policy perspective and (b) an operational perspective, to enable this and each of the other agricultural colleges in Queensland to meet the identified labour market need?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98): There is no section headed "Training for existing employers" in the Annual Report of the Burdekin Agricultural College.

899. Attorney-General, Representations from Members of Parliament

Mr CONNOR asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for The Arts (18/11/98)—

- (1) When will he start personally answering representations from members of Parliament?
- (2) Why is he allowing "staffers" to answer these representations?

Mr FOLEY (15/12/98): Representations from members of Parliament will be answered by me.

900. Vegetation Clearing Regulations

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (18/11/98)—

- (1) As many local authorities have delayed the development of vegetation protection local laws on the understanding that vegetation clearing regulation may be included in the Integrated Planning Act, when will the taskforce reviewing vegetation clearing regulations report to the Government?
- (2) When does the Government intend to respond to the recommendations of the taskforce and how does the Government intend to inform local authorities of its response to the taskforce recommendations?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/12/98): As the Member would be aware, the previous Government established a taskforce in late 1997 to consider vegetation clearing issues. The taskforce did not reach any conclusions before the change of Government and the taskforce has not been reconvened since the change of Government.

My colleague the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources, the Honourable Rod Welford MP now has primary responsibility for vegetation management issues. Accordingly, the questions should be referred to Minister Welford for response.

901. Towards a Strategic Centre, Education Report

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (18/11/98)—

With reference to the report "Towards a Strategic Centre" dated October, which was apparently commissioned by his Director-General some time earlier—

Why was this report, clearly prepared by an external consultant, not documented in the table of "Consultants Engaged—1 July 1998 to 8 October 1998", provided in answer to a question taken on notice during the Estimates hearing on Education of 7 October 1998?

Mr WELLS (11/12/98): "Towards a Strategic Centre" was prepared by Public Servants employed by the Department of Education in Victoria and not consultants.

Therefore, it was not included in the table of "Consultants Engaged—1 July to 8 October 1998."

902. Longreach Agricultural College

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (18/11/98)—

With reference to that part of the Chairman's statement on page 1 of the Annual Report of the Longreach Agricultural College which states "Replacement of our aging dormitories has finally been recognised as a priority. Action has been taken to include funding in the forthcoming State Budget to replace the dormitories"—

How much funding is being provided for this worthwhile purpose?

Mr BRADY (18/12/98): A recent meeting between the Chairs of the Agricultural College boards, College Directors, the Chair of VETEC and senior officers of the Division of Training, considered the capital infrastructure needs of the Agricultural Colleges over the next four years. I am awaiting recommendations from both the Department and VETEC.

903. Restrictive Trade Practices

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Women's Policy and Minister for Fair Trading (18/11/98)—

With reference to complaints by nursery product shop owners about selective sales by suppliers to some shops in a town to effectively create a monopoly of brand types—

Why cannot the Office of Fair Trading take action in Queensland to ensure such restrictive trade practices are stopped?

Ms SPENCE (22/12/98): In response to the specific question made by Mrs Cunningham, I can advise as follows.

Restrictive trade practices of the type raised are covered by the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act which is administered by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC). The Queensland Fair Trading Act, which largely mirrors the Trade Practices Act, does not however regulate restrictive trade practices. This role is left to the ACCC. Therefore, if there are instances of suppliers selectively selling to certain shops to create a monopoly, a complaint should be made to the ACCC or, alternatively, to the Office of Fair Trading who will in turn inform the ACCC of the complaint for their investigation.

904. Native Title

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (19/11/98)—

What are the implications for Queensland local government from the Native Title legislation at State and Federal level in respect to (a) existing roadworks and extensions to existing roadworks on existing

road reserves, (b) new road works on existing road reserves that have not previously had roads constructed on them, (c) the creation of new road reserves, (d) reserves held for local government purposes in the case of an ongoing use and in the case of a change of that use, (e) reserves held by local government for other purposes where these reserves have never been developed for that purpose and a change of use is required and (f) other local government activities?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/12/98): The following answers should be considered as generic approaches only. In addition, "notification processes" referred to in the following answers are required by Commonwealth—not State—legislation.

(a) If there are extensions to existing roadworks or to a fully developed portion of the reserve in question, there should be no native title implications.

If the extensions move on to previously undeveloped parts of the road reserve, then a notification should be given of the works and the native title parties must be afforded an opportunity to comment. There are no implications at all if the reserve was resumed from freehold or any other Scheduled tenure which extinguishes native title.

(b) Notification would be required in respect of the works and the native title parties must be afforded an opportunity to comment. Again, there are no implications at all if the reserve was resumed from freehold or any other Scheduled tenure which extinguishes native title.

(c) Again, there are no native title implications if the new reserve is to be created from land that was previously freehold or any other Scheduled tenure which extinguishes native title. The only exception to this is where the land is Unallocated State land (USL) and the native title claimants for the land are in occupation of the land.

(d) Local government reserves may be used for the purpose for which they are gazetted. If public works are to be constructed or developed on that reserve, then a notification must be given and the native title parties must be afforded an opportunity to comment.

To change the use of the reserve, it must first be ascertained whether native title has been extinguished by the development of the reserve through the construction of public works.

If native title has been extinguished, then the reserve purpose may be changed, subject to other land use policy and procedures.

If native title has not been extinguished, then native title rights or interests could be acquired or agreement secured from the native title parties, under an Indigenous Land Use Agreement, to change the purpose of the reserve.

(e) Same as for (d).

(f) "Other local government activities" constitutes an extensive range of activities. Given this scope, a meaningful answer cannot be provided.

905. Millaa Millaa Police Station

Mr NELSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/11/98)—

What is the current situation with regard to returning a police officer to Millaa Millaa station?

Mr BARTON (18/12/98): The previous Officer in Charge of Millaa Millaa Police Station, Senior Constable Bakss, was seconded to the position of Acting Sergeant in charge of Mount Garnet Station on 29 August 1998. He was subsequently appointed to that position and the resultant vacancy at Millaa Millaa was advertised in the Police Gazette on 2 October. This vacancy closed on 19 October and a selection panel was chosen. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the original external convenor for this panel had to withdraw. After a new external convenor from the Northern Region was appointed, the panel convened on 24 and 25 November and selected an officer to fill the vacant position at Millaa Millaa. It is expected the new appointee will be in a position to take up the appointment at Millaa Millaa in mid January 1999.

In the interim, the Mareeba District Officer is providing an officer one day per week to sustain a police presence in the community of Millaa Millaa. When that officer is not available, the Malanda or Ravenshoe Police respond to policing issues in the Millaa Millaa area as and when required.

906. Environment and Heritage Department; Cape Melville National Park

Mr BLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/11/98)—

With reference to his letter to Mr Burrell, the Secretary of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, dated 5 November 1998—

- (1) Does he agree that an ex-police officer wrote to him on 10 July giving him an opportunity, including supporting evidence, to investigate official corruption involving officers from his department?
- (2) Why did he choose to sidestep the issue by claiming the CJC intends taking no further action into investigating these claims against the CJC itself and his department?
- (3) How many helicopter flights have been ordered by his department to fly to Cape Melville National Park this year?
- (4) Are the pilots armed to protect the department's passengers from machine guns located at the National Park; if not, is he prepared to recommend to Cabinet that a judicial inquiry should be held to investigate these allegations, to protect innocent people visiting the State Government's national parks north of Kalpowar?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98):

Q1. Yes, I did receive a letter on this subject.

Q2. I took steps to satisfy myself that the Department of Environment and Heritage (which has also been sent the information contained in the letter to me) had passed the information on to the CJC.

Q3. Department of Environment and Heritage chartered helicopter flights to Cape Melville National Park have occurred on 2 occasions between 1 January 1998 and now (26 November 1998):

Date—8.1.98, Duration—3hrs, Purpose—Surveillance and monitoring.

Date—10.6.98, Duration—7.8 hrs, Purpose—Reconnaissance of proposed access route.

Flights over Cape Melville National Park are also included on a three monthly basis as part of the Far Northern Aerial Surveillance Contract. There have been 3 such flights so far this year.

No further flights have been ordered for this year to date, but these may occur if considered desirable in the weeks remaining to year's end.

Q4. No, the pilots are not armed, and I am not intending to recommend that Cabinet endorse a judicial inquiry into these matters.

907. Ipswich State High School, Bus Shelter

Mr PAFF asked the Minister for Education (19/11/98)—

With reference to the lack of action which has been taken about a bus-waiting zone on the western side of Ipswich State High School oval where children are put in serious danger in the event of a storm and his previous inadequate answers; (twice now, in the last two months, sudden storms have struck the region and children have been trapped in heavy hail and dangerous lightning; I have asked him previously how he would deal with parents who had been complaining about the issue for at least six years, what steps had been taken to provide shelter, if any studies had been undertaken for a solution to this problem and how would he react if children were killed or seriously injured by a storm because the issue had not been dealt with earlier? His response that the arrangement is "adequate under departmental standards" is of little use or comfort to the parents and children of the school) (19/11/98)—

- (1) Considering this problem has been complained about for at least six years, why has nothing yet been done in an attempt to correct the problem and provide safe shelter for the students of this school?
- (2) What steps have been taken to provide shelter?
- (3) Have any studies been made with regard to a solution to this problem?
- (4) How would he react if children had been killed or seriously injured by the storm because the authorities had not acted sooner to clear up this mess?

Mr WELLS (11/12/98):

1. The current set down arrangement is seen to be adequate under departmental standards. Upgrade of set down at existing schools may attract 50/50 funding under the external infrastructure policy. Should any augmentation of the current set down arrangements at the school be seen to be necessary by the school community, application can be made to access the SafeST funding, administered by the Department of Transport, through the local authority.

2. No steps have been taken to provide a shelter.

3. The matter has been investigated. It has been concluded that the best process for achieving any change to the current situation would be by local

consideration in the context of a School Safe Committee and an approach through the local council to the SafeST program of the Department of Main Roads.

4. The provision of student set-down areas are appropriately part of the public (state or council) road system. In Ipswich State High School's case, the school does have recourse through a School Safe committee to access funds annually appropriated to the Department of Transport. Officers of my Department will assist the School in developing a proposal for consideration by Council.

908. 4TAB Race Coverage

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (19/11/98)—

With reference to his answer to Question on Notice No. 590 in relation to 4TAB coverage—

Will he provide a detailed forecast of which areas of rural and regional Queensland the TAB plans to undertake in its program of expansion and extension to the 4TAB service over the next twelve months?

Mr GIBBS (9/12/98): Expansion to the Radio 4TAB network is subject to frequency releases by the Australian Broadcasting Authority. Applications for the latest release, which included eight of the TAB's current licences, closed on 20 November 1998.

The TAB understands it is the only applicant for its existing services in Emerald, Collinsville, Charters Towers, Clermont, Goondiwindi and Blackwater. However, up to five operators have applied for the current 4TAB service in Yeppoon and Gladstone. These licences will now go to auction in mid December.

The next round of ABA releases are due in May and November 1999. The location of these frequencies are not known until the release.

909. Mary River Cod

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/11/98)—

With reference to the work in progress to increase the population of Mary River Cod in the Mary River and its tributaries and as the principal reason for the population decline is loss of habitat and suitable breeding sites and private studies have shown that suitable breeding sites are easily established artificially and people interested in providing such breeding sites have been frustrated by rulings from his department, eg car tyres cannot be bound by fencing wire—

- (1) Is he aware of the normal iron and magnesium content of the Mary River and its sources?
- (2) Can he prove that the limited use of steel for such habitat improving purposes will increase the current levels of these minerals in any statistically significant way; if not, why not encourage river care groups to use such simple devices?

- (3) Will he undertake to rapidly issue simple guidelines which will allow volunteers to take constructive action?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98): Although I am personally very concerned about this matter, I am unable to respond as it relates to primary industries and should therefore have been directed to my Ministerial colleague the Honourable Henry Palaszczuk.

910. Police Service Staffing Model

Mr FELDMAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/11/98)—

- (1) Does he have faith in the current staffing model being utilised by the Queensland Police Service; if not, why not?
- (2) What does he plan to do about this system when, of 53 new police assigned to the North Coast region, only a meagre six are assigned to the Redcliffe Police District of which two of these staff are already allocated to the dog squad which had already been earmarked and promised under the National Party Government, with the remaining four staff to be spread between Redcliffe, Deception Bay and Caboolture?
- (3) As Caboolture is already understaffed and also is the second fastest growing region in Australia, what does he plan to do about this untenable situation before more staff go out medically unfit with stress?

Mr BARTON (18/12/98):

- (1) The Regional Allocation Model, introduced in early 1994, provided the Queensland Police Service with a mechanism to allocate sworn positions on the basis of a comparison of relative workloads throughout the state as determined by population and crime statistics and service delivery requirements. The need for such a model was widely accepted by both the Queensland Police Service senior executive and regional management.

The model has been modified and updated on a regular basis but it retains virtually all the key parameters on which it was first based. Currently a working party is examining the validity of the parameters and the weightings applied in those parameters in light of changing priorities and policing needs. The working party consists of representatives with operational backgrounds, union representation and officers from the Service's Human Resource Management Branch.

- (2) The allocation of additional police positions for the 1998/99 financial year is yet to be finalised and is awaiting advice from regional Assistant Commissioners regarding regional priorities and the policing needs of respective Districts. The proposed allocation to the North Coast Region, which contains five districts, is 53 positions, and includes a proposed increase of 10, or almost one in five, positions for the Redcliffe District.
- (3) As at 1 November 1998 the funded strength of the Caboolture Division was 38 general duties positions with an actual strength of 40 officers which include five first year constables. The 1998/99

funded strength of Caboolture Division will be determined by the Assistant Commissioner, North Coast Region taking into consideration the priorities and other issues identified by the District Officer, Redcliffe District. This is expected to be completed by the end of December 1998.

911. Cadmium Levels in Peanuts

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries (19/11/98)—

With reference to the Maximum Residue Level (MRL) of 0.05ppb for cadmium levels in peanuts and recent moves by peanut importers to increase this MRL to allow cheap, poor quality peanuts to be imported—

- (1) What is the Government's policy on the proposed increase in the MRL for cadmium in peanuts?
- (2) What action is being taken to ensure that a MRL of 0.05ppb for cadmium in peanuts is retained?
- (3) What is the latest policy position of the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) on cadmium levels in peanuts and does the Government support that position?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. This Government supports a maximum permitted concentration (MPC) for cadmium in peanuts of 0.05 parts per million.

2. The Australia New Zealand Food Authority is known to be reviewing information relating to dietary intake of cadmium in foods. That review will include an examination of the contribution of peanuts to diets in both countries.

This information will be provided to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Council. That Council, which comprises Ministers for Health from New Zealand and the Commonwealth and States or Territories, is the body responsible for any decision to vary MPC levels in food.

I have alerted Federal Agriculture Minister Mark Vaile to the proposal by ANZFA and I have called on him to intervene to ensure this proposal to double the MPC for cadmium in peanuts is rejected once and for all.

3. Refer to the answers to Question 1 and Question 2.

912. Tilt Train

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/11/98)—

With reference to the proposed tilt train to Cairns which will be operating at speeds up to 170km/h—

- (1) Will the railway line from Rockhampton to Cairns, including the portion which passes through the electorate of Mulgrave, be fenced to upgrade safety?
- (2) How and when will any such safety upgrades be undertaken as no budget allocation has been made or projected for such work?

Mr BREDHAUER (21/12/98):

(1) and (2) Operation of the new tilt train, as for any such change to Queensland Rail's operation, will be

subject to Queensland Rail's stringent Safety Management System. This requires that the safety implications of operating higher speed trains, such as risks at level crossings and to adjoining property owners and the general public, are identified, the risks assessed, and risk management plans implemented.

As regards fencing, to operate at high speeds it would not be expected that the rail corridor will be fenced, either to prevent livestock access or to limit accidental human access or deliberate trespass. Standards of fencing would be consistent with the assessed risk in any particular area, with an obvious higher standard of fencing required in built up areas to limit unauthorised access.

913. Gateway Ports Area Strategy

Mr SLACK asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (19/11/98)—

With reference to the Gateway Ports Area Strategy released earlier this year by the previous Coalition Government and as the strategy was the culmination of 12 months of research, studies and consultations by the Department of Economic Development and Trade and collaboration between business, industry, local government, State and Federal Government, key stakeholders and the community—

What steps has the Government taken to act on the strategy, bearing in mind that projections indicate a possible increase in the workforce by 32,000 by the year 2005 and an anticipated increase to more than 28 million tonnes in trade volume through the seaport while freight movements through the airport was envisaged to increase to about 200,000 tonnes and passengers to 18 million?

Mr ELDER (15/12/98): The Gateway Ports Area Strategy, released by the previous government, was a document which tended to concentrate on the political aspirations that the government of the day dreamed of achieving, rather than the development of the area known as the Gateway Ports.

I have set up within my department a Task Force of senior officers to look at real ways in which business development can be accelerated in the area.

Specifically, the Task Force will examine:

the priority areas for development by both the public and private sectors

the infrastructure necessary to "kick start" development in these priority areas; and

the management structure best suited to drive this development.

In addition, an informal structure involving the Brisbane Airport Corporation, the Port of Brisbane Authority, the Brisbane City Council and other stakeholders has been set up to look at ways of marketing the area to an international market.

What this government is about is actually doing the work to attract companies and create jobs in the area, instead of simply outlining broad goals with no fixed plan to get there.

914. Noxious Weeds

Mr KNUTH asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/11/98)—

With the spreading of noxious weeds like water hyacinth and salvinia and the undeclared but ever increasing problem of cumbungi—

- (1) What steps are being taken to eradicate these problems?
- (2) Is there funding being put aside for private contractors to use the environmentally friendly Waipuna system, a proven noxious water weed eradicator?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98):

(1) Water hyacinth and salvinia are well established in some parts of Queensland, but not in the Murray-Darling catchment. These weeds are declared P2 under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1985 in the Murray-Darling catchment so that any plants which are detected must be eradicated. In the remainder of the State, integrated management is used to minimise their impact as they cannot be eradicated.

The control of plants declared under the Act is the responsibility of the landholder. Local government are responsible for enforcing control by landholders where necessary. Most local government are taking action to have these declared plants controlled where they have been identified as priorities in their pest management plan for the local government area.

My Department of Natural Resources has researched, promoted and provided education programs on the integrated control of these weeds, incorporating biological, chemical and physical/mechanical techniques in an environmentally acceptable way.

Cumbungi is a native plant and hence not declared under the Act. Proliferation of this plant in waterways is normally a symptom of excessive nutrient inflow from fertiliser run-off from the surrounding land and drainage systems. Control methods are available.

(2) The Waipuna system of weed control relies on steam to kill vegetation in terrestrial situations. It is totally unsuitable for the control of aquatic weeds as it:

relies on extreme temperature for complete kill of target plant, which is impossible in an aquatic situation; and

equipment is too bulky and not designed for use in and around waterways.

Therefore no Departmental funds have been allocated for the control of aquatic weeds using the Waipuna system.

915. Artificial Reefs

Mr DALGLEISH asked the Minister for Primary Industries (19/11/98)—

- (1) Is he aware of the quantified success, proven by successive fish counts, of the Roy Rufus artificial reef in Sandy Straits?
- (2) As people in my electorate and the Maryborough electorate are very keen to construct a chain of reefs, thus improving fish habitat over a wider area in this tourist Mecca—

at no cost to the Government, but their community spirit is continually frustrated by bureaucratic lack of clear answers from the cluster of ministries involved, will he undertake to rapidly provide a clear set of guidelines for the construction of artificial reefs and fish attracting devices, therefore satisfying all the involved Ministries—a one stop shop for artificial reefs?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. I am aware of the long history of the Roy Rufus artificial reef, and of the considerable effort that Maryborough and Hervey Bay based business houses, sporting clubs and individuals have put into making this structure a popular regional fishing and diving attraction. Staff from my Department are currently working with community based organisations to summarise the survey data you refer to.

2. The process by which artificial reefs are authorised is not simple. There is a wide range of legislation covering various issues and potential impacts. Some, related to seabed dumping, is administered by the Commonwealth, while other elements that cover issues on navigational safety, conservation and fisheries are administered by the state.

DPI officers are currently undertaking research on artificial reefs.

916. Barretts Lagoon; Tree-clearing Guidelines

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/11/98)—

With reference to Barretts Lagoon located in the Murray sugar expansion program where timber has been pulled right down to the water's edge and this pristine lagoon will certainly die—

- (1) What is being done to prevent farmers from clearing land and not leaving rotarian tracts?
- (2) When will this Government put an end to environmental rape?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98):

(1) Tree clearing in Queensland is controlled through a range of mechanisms. On Crown leasehold land which covers 77% of the State, tree clearing is regulated under the Land Act 1994 through a State Broadscale Tree Clearing Policy and 34 sets of Local Tree Clearing Guidelines. The Policy and Guidelines establish criteria for the assessment of applications for tree clearing permits. These criteria include: the identification of vegetation types considered to be endangered and vulnerable which are not to be cleared; and vegetation of concern where limited clearing is permitted; the need to retain watercourse buffers; and the need to protect areas subject to land degradation. Recommended watercourse buffer widths range from 50m to 200m depending on the size of the watercourse.

The clearance of vegetation on the bed and banks of watercourses (including lakes and lagoons) requires a permit under the Water Resources Act 1989. Clearing on freehold land may be controlled under Local Laws prepared by Local Government. There

are some 35 Local Laws in place in Queensland and most of these do not apply to rural land. Cardwell Shire does not have a Local Law for the protection of vegetation in the Barretts Lagoon area.

The Nature Conservation Act 1994 protects rare and threatened flora species and provides for the protection of critical habitat. The habitat of the Mahogany Glider which is found in the vicinity of Barretts Lagoon, is an area of critical habitat and is the subject of a draft Management Plan for its protection through appropriate management and strategic acquisition.

I will soon release the draft Mahogany Glider Management Plan which will constrain clearing on Critical Habitat Areas such as those that once existed in the vicinity of Barretts Lagoon.

As part of the joint Commonwealth-State Sugar Coast Environment Rescue Package, up to \$12 million is to be spent on securing habitat and providing incentives for conservation.

The clearing that has occurred in the vicinity of Barretts Lagoon was carried out on freehold land outside of the bed and banks of a watercourse or lagoon, and prior to the introduction of the Mahogany Glider Management Plan. Under these circumstances, the State Government has no statutory control over such clearing activity.

(2) I am confident that a collaborative approach with industry and the community is the most effective method for securing sustainable development and environmental protection. This approach worked well in the preparation of tree clearing guidelines for leasehold land, and I am committed to a similar collaborative approach to secure sustainable vegetation management on all land.

917. Condamine River; Surat Basin

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development and Minister for Trade (19/11/98)—

With reference to "The State of Our Regions"—a report by the National Institute of Economics and Industry which has found many regional areas beyond the coast will face unemployment, declining income and depopulation if urgent action isn't taken—

- (1) Does he acknowledge development of more major water storage on the Condamine River and the development of the coal in the Surat Basin, as proposed by the Borbidge Government, are well targeted initiatives that address the problems identified in this report?
- (2) Will he ensure funding is provided to complete the partly planned Nangram and Condamine Weirs and the Water Allocation Management Plans?
- (3) Will he promote development of the Kogan Creek coal reserves and the proposal to build a powerhouse on site, given the owners propose to use environmentally friendly gasification technology?

Mr ELDER (15/12/98):

1. This Government is particularly aware of the need to generate economic opportunities in regional areas

of the state, as highlighted by "The State of Our Regions" report, and has developed strong programs to promote regional development. My Government will continue to honour its election commitment of listening closely to regional issues and concerns and will continue to hold Cabinet meetings in regional areas.

The adequacy of the regional infrastructure is a key aspect of the regions competitiveness and growth, to generate an enabling environment for investment opportunity. This infrastructure includes the physical infrastructure which is crucial as a result of globalisation and the world market demand for access to the global distribution systems. It also includes the social infrastructure, which is more than an important social asset, because it compounds upon the performance of the regions economy and the productivity of the Workforce.

Fundamentally this Government supports all responsible initiatives that have the potential to create jobs in the state's regional areas, including projects that may have been initiated under the previous Government.

2. I understand that the Nangram and Condamine Weirs are being progressed, as is the Condamine Water Allocation Management Plan. As these matters are the responsibility of the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Natural Resources, questions in this regard should be referred to him.

3. The development of the Kogan Creek coal reserves for the proposed development of a power station is being undertaken by the proponents, which is consistent with the ongoing competitive electricity sector reforms and Queensland's commitment to the National Electricity Market.

The proponents of this particular power station do not propose to use gasification technology, and are considering either subcritical or supercritical turbo-generator units, dependent on their technical consideration and costs. However, the Environmental Management Overview Strategy, the EMOS, has been approved for the Kogan Creek mine, and the Impact Assessment Study on the power station is being facilitated by the Department of State Development and progressed by the proponents.

918. Marburg Bypass

Dr PRENZLER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/11/98)—

With reference to road accidents on the Warrego Highway, Ipswich to Toowoomba as follows between 1991-98 (a) Ipswich-Gatton section—(i) fatalities 15 and (ii) hospitalisation 77 (this section contains a number of notorious black spots for accidents), (b) Gatton-Helidon section—(i) fatalities 8 and (ii) hospitalisation 32 (straight by-pass road, single highway with a number of overtaking sections shortest section of highway) and (c) Helidon-Toowoomba section—(i) fatalities 6 and (ii) hospitalisation 24 (divided highway, lowest fatality and hospitalisation rate) and as major upgrading of the Ipswich to Gatton section is now confirmed with the dividing of the highway at Marburg to commence in 1999 and as local investigations of traffic flows indicated that approximately 50 per cent of Warrego

Highway volume leaves the highway and passes via Gatton rejoining the highway at Helidon highlighting the fact that the accident rate is virtually the same as the notorious Ipswich to Gatton section and the Helidon to Toowoomba section shows the low accident rate with the division of highways—

- (1) When will this division of the Gatton by-pass occur?
- (2) What will the division cost?
- (3) What will be the Queensland Government's share of these costs?

Mr BREDHAUER (21/12/98):

(1) The Gatton Bypass on the Warrego Highway is part of the National Highway System which is funded by the Federal Government. The Department of Main Roads' priorities for the National Highway System are outlined in the National Highway System Forward Strategy Report 1998-99 to 2001-02. That submission proposes that the bypass be constructed over three years commencing in 2000-01. To date, the Federal Government has given no commitment to the project.

(2) The forward estimate for the project is \$30 million.

(3) The project would be fully funded by the Federal Government as part of the National Highway System.

919. Shark Control Contracts

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries (19/11/98)—

With reference to the recent awarding of a Townsville shark control contract to a South African contractor—

- (1) How are shark control contracts awarded?
- (2) When was the previous contractor, Mr Ling, invited to tender for a new contract and on what date did this tender have to be submitted?
- (3) Who was the officer in charge of awarding the Townsville tender and did that person have a prior relationship with the South African contractor?
- (4) Was his department expecting existing shark contractors to increase their charges and were discussions held between the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) and shark contractors on the likelihood of charges increasing?
- (5) How was the South African contractor able to satisfy the QBFP that he had a suitable vessel, sufficient knowledge of local waters and marine species and the required Queensland qualifications at the time of tender?
- (6) What are the details of the Government's purchasing policy in regard to issuing shark control contracts?
- (7) Is the Government reviewing the purchasing policy and/or the awarding of the Townsville contract, if so, what are the terms of reference for this review?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/12/98):

1. Shark contracts are awarded in accordance with the State Purchasing Policy.

2. An invitation was directed to Mr Ling by way of letter on 7 July 1998. Invitations for offer for this contract was advertised in The Courier-Mail on 1 July 1998 and the Townsville Bulletin on 5 July 1998. Offers closed on 31 July 1998.

3. Three officers evaluated the contract. These were Mr B Lane, Manager (Shark Control Program), Mrs D Hawkswood, Senior Administration Officer (Risks and Contracts), and Mr T McNamara, District Officer, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol, Townsville.

In 1993, departmental staff including Mr Lane visited the Natal Shark Board, South Africa and met with officials, which included Mr Vincent. Mr Vincent visited Queensland in 1996 and met with Mr Lane as well as a number of shark contractors.

4. There is no expectation that costs will always increase. Mr Ling may have discussed costs with departmental staff in their day to day operations and contacts, however the offer submitted was a matter for Mr Ling.

5. The offerer demonstrated that he had the financial capacity to purchase an appropriate vessel, and that he had the ability to obtain local knowledge. He demonstrated experience and knowledge of marine species, and a capacity to obtain the necessary Queensland qualifications. He has complied with all requirements of the offer.

6. The State Purchasing Policy is the document that is followed for the issuing of all shark contracts.

7. I understand that there is a review being undertaken of the State Purchasing Policy.

The complaint lodged by Mr Ling concerning the Townsville Shark Contract has been investigated by an officer of this Department, independent of Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. This review has not detected any irregular practices in the tendering process.

920. Portable Long Service Leave Fund

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

With reference to the debate on the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Amendment Bill on 18 November in which he indicated that the Portable Long Service Leave Board had advised him that it would cost \$2m for some other entity to collect the \$5.4m Labor intends to appropriate from the PLSL Fund through amendment to the Act—

- (1) Will he table a copy of the board's advice to him?
- (2) What is the range of alternate collection options the board considered?
- (3) What are the detailed costings the board considered in relation to each of those options?

Mr BRADDY (21/12/98):

(1) The advice was provided verbally by the previous General Manager, Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority.

(2) The two options considered by the Authority were—

- (a) a separate entity for a training fund
- (b) to create a training fund based on a grant from the Portable Long Service Leave Fund
- (3) The Authority provided the following costings—
 - (a) \$2,050,000 (comprising \$1.1m salaries and related costs; \$0.8m Administration costs; \$0.15m capital costs)
 - (b) Nil.

921. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

With reference to his Ministerial Statement of 18 November concerning the advertising campaign for the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Project and his indication that there have been "almost 1,000" phone calls to the 1800 number:

- (1) As Telstra will be able to give him the precise number for which he will be charged, what is the precise number of phone responses from 21 October to 19 November?
- (2) As 85 per cent of that "almost 1,000" calls was from employers, only 15 per cent or 150 were from job seekers and as 597 job seeker kits have been sent out, the inference from these figures is that 447 of almost 90 per cent of the 500 "hits" on the Website were from job seekers, are these figures correct; if so, why would 85 per cent of employers be responding by phone and 90 per cent of job seekers via the internet?

Mr BRADY (21/12/98):

- (1) 1069.
- (2) The 500 hits quoted to in the Ministerial Statement refer to visits to the Employers Kits internet site. Therefore your calculations are misconstrued. In fact calculations based on the figures in the Ministerial Statement demonstrate almost equal numbers of hits to both sites.

922. Needle Exchange Program

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health (19/11/98)—

- (1) How many needles did Queensland Health provide funding for through needle exchange programs in 1997-98?
- (2) How much has this cost?
- (3) What does the department estimate will be the number of needles given out in these programs in 1998-99 in Queensland?
- (4) What is the estimated cost for 1998-99?
- (5) In addition to the total State figures on the above questions, will she provide a breakdown on a health district by health district basis?

Mrs EDMOND (21/12/98): (1-5) The Queensland Needle Availability Support Program is a statewide program administered centrally by Queensland Health through Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services. It was introduced in 1987 and is a key strategy in reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS

and other infectious diseases. It is not administered on a health district basis. Needle Availability Support Programs are provided by Queensland Health, community-based organisations, and one privately-owned enterprise.

923. Regional Community Forums

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

- (1) What is the budgeted and actual cost of the 29 regional forums mentioned on page 2 of his Ministerial Statement of 18 November (including public servant salary costs, Ministerial/MLA salary costs, all travel, accommodation and advertising costs)?
- (2) Have these costs been counted as part of the total for the advertising campaign mentioned in his Ministerial Statement?
- (3) What has been the attendance figure at each of the forums conducted to date?

Mr BRADY (21/12/98):

- (1) \$20,000. There are no costs associated with advertising.
- (2) No
- (3) See Attachment A.

Attachment A

Attendance to date at 22 Forums

FORUM LOCATION and ATTENDEES—

Innisfail,35; Cairns, 40; Atherton, 40; Mt Isa, 35; Maryborough, 55; Hervey Bay, 40; Bundaberg, 35; Nambour, 45; Caboolture, 25; Rockhampton, 30; Gladstone, 45; Emerald, 30; Colmslie, 39; Archerfield, 31; Brisbane North East, 54; Brisbane North West, 38; Ipswich, 50; Toowoomba, 27; Warwick, 15; Roma, 22; Brisbane (ATSI), 20; Toowoomba (ATSI), 13; Total, 764.

924. Client Purchase Arrangement

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

When does his department intend to review the client purchase arrangement initiative to ensure its approach to providing training funds for the training of existing employees is consistent across programs?

Mr BRADY (21/12/98): A review of the Client Purchase Arrangement (CPA) is planned to commence in January 1999 with a final report due at the end of April 1999. The major aims of the review are to clarify the intent and focus of the Client Purchase Arrangement and to review its eligibility criteria.

925. Dalby, TAFE Institute; Chinchilla, TAFE Institute

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

With reference to the Annual Report of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations presented to him in October by his Director-General and presented to the Parliament in mid-November—

- (1) To what training needs analyses does this document refer in the paragraph on page 38 concerning the construction of TAFE campuses at Dalby and Chinchilla worth \$3.9m?
- (2) Does he agree that the statement clearly indicates that the construction of the Chinchilla and Dalby campuses is a consequence of the training needs analyses referred to in the report?

Mr BRADDY (21/12/98):

(1) The training needs analysis referred to on page 38 of the 1997-98 Annual Report is the Training Needs Analysis of the Northern and Western Downs Regions. The report, prepared by Dennis Long Consulting, was never publicly released because copies of the report (including the disk version) were recalled by the former Minister's office.

(2) No.

926. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

As the 10 per cent training requirement is indicated on page 6 of the DETIR Annual Report 1997-98 to be an essential element of its Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative, when will the interdepartmental working party mentioned in the report be formed?

Mr BRADDY (21/12/98): The 10% rule as currently formulated is being enforced. However there are weaknesses.

Proposed reforms will be discussed with members of the working party when it is formed in the near future.

927. TAFE

Mr GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

When did the Labor Party first publicly qualify its promise to freeze competitive funding arrangements to January 1998 levels for three years so that the promise as enunciated in the DETIR Annual Report 1997-98 now refers to "non-user-choice competitive funding"?

Mr BRADDY (21/12/98): The Government has made a commitment to maintain user choice and competitive initiatives to January 1998 levels and is implementing this policy.

928. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

- (1) Is the "vacuum" referred to in the third last paragraph of his Ministerial Statement of 18 November concerning the advertising

campaign for his Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Project caused by the difference between the 24,500 jobs he claims he will create and the 1,500 responses resulting from his expensive advertising campaign?

- (2) When the total cost of this advertising campaign is divided by 1,500, what is the average cost of each response achieved?

Mr BRADDY (21/12/98):

(1) No.

(2) The advertising campaign has several objectives including information for employers, information for job-seekers and community awareness. The basis of the question is therefore flawed.

929. Learning Organisation Initiative

Mr HEGARTY asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

With reference to the DETIR 1997-98 Annual Report which has been presented to the Parliament and contains a significant number of items devoted to the Learning Organisation initiative—

What particular segments of this initiative did the incoming Labor administration object to and use as the basis for scrapping the initiative?

Mr BRADDY (21/12/98): The segments that distracted departmental officers from their primary role of delivering services to the Queensland community.

930. Labour Adjustment Fund

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

Will he table the current draft proposal for the labour adjustment fund mentioned on page 8 of the DETIR Annual Report 1997-98?

Mr BRADDY (21/12/98): The Parliament is not in session, and in any event it is part of the working documents associated with a Cabinet Submission.

931. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

Why does his Ministerial Statement of 18 November concerning the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle advertising campaign refer, in paragraph 3, to what he will do over the next four years when four and a half months of his three year term has already elapsed?

Mr BRADDY (21/12/98): The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiatives will be implemented over four financial years (including the remainder of this financial year), from 1998/99 to 2001/02, but all the placements will occur by 31 December 2001.

932. Apprentices and Trainees

Mr BAUMANN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

With reference to the then Minister's (Hon M Foley) media release of 11 October 1993 in which Mr Foley indicated that Queensland's Labor Cabinet had given the go ahead for the streamlining and simplification of the State's apprenticeship and traineeship system—

Will he either (a) apologise to Minister Foley for the scathing remarks he made at the ANTA Conference about the inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the scheme that was introduced by his colleague and the Goss Government or (b) admit that his remarks to the ANTA delegates were based, as those delegates were embarrassingly aware, mainly on his own opinions and extremely limited anecdotal comment from his cronies?

Mr BRADY (21/12/98): My comments at the ANTA Conference refer to the impact of changes to the training system introduced by the former Government, essentially the group of initiatives known as "New Apprenticeships". As I stated at the conference, the comments are based on anecdotal evidence. However, this is supported by recent findings from national research.

933. Local Governments, Workers Compensation

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (19/11/98)—

With reference to the fact that many authorities are able to save funds by self-insuring workers' compensation and these savings are passed onto the ratepayers—

Will he give an assurance to all local authorities that he will not bow to pressure from unions who have called for amendments to the workers' compensation laws which would prevent self insurance?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/12/98): Workers compensation issues including self insurance are the responsibility of the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, the Honourable Paul Braddy. Any questions of this nature should be directed to that Minister.

934. Gun Clubs

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/11/98)—

Given that this Parliament significantly affected the rights of weapons owners and that gun clubs have accepted an exponential rise in membership and police inspectors have enforced previously unenforced range standards, when will the Government give relief to clubs with regard to forestry or other crown land for range purposes?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98): The Government recognises the need to work with sporting shooters to, wherever possible, assist them in accessing sites where they can pursue their sport in safety.

The Rifle Ranges Advisory Panel, a multisectoral body including representatives of shooting clubs and government is currently working with regional staff of my Department of Natural Resources and local

shooting groups to identify suitable sites throughout Queensland.

However, there are a number of potentially complex issues to address: environmental, social, equity, cultural heritage, native title, town planning, safety, financial and tenure issues. Many of these issues are site specific and it needs to be recognised that all necessary processes will need to be followed.

In the end, it may not be possible to meet the expectations of all sporting shooters but the Government will continue to work with shooting groups at both regional and State level to maximise their opportunities to access suitable sites.

935. Native Title

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources (19/11/98)—

With reference to my recent question to the Premier about the processing of stock and domestic bore licenses on freehold land and Native Title issues to be considered in granting such licences—

Will he confirm that when applications are lodged for stock and domestic bore licences on freehold land that the local Aboriginal land council must be notified and given 28 days in which to establish if they have an interest or objection; if so, why is this the case when the bore is on freehold land and the water is of a subterranean nature; if not, do any procedures exist for the notifying of Aboriginal people in the event of such an application for a stock and domestic bore license on freehold land?

Mr WELFORD (17/12/98): My Department of Natural Resources has prepared a range of Work Practices, based on advice from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, to ensure that Native Title issues are dealt with properly and thoroughly in accordance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth), as amended. These Work Practices cover the State's water resources as well as the other resources for which my Department has responsibility.

A fundamental principle on which the water-related Work Practices are based is that consideration of possible Native Title to water aligns with the tenure of the land over which the water flows in a watercourse or under which the water is found as underground water.

This means that since Native Title has been extinguished on freehold land, it has also been extinguished in respect of any right to take or use water found over or under freehold land. Therefore, there is no necessity to notify in relation to stock and domestic bores located on freehold land. My Department's Work Practices reflect this position.

936. Genetically Altered Food

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Health (19/11/98)—

- (1) Is she aware that in December 1996 the first importation of genetically manipulated food product (soybeans) occurred?
- (2) What is she doing or intending to do in relation to this occurrence?

Mrs EDMOND (21/12/98): (1 & 2) Yes. I was briefed, as was the then Minister for Health, by Queensland Health about this issue recommending the continued support for the development of a Standard for genetically modified foods by the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA).

This Standard was accepted by the Australia New Zealand Food Safety Council (ANZFSC) at the 30 July 1998 meeting on the recommendation of ANZFA and gazetted on 13 August 1998. It will come into effect nine months from that date to allow ANZFA to assess the safety for human consumption of genetically modified food already on the market, such as soybeans.

937. Police Resources

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (19/11/98)—

Will he list every police station in Queensland that was below target staffing strength on 1 November and detail the amount of staff by which they were under strength?

Mr BARTON (18/12/98): The Queensland Police Service makes a concerted effort to maintain the actual strength in line with the allocated strength for each police station. However, this is not possible in all cases when one takes into account the following:

The actual strength figures quoted for each police station are at a particular point in time only;

There are 329 police stations throughout the State, of which 59 are currently below the approved allocated strength (see following table). (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane.) The remaining 270 are either equal to or above the approved allocated strength;

The actual strength for each police station (especially those approved as training stations) can vary markedly owing to recruit graduations; Smaller one and two officer stations can appear below the approved allocated strength, when in reality this is not the case as officers are deployed from other larger stations to relieve pending the appointment of a permanent officer;

There is a lag time involved in filling of vacancies as a result of natural attrition, and promotions and transfers in and out of each police station.

938. HITT Scheme

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (19/11/98)—

Will he table a copy of the agreement concerning the HITT scheme which was signed on 17 November as mentioned in the Ministerial Statement of 18 November by the Minister for Public Works and Housing?

Mr BRADY (21/12/98): This question should be directed to my colleague, the Honourable Minister for Housing.

939. State Government, Telecommunications Contracts

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (19/11/98)—

With reference to the list of names he provided of the committee evaluating preferred suppliers for the contract for the Government's long distance telephone traffic—

In the period 1 September to 17 November, have any of the people on the evaluation committee or any of the people they report to, been entertained by any of the companies short listed or tendering for this contract; if so, where and when, and what was the nature of that entertainment?

Mr MACKENROTH (21/12/98): I have investigated the matters which are the subject of this question and can confirm that three members of the committee evaluating the offers to provide long distance telephone services for Government agencies, were the recipients of entertainment and lunches provided by various companies which have tendered for this contract.

I understand however, these functions were unrelated to the tendering arrangements and that the officers involved did not discuss any aspects of the tender with these companies or their representatives at these functions.

Notwithstanding these assurances, I believe such activity to be inappropriate for members of a committee evaluating tenders. Accordingly, I have removed the three members in question from the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee has been reconstituted comprising officers who have not received any hospitality from any of the tenderers.

Furthermore, I have instituted arrangements for a senior officer of my Department to independently assess any recommendations arising from the committee's consideration of the tenders. This officer has had no official involvement with the tenderers in relation to the contract, in the period commencing from 1 September 1998, and has not been the recipient of any hospitality or entertainment from the tenderers.

940. Sunshine Motorway

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/11/98)—

With reference to the Roads Implementation Program where it refers to future works on the Sunshine Motorway in and adjacent to my electorate—

- (1) Of traffic counts on that section of the motorway between Buderim-Mooloolaba Road and Maroochydore Road, what are the projected counts over the next five years and the count at which four laning would normally be required?

- (2) Will the former Government's decision to remove the Sunshine Coast tolls have any effect on the timing of the works in (1) above?

Mr BREDHAUER (21/12/98):

(1) The Sunshine Motorway between the Buderim-Mooloolaba Road and Maroochydore Road currently has an annual average daily traffic of 26,000 vehicles per day.

For a fully access-limited, two-lane facility with grade-separated interchanges, planning for duplication normally would be considered at traffic volumes of 25,000 vehicles per day, subject to available funds.

(2) The cost to Queenslanders of the Coalition Government's decision to remove the tolls on the Sunshine Motorway is approximately \$450 million, in today's dollar terms, comprising \$52.25 million in interest free loans to the Queensland Motorway Company that the department was forced to write off, an estimated future profit stream of \$109 million (in 1998 dollars) in dividends that would have been available to the department following payout of the debt; plus \$42 million (again in 1998 dollars) in maintenance costs over the next 20 years that the company would have been responsible for had the toll remained. This is on top of \$233.643 million paid out in real dollars up until 4 August 1998, as shadow tolls and to compensate the company, plus other liabilities that the department had to assume.

Had the tolls not been removed, all of the future duplication works on the Sunshine Motorway would have been funded from toll revenues, and not at the expense of either other Government services or other high priority roadworks right across the State.

The Roads Implementation Program 1998-99 to 2002-03 allows for commencement of duplication works on the Buderim-Mooloolaba Road and Maroochydore Road in approximately 2001-02, subject to competing priorities and existing road funding levels.

941. Computers in Schools

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (19/11/98)—

With reference to the supply of surplus Government and private sector computers to State schools—

- (1) What is the total number of all such computers provided since 26 June?
- (2) What were the sources of these computers and how many did they each supply (eg. State Justice Department—x computers, Commonwealth Treasury—y computers, Blake Dawson Waldron—z computers, etc)?
- (3) How many of these computers were Year 2000 compliant and how many were not?
- (4) What are the Government's plans in relation to the future distribution of surplus computers to schools?
- (5) How do the Government's plans differ from the former Coalition Government's election commitment in May to offer our schools and community organisations up to 10,000 surplus computers a year?

Mr WELLS (11/12/98):

1. 476 computers.

179 EdNA Computers for Schools computers have been distributed. 200 EdNA Computers for Schools computers and 20 from Education Queensland are in the process of being distributed.

Blake Dawson and Waldron, a private company, indicated they had a quantity of surplus computers available for state schools, but, as yet, these have not been made available for distribution.

2. Where from—Number

EdNA Computers for Schools Project (Federal government computers)—379

State Department of Justice—21

Crown Law—23

State Treasury—33

Education Queensland—20

Total—476

3. Unknown—schools received a memo explaining the process for distribution of surplus computers. Schools were advised to check any surplus computers for Year 2000 compliance in the same way as other computers in the school, using the Year 2000 Compliance Kit distributed to all schools.

4. It is anticipated that surplus computers made available from state government departments will be distributed to state schools.

Federal government computers will continue to be distributed to schools under the EdNA Computers for Schools Project.

The process for distribution of these computers is attached.

5. It is anticipated that there would be little difference between the former coalition's commitment and the government's plans for the distribution of surplus computers to schools.

942. Gateway Bus Interchange

Mr MUSGROVE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/11/98)—

What are his plans to extend the dedicated busways from the Gateway interchange into my electorate of Springwood?

Mr BREDHAUER (21/12/98): The effective extension of the busway concept into Springwood has been incorporated into the design of the South East Transit Project, which incorporates Queensland's first busway. In particular, provision will be made for buses on the shoulder lanes south of Eight Mile Plains to service bus stations at Underwood and Springwood. This is in addition to the centrally located Transit lanes for longer distance travel by buses and high occupancy vehicles.

The shoulder lanes for exclusive use for buses will provide congestion free, reliable running for buses similar to that which the South East Busway will provide between Eight Mile Plains and the City Centre. This approach demonstrates one of the advantages of the bus system in allowing stations to be connected in a variety of ways either through

dedicated busways, bus lanes, transit lanes or general traffic lanes.

Local bus services will be able to pick up people within the wider communities of Logan and Springwood and then connect to the Underwood and Springwood bus stations en route to the City via the South East Busway. Separation of buses from general traffic will make bus travel faster than cars in peak hours and generally more reliable.

The shoulder bus lanes between Fitzgerald Avenue and the Gateway Motorway and the Underwood Springwood bus stations are scheduled for construction between late 1999 and 2001.

943. Remote Area Power Supply Scheme

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities (19/11/98)—

As Minister for Rural Communities will he make representation for the restoration of the \$5m remote power scheme which would have delivered mains power to the Shires of Barcoo and Boulia, but was cancelled by the Beattie Government?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/12/98): The Minister for Mines and Energy has primary responsibility for the scheme and accordingly, this question is more appropriately directed to that Minister.